

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

RLGN 490

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY CAPSTONE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will require students to resource the knowledge acquired from coursework completed in the undergraduate religious studies program. Christian formation of leaders in the local church will be explored. Emphasis is placed on developing critical thinking skills as well as producing scholarly research in various areas of theological importance. It will guide students in producing scholarly writing that adds to the body of knowledge and practice to further the mission of the church of Jesus Christ.

RATIONALE

As the research and scholarly capstone course for the online Bachelor of Science in Religion degree, RLGN 490 maintains a dual emphasis—research and scholarship. The student will cultivate scholarly excellence while completing a major biblical and theological research project.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Create an academic portfolio/curriculum vitae.
- B. Produce a publishable exegetical research paper.
- C. Demonstrate how to accomplish biblical and theological research.

- D. Assess critical and evangelical biblical scholarship.
- E. Design a plan for a lifelong pursuit of scholarly excellence.
- F. Evaluate scholarly and popular writings related to Christian theology and cultural practice.

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 Forums (3)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student will create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must demonstrate course-related knowledge and critically interact with scholarly sources. See the Discussion Board Forum prompts for the full set of instructions. (MLO: C, D, E)

- D. Research Paper

Proposal

The student will submit a 3–4 page proposal that will be a guide for the research process and provide the introduction to the paper. The proposal will declare the research topic and include 11 specific items per the Paper Proposal Instructions. (MLO: A, E)

Bibliography

The student will submit a complete bibliography consisting of at least 10 scholarly, research-oriented sources. Of these sources, 3–5 must be reference works. The remaining sources must be scholarly, research-oriented works that are directly related to the paper thesis and the particular biblical text being treated. The bibliography must be in current Turabian format. (MLO: A, E, F)

First Draft

The first draft is not simply a rough draft, but must be written and formatted as a finished product. It must contain 3,000–3,750 words (10–12 pages), include at least 10 acceptable sources, and be in current Turabian format. See the Paper First Draft Instructions. (MLO: B, C, D, E, F)

Final Draft

The student will submit a final draft of the research paper that has incorporated the instructor's feedback on the first draft. The instructor will notify you in the event your research paper has been selected for submission to *Diligence*. See the Paper Final Draft Instructions (MLO: B, C, D, E, F)

E. Book Review

The student will write a book review consisting of 750–1,000 words and adhering to current Turabian format. (MLO: C, D, E)

F. Professional Portfolio

The student will build a professional portfolio that contains his or her curriculum vitae and formal writing samples. In the process of building the professional portfolio, the student will be guided through the steps of applying for admission to a graduate school and applying for an academic position. (MLO: A)

G. Midterm Exam

The Midterm Exam will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned modules/weeks. This exam will be open-book/open-notes, contain 50 true/false and multiple-choice questions, and have a 1-hour time limit. (MLO: C, D)

H. Final Exam

The Final Exam will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned modules/weeks. This exam will be open-book/open-notes, contain 50 true/false and multiple-choice questions, and have a 1-hour time limit. (MLO: C, D)

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (3 at 100 pts ea)	300
Research Paper	
Proposal	60
Bibliography	60
First Draft	100
Final Draft	80
Book Review	100
Professional Portfolio	100
Midterm Exam (Modules 1–4)	100
Final Exam (Modules 5–8)	100
Total	1010

B. Scale

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

C. Disability Assistance

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

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at equityandcompliance@liberty.edu. Click to see a full copy of Liberty's [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

RLGN 490

Textbooks: Hiestand-Wilson, *Pastor Theologian* (2015).

Köstenberger, *Excellence: The Character of God and the Pursuit of Scholarly Virtue* (2011).

Vyhmeister & Robertson, *Your Guide to Writing Quality Research Papers* (2016).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Vyhmeister & Robertson: chs. 1–10 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1 Thread	10 0 70
2	Vyhmeister & Robertson: chs. 11–13 1 presentation	DB Forum 1 Replies Research Paper - Proposal	30 60
3	Vyhmeister & Robertson: chs. 14–15 1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 2 Thread Research Paper - Bibliography	70 60
4	Vyhmeister & Robertson: chs. 16–22, Conclusion 1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 2 Replies Midterm Exam	30 100
5	Hiestand-Wilson: chs. 1–4 Köstenberger: chs. 1–4 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Thread Research Paper - First Draft	70 100
6	Hiestand-Wilson: chs. 5–6 Köstenberger: chs. 5–10 2 presentations	DB Forum 3 Replies	30
7	Hiestand-Wilson: chs. 7–9 Köstenberger: chs. 11–13 2 presentations 1 website	Hiestand-Wilson Book Review Research Paper - Final Draft	100 80
8	Köstenberger: chs. 14–17 2 presentations	Professional Portfolio Final Exam	100 100
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.