# Advanced Theological Research

**BMIN-5990-01**

Bob Turner  
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(901)761-1354  
Fall 2017  
Tuesday 8:15-10:50  
Harding School of Theology

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<tr>
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<td>Sep 5</td>
<td>Thielicke, <em>A Little Exercise for Young Theologians</em></td>
<td>Thielicke Response</td>
<td>Books</td>
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| Sep 12 | Huey, “Churches of Christ”  
Beck, “Four Reasons Why I’m Church of Christ” | | Periodicals |
| Sep 19 | Kibbe, *From Topic to Thesis* | Kibbe Response | BE: Management  
Zotero |
| Oct 3 |  |

### Readings

- Capitani, “Reflection Papers,” in *Research and Writing in Seminary*, ch. 4
- Prothero, *Religious Literacy*, 21-38
- Turner, “If These Walls Could Talk,”
- Wallace, Commencement Address.

- Thielicke, *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians*
- Huey, “Churches of Christ”  
Beck, “Four Reasons Why I’m Church of Christ”
- Kibbe, *From Topic to Thesis*
- Stuart, *A Guide to Selecting and Using Bible Commentaries*, 7-34
- Bradley, *Church History*, 33-52
- King, *How We Know What We Know About Antiquity*, 1-16.
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<tr>
<td>Oct 10</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>Allen, “Prologue to Good Christian Writing”</td>
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<td>Oct 31</td>
<td>Strunk and White, <em>The Elements of Style</em></td>
<td>Writing Lab</td>
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<td>Nov 14</td>
<td>Essay Due at 11:59</td>
<td>Counseling</td>
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<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<td>Nov 28</td>
<td>Book Review Presentation</td>
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<td>Dec 5</td>
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**Readings**

- Allen, Leonard, “Prologue to Good Christian Writing,”
- Beck, Richard, “Four Reasons Why I’m Church of Christ,”
- Hughes, Richard, “How Can We Account for the Extraordinary Culture of Biblical...


Turner, Bob. “*If These Walls Could Talk*” Jesus Creed Blog: Scot McKnight, http://www.patheos.com/blogs/jesuscreed/2014/03/12/if-these-walls-could-talk-by-bob-turner/


Textbooks


Helmut Thielicke, *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians*. Eerdmans. 1962. 978-0802811981


Purchase and Read one of the Following Titles


5990 Advanced Theological Research
Fall 2017 Bob Turner
rev 7.12.2017
Book Review Presentation

You will read a book and make a presentation for the class. You can do the project alone or with a partner. The presentation should be 7 minutes and will serve as a conversation about the book. The format of the presentation is totally up to you. The two words you need to remember are CRITICAL and CREATIVE. You are free to connect the presentation to an item of theological interest or not. Options include, but are not limited to:

- **A Point-Counterpoint** where two students review the same book, but provide positives and negatives (see: *Siskel and Ebert, Pardon the Interruption*)
- **Multi-Media presentation**. Short film, animation, or musical production.
- **Artistic Presentation**. Music, art, theatrical interpretation, spoken word, etc.

The grading will be open, but rigorous. I want to see you master the material and present it in a way that creatively interacts with the message in a way that represents your own voice, style, energy, and creativity.

Objectives of course

1. Introduce the basic theological research tools.
2. Teach the technique of using reference books.
3. Acquaint you with the methodology of research.
4. Help improve writing skills.
5. Deal with mechanical details (footnotes, bibliography, etc.) of paper writing.

Grading

90=A; 80=B; 70=C; 60=D

- Bibliographic Essay 40%
- Midterm Exam 20%
- Final Exam 15%
- Book Review Project 15%
- Response Papers 10%

Philosophy of Grading

This course will incorporate both objective and subjective means of assessment. In some cases, there are right/wrong answers (Q: *Who wrote A Manual for Writers?* A: *Kate Turabian*) or right/wrong ways of doing something (Q: *How does A Manual for Writers suggest creating a title page?* A: *See p. 378*). But in many cases, there are not right/wrong answers, but instead a more subjective assessment of whether or not something accomplishes its purpose. This includes evaluation of whether or not a book is scholarly, or a that a sentence flows, or that an argument is...
convincing. For these items, there is not a rubric, per se. Instead, the course will hopefully provide resources by which you can identify what makes a work scholarly, or how to write a sentence that flows, and how to make arguments that are convincing. Each of these particular items (and many others) are developmental in nature and can be learned only through experience. The Bibliographic Essay is graded using a rubric that I will provide in class.

Late Assignments
Organization and punctuality are essential practices for sustained excellence in ministry. In hopes of cultivating these virtues, I strongly discourage turning assignments in late. The responses to Allen, Kibbe, and Thielicke will not be accepted after the due date. A zero will be given. A late Bibliographic Essay will be deducted 10%, and will not be accepted after November 28. Feel free to visit with me regarding exceptions due to family emergencies and personal health.

M.Div outcomes
By introducing students to the basic reference tools in biblical interpretation, theology, and church history, this course not only benefits students as they take courses in these areas, but also provides the resources for post-graduate learning and promotes Master of Divinity degree outcomes so that the graduate will (1) demonstrate advanced exegetical skills in the interpretation of Scripture, (2) exhibit an understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology, and (3) exhibit an understanding of the general history of the church and of doctrine, including the Stone-Campbell Movement in particular. The introduction to research methodology and the composition & critique of written assignments should also help the graduate “be able to communicate effectively in written, oral, and multi-media forms” as indicated in another desired outcome for HST M.Div. graduates.

Accessibility
HST professors are accessible to local and distance students. Please use the following to arrange appointments with me (in person or by phone):
Email: rjturner@harding.edu
Office Phone Number: (901) 761-1354

Credit Hour Workload
For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

Textbooks
Textbooks can now be ordered through a link on the HST website. The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab (http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/) for correct ISBN’s and editions to
insure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books. By going through our website, HST will receive some credit from the order. Thanks for your support.

**Students with Disabilities**

It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

**Library Resources**

If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or 5770 (Research in Counseling), or took either class more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site (www.hst.edu) for information concerning library services to students. Under the “library” tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, PsycINFO, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990 and 5770. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice, and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school.