



**An Introduction to Theological Education
RS 505**

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Office Hours: Arranged by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A seminar that enhances the student's study and research skills. This course will also prepare the student to write graduate level papers as students are introduced to the seminary and the vocation of ministry.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

KNOWLEDGE	RESEARCH SKILLS
At the end of this course, students will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand how to write a research paper and book review in proper form. • Know the policies of CEDS as they apply to students. • Have significant skills in critical thinking. 	At the end of this course, students will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to identify the primary research resources available for conducting theological research and how to access them. • Know how to organize ideas in a logical fashion as demonstrated in a research paper.
SPIRITUAL FORMATION	MINISTRY PREPARATION
At the end of this course, students will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better understand themselves in relation to being a minister and a person of faith. 	At the end of this course, students will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize one's call and rationale for commencing theological education. • Gain an understanding of the world of ministry.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Author, Randall. *Wisdom Hunter*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 2003. ISBN: 1590522591.

Kida, Thomas E. *Don't Believe Everything You Think: The 6 Basic Mistakes We Make in Thinking*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2006. ISBN-10: 1591024080.

Guinness, Os. *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2003. ISBN: 0849944376.

Thielicke, Helmut. *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1962 (reprint 2000). ISBN: 0-8028-1198-1.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 7th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007. ISBN-10: 0226823377

NOTE: You need to purchase the 7th Edition of this book!

REQUIRED HANDBOOK DOWNLOADS

Students will be required to download from the CEDS website and read the *Student Handbook* and the *Research Paper Handbook*.

Location: <http://www.ceds.edu/handbooks.html>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

0. Pre Class – Read the CEDS Student Handbook and scan through the CEDS Website. Prepare for discussion of the contents of both on the first day of class. CEDS Website is located at (<http://www.ceds.edu>).
1. Each student is required to read the textbooks and handbooks according to the schedule in the syllabus. A statement of on time completion will be submitted to the professor on the last day of class. Students will complete all homework assigned during the course.
2. Students will read *Wisdom Hunter* and compile a list of 10 characteristics each that are negative and those that are positive in the two pastors found in the book. After reading *Wisdom Hunter* the students will write a two-page, typed paper on the student's perception of the "ideal minister." This paper is strictly to evaluate the student's ability to write concisely and clearly, to convey and organize thoughts in a logical manner, and to develop sound sentences and paragraphs.
3. Students will complete an 8 page research paper (title sheet and bibliography extra) on one topic from the Topic List provided by the professors. Content, organization and form will be graded. Students will have a bibliography which will include at least ten books and two journal articles. This paper show the student's ability to write concisely and clearly, to convey and organize thoughts in a logical manner, and to develop sound sentences and paragraphs and follow standards set forth in the class.
4. Students will write a three page paper about their expectations of seminary and the current understanding of their sense of calling for ministry.
4. Each student will write a book review of *Don't Believe Everything You Think: The 6 Basic Mistakes We Make in Thinking*. The review of the book should demonstrate that the student read and understood the book, and have thought about it. Assume a popular audience for the review. Tell what the book is about, the slant the author takes on the topic, and give an objective evaluation of the book. Be sure to give support for your evaluation. Do not just say "I did (or did not) like the book." The review should be 3-5 pages.
5. There will be two take home exams. The first will concern bibliographical form and the second footnote/endnote form.

Grading will be as follows:

Homework	20%
Research Paper	20%
Book Review	10%
Attendance, Participation, Assigned Reading	30%
Take Home Exams	20%

Grades will be broken down according to CEDS policy as follows:

	B+ 93 – 94	C+ 83 – 84	D+ 74	
A 97 – 100	B 87 – 92	C 77 – 82	D 71 – 73	F 0 – 69
A- 95 – 96	B- 85 – 86	C- 75 – 76	D- 70	

V. POLICIES

- Attendance** – Regular attendance is expected at all classes. Students will be allowed one (1) absence, without penalty, per course. Additional absences will lower the student’s final grade for the course.
- Tardiness** – Classes will begin at the announced time. Because tardiness is disruptive and deprives the professor of valuable teaching time, three (3) late arrivals will be considered an absence and will lower the student’s final grade for the course.
- Assignments** – Research papers, projects, and other assignments are to be turned in to the professor by the due date. The professor will not accept late work. If you must miss class, make arrangements to have your work turned in early. All written work must be submitted before the final week of the half-semester. Examinations cannot be taken if all course requirements have not been satisfied.
- Papers** – Students are required to use the latest edition of Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* and the *CEDS Research Paper Handbook*. Professors will not accept papers which do not comply with this policy. Proper format, grammar, and spelling will factor into the grade the student receives for the paper. Papers are expected to be submitted on time, as scheduled by the course professor. All papers are expected to be new work and cannot be submitted twice at CEDS.
- Plagiarism** – For written work to demonstrate scholarship and integrity, documentation must be given for all ideas, paraphrasing, and quotations. Failure to do so is viewed as a very serious offense. Any assignment containing plagiarized material will be graded “F” and placed in the student’s file. A future occurrence, if determined to be deliberate, will result in dismissal from the divinity school. Cheating in any form will be treated in the same manner as plagiarism.
- Examinations** – Examinations must be taken at the times scheduled in the syllabus. Postponement of an examination must be requested in writing within two days of the scheduled date of the exam. The request will be considered only in the case of a major emergency (i.e., death in the family or an illness for which you can produce a doctor’s statement).
- Incomplete** – Students have *thirty (30) days* from the end of the half-semester to complete work for which they were given an extension by the professor and Director of Student Records. When course requirements are not met in that thirty (30) day period, the final grade will be converted to an “F” and counted as hours attempted in computing the grade point average for the half-semester. The request for an extension must be made in writing and include the reasons for which additional time is needed. Requests will not be considered after the seventh week of class. A fee will be charged for the extension if granted.
- Withdrawal** – Students must complete the appropriate form when dropping a course. The withdrawal is not official until the professor and the Director of Student Records have signed the

form. Courses may not be dropped after the fourth week of classes.

VI. Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Professor	Next Week Readings/Assignments
Aug 17	Introduction to Graduate Studies; Introduction to CEDS	Dr. Bodie Dr. Scurry	Book - <i>Wisdom Hunter</i> 10/10 List
Aug 24	World of Ministry	Dr. Bodie	"Ideal Minister" paper due
Aug 31	How to do Research Writing	Dr. Eddinger Dr. Bodie	Book - <i>The Power of the Call</i>
Sept 07	Writing Theological Papers Exploring Your Call	Dr Eddinger Dr. Bodie	Critical Book Review of <i>The Call</i> Homework Sheets on Biblio- Footnotes
Sept 14	Theological Study	Dr. Bodie	"Ministry Paper" Due
Sept 21	Knowing Yourself for Ministry	Dr. Bodie	Book - <i>A Little Exercise</i>
Sept 28	Good Writing, Grammar	Dr. Bodie	Research Paper Due
Oct 05	Exploring Theological Studies	Dr. Bodie	Book - <i>Don't Believe Everything You Think</i> - Critical Book Review
Oct 12	Mistakes in Thinking	Dr. Bodie	