COURSE SYLLABUS
RLGN 301
RESEARCH AND WRITING FOR RELIGIOUS DISCIPLINES

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course builds upon the concepts for scholarly research and writing to prepare students for completing scholarly research and writing specifically within the religious disciplines. The course covers various methods and aims for research within religious disciplines, tools for performing scholarly research, and the tools for writing clearly and effectively in an academic setting. As such, this course lays the foundation for future academic writing in the religious disciplines.

RATIONALE
This course prepares the student for advanced courses in the religious studies disciplines by reinforcing prior learning of the information literacy skills and resources needed for academic research, introducing a variety of credible resources and tools within the religious disciplines, and providing the student with opportunities to engage in academic writing on religious topics prior to entering upper-level religion courses.

I. PREREQUISITES
   BIBL 105, 110; ENGL 101, 102; INFT 101 or UNIV 101; THEO 201, 202

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES

   Disclaimer: The above resources provide information consistent with the latest research regarding the subject area. Liberty University does not necessarily endorse specific personal, religious, philosophical, or political positions found in these resources.

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING
   A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
   B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
   C. Microsoft Office
IV. **Measurable Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Identify credible scholarly sources using various mediums for research within the religious disciplines.

B. Discern doctrinal positions expressed in research materials.

C. Evaluate key arguments within scholarly sources from a biblical worldview.

D. Utilize available technology and resources to improve research and writing within the religious disciplines.

E. Produce a formal academic paper addressing an issue within the religious disciplines.

V. **Course Requirements and Assignments**

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

   After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forum (3)

   Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 300–400 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates’ threads. Each reply must be at least 150 words.

D. Research Project

   1. Research Topic Selection

      The student will select a research topic from a list of approved topics provided in the course and narrow that topic by proposing a specific research question to be addressed in his or her Research Paper.

   2. Research Plan

      Addressing the research topic already selected, the student will develop a Research Plan. This Research Plan will describe the research problem, the purpose of the research, the proposed research method, the hypothesis, and the proposed working thesis statement. The plan must be 500–700 words.

   3. Working Bibliography

      The student will develop a Working Bibliography of at least 6 scholarly sources in addition to the Bible that may be used to address the research topic. This bibliography must be appropriately formatted in current Turabian style.
4. **Revised Bibliography**  
The student will revise the working bibliography by noting which sources have been removed and providing a 100-word explanation for each source included. This bibliography must include at least 8 sources in addition to the Bible and must be formatted in current Turabian style.

5. **Thesis Statement, Outline, and Annotated Bibliography**  
After collecting, reading, and evaluating the research materials, the student will produce his or her Thesis Statement, Outline, and Annotated Bibliography for the Research Paper. The annotated bibliography will include the 8 sources from the revised bibliography formatted correctly in current Turabian style. For each source on the bibliography, the student will include a 300–500-word annotation explaining the key argument of the source, the doctrinal position expressed in the source, the strengths and weaknesses of the source, and the place of the source within the scope of the Research Paper.

6. **Research Paper**  
Using the topic and research materials collected throughout the course, the student will write a 2,000–2,500-page research-based paper in current Turabian format. The paper must include at least 8 scholarly references in addition to the Bible.

7. **Research Paper Revisions and Summary**  
Using the comments from the instructor and the principles learned in the course, the student will revise his or her Research Paper and resubmit it along with a 200-word explanation of the overall impact of the revisions on the paper.

E. **Quizzes (4)**  
Each quiz will cover the Reading & Study material for the modules/weeks in which it is assigned. Each quiz will be open-book/open-notes, contain 25 multiple-choice and true/false questions, and have a 45-minute time limit.
VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Forums (3 at 50 pts ea)</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Topic Selection</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Plan</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working Bibliography</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revised Bibliography</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis Statement, Outline, and Annotated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper Revisions and Summary</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes (4 at 50 pts ea)</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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B. Scale

A = 900–1010  B = 800–899  C = 700–799  D = 600–699  F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the course will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.