



COURSE SYLLABUS
Integrative Thesis, OCE751, 3 hours
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Aim

The written thesis presents the student with an opportunity to demonstrate academic skill in interdisciplinary theological studies and to contribute to that to the body of knowledge. In the thesis, a 75-page monograph, the student will show mastery of the skills of comprehension and evaluation. The thesis is a demonstration that the student is able to analyze, synthesize, and apply interdisciplinary theological research, including chapters on relevant church history, systematic theology and biblical studies. In addition, the student's thesis should show how the research makes a contribution to theological education and the ministry of the church. This course builds on the thesis topic discussion in your Orientation Seminar and your research along the way through the curriculum.

Resources

Required Materials

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. (2003) The Craft of Research. 2d ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 0226065685

Frame, John, M. (1989). The doctrine of the knowledge of God. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing. ISBN: 0875522629

Turabian, Kate L. 1996. A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations. 6th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 0226816273

Vyhmeister, Nancy Jean. (2001). Quality research papers: for students of religion and theology. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. ISBN: 0310239451

Course Timeline for Writing the Integrative Thesis

Integrative Thesis is a four-month course that is driven by a rather tight schedule. Please remember that it's *your* responsibility to follow the timetable. The order of steps we've presented for this course are *recommended* steps, based on what has worked well for other students in the past. However, every student's thesis and the developmental steps for creating the thesis are different. If at any time, you need additional help, please contact RTSV Student Services at vcss@rts.edu.

Month One

During the first month, you will participate in what we call a "stumbling block" simulation. It's designed to answer any questions or concerns you might have regarding the development of your thesis. It will also provide helpful advice and tips for identifying and overcoming potential stumbling blocks you might encounter. Between reading assignments and quizzes, you'll start working on composing the Big Four--that's the thesis statement, paragraph, outline, and bibliography. Here is a more detailed breakdown of the activities you'll complete in Month One:

Week(s)	Day(s)	Activities
Week 1	Day 1	View Introduction Simulation
Week 1	Day 1	View Confidence Simulation 1
Week 1	Day 1	View Stumbling Blocks Simulation
Week 1	Days 2 - 3	View Big Four Part 1 Simulation and Upload Coursework
Week 1	Days 4 - 5	View Big Four Part 1 Simulation and Complete Frame Reading and Quiz
Week 2	Day 6	View Big Four Part 1 Simulation and Complete Vyhmeister Reading and Quiz
Week 2	Days 6 - 10	View Big Four Part 2 Simulation and Work on Thesis Statement and Paragraph
Week 3	Day 11	View Big Four Part 2 Simulation and Complete Booth Reading and Quiz
Week 3	Days 11 – 15	View Big Four Part 2 Simulation and Work on Thesis Outline
Week 4	Day 16	View Big Four Part 2 Simulation and Complete Turabian Reading and Quiz
Week 4	Days 16 – 20	View Big Four Part 2 Simulation and Work on Annotated Bibliography
Week 4	Day 20	View Big Four Part 3 Simulation and Submit Big Four for Faculty Review
Week 4	Day 20	View Confidence Simulation 2

Month Two

During the second month, you'll refine the work you've done on the Big Four. It's also during this time that a Faculty Advisor will be assigned to you. The two of you will be able to discuss in great detail the direction of your thesis. This is a great time to learn from the knowledge and experience of your Faculty Advisor. Here is a more detailed breakdown of the activities you'll complete in Month Two:

Week(s)	Day(s)	Activities
Week 1	Days 21 – 25	Check Big Four Forum for Posts and Receive Faculty Advisor Assignment
Week 1	Day 25	Schedule Phone Call 1 with Faculty Advisor
Week 2	Days 26 – 30	Discuss Big Four Revisions with Faculty Advisor During Phone Call 1
Week 2	Day 30	Log Phone Conversation in Forum
Week 3	Days 31 – 35	Make Further Revisions to Big Four
Week 3	Day 35	Schedule Phone Call 2 with Faculty Advisor
Week 4	Days 36 – 40	Discuss Big Four Revisions with Faculty Advisor During Phone Call 2
Week 4	Day 40	Log Phone Conversation in Forum
Week 4	Day 40	View Confidence Simulation 3

Month Three

By the time you complete the third month, you will be well on your way toward finishing a rough draft of your thesis. During this time, again between reading assignments, activities, and quizzes, you'll participate in phone calls and forum posts with your Faculty Advisor to make sure that your writing and research is on par with the level of work we expect from all our students. During the third month, you'll also get to experience another simulation to help you craft the right tone and tenor for your paper. Here is a more detailed breakdown of the activities you'll complete in Month Three:

Week(s)	Day(s)	Activities
Week 1	Day 41	View Tone and Tenor Simulation
Weeks 1 - 3	Days 41 - 55	View Rough Draft Simulation and Work on Creating Thesis Rough Draft
Week 3	Day 55	View Confidence Simulation 4
Week 3	Day 55	Schedule Phone Call 3 with Faculty Advisor/Submit Thesis Rough Draft for Review
Week 4	Days 56 – 60	Discuss Thesis Rough Draft Revisions with Faculty Advisor During Phone Call 3
Week 4	Day 60	Log Phone Conversation in Forum

Month Four

Your fourth month will be busy. You'll work with your Faculty Advisor to refine any areas of your thesis that need refining. You'll most likely have your ideas well outlined, your arguments properly researched, and a good portion of your wording down pat. Much of this time will be spent putting the final touches on your paper and focusing on formatting it. Here is a more detailed breakdown of the activities you'll complete in Month Four:

Week(s)	Day(s)	Activities
Weeks 1 -2	Days 61 – 70	Work on Revisions to Thesis Paper
Week 3	Day 71	Schedule Phone Call 4 with Faculty Advisor and Submit Thesis Final Draft for Review
Weeks 3 - 4	Days 71 - 80	Discuss Thesis Final Draft with Faculty Advisor During Phone Call 4 to Wrap Up Course
Week 4	Day 80	Log Phone Conversation in Forum
Week 4	Days 75 – 80	Student and Mentor Fill Out Mentor Report Form
Week 4	Day 80	Student Views Conclusion Simulation
Week 4	Day 80	Student Fills Out and Submits Course Evaluation Form

Feedback

One-sentence thesis statement, 10%

One-paragraph summary, 10%

Two-page thesis Outline, 10%

Annotated Bibliography, 10%

Thesis Draft, 40%

Revised Draft, 10%

Mentor Report, 10%

TOTAL, 100%