

**DP 102 – Introduction to Higher Education Research,  
 Biblical & Theological Reading & Writing  
 October 2019  
 Thursdays, 6:00 – 10:00 PM (10-3 – 10/24/2019)  
 + Saturday, 10/26/2019, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM**

LAST REVISED: 6/26/2019

**PROFESSOR**

R. Todd Mangum, PhD  
 Clemens Professor of Missional Theology  
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 Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday afternoon or by appointment

**MISSIO’S MISSION**

To prepare missional leaders who incarnate the story of Jesus with humility and authenticity and who communicate the story with fidelity to Scripture, appreciation of the Christian tradition, and sensitivity to the needs and aspirations of postmodern culture.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will provide both guidance and practice in cultivating the skills needed to do credible higher education research, reading, and writing. *Two hours.*

**PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE PROFESSOR**

There are many viable Christian leaders who love the Lord, who are highly intelligent, and who are highly capable as leaders, but who may not have ever had an opportunity to pursue higher education. Trying to break into higher education for the first time, or trying to get back into the discipline of academic studies after years of being out of school can be intimidating.

This course is designed to lower the intimidation levels and offer a safe place to develop skills and competencies that will enable you to confront the challenges of higher education with confidence. The field of academics is inherently rigorous and demanding, no question. You are going to be stretched. But you have friends and allies and brothers and sisters in Christ not just cheering for you, but here to help you. Count me as one such brother seeking to help you succeed. I look forward to coming alongside you as coach and colleague in this endeavor.

Todd Mangum

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Read 15-20 pages/hour of academic text with comprehension.
2. Write a formal research paper with confidence and competence.
3. Responsibly and credibly self-assess your academic competence and formulate goals for (self-) improvement.
4. Craft a growth plan by which your academic skills and competencies can be credibly, demonstrably increased.

PROGRAM GOALS	COURSE OBJECTIVES
<b>Goal 1:</b> Students will live grace-based lives increasingly characterized by wisdom, the fruit of the Spirit, and love for God and others.	N/A

<b>Goal 2:</b> Students will grow in wisdom and skill in interpersonal relationships, conflict management, and living in community.	1, 2, 3, 4 (though the “growth in skills” in view in this course are more in the realm of academic competencies than in relationship or community building or in conflict management).
<b>Goal 3:</b> Students will demonstrate knowledge of the Bible & its missional perspective and their ability to humbly interpret and apply it in light of history, culture, and genre.	N/A
<b>Goal 4:</b> Students will know the key persons, ideas, and movements in the history of theology and the Christian tradition and their significance today.	N/A
<b>GOAL 5:</b> Students will demonstrate effective missional leadership based on biblical values and individual gifting, personality, call, context, and relational skills.	1, 2, 3, 4
<b>GOAL 6:</b> Students will critically, constructively, and creatively engage our postmodern culture with the hope of the gospel.	1,2, 3, 4 (by increasing academic skills and competencies, and raising potential for recognized academic credentialing)

### COURSE ASSESSMENTS AND HOMEWORK HOURS

ASSESSMENTS AND HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS	RELATED OBJECTIVES	PERCENT OF GRADE	ESTIMATED TIME OUTSIDE OF CLASS (NOTE: NOT INCLUDING THE WRITING WORKSHOP ALLOTTED DURING THE SATURDAY CLASS PERIOD)
Reading and Reading Assessments	1, 2, 3, 4	25%	25
Writing Assignments	1,2, 3, 4	35%	25
Class Participation and in class learning objects, exercises and assessments		40%	(N/A)
<b>Total Course Time</b>			50 hrs

### Attendance Policy and Grades

It is beneficial to arrive on time and be actively engaged in class time. Class time is valuable – to you, to your classmates, and to the professor. Class time is thoughtfully prepared by the professor and crafted with intricacy for maximum learning effectiveness. Recognize that your grade may be lowered for tardiness or absences at the discretion of the instructor.

Students may email the instructor at any time if they have questions about the course. Students will generally receive a response within 24 hours (except on Sunday).

### REQUIRED READING AND MATERIALS

**NOTE:** Hyperlinks to Amazon.com (or other sellers) are placed here for your convenience. Please be aware that there may be other websites (by publishers or by other ebook publishers) that may sell or rent the same item for cheaper prices. Please shop around!

Decide whether you would like to work on most in this class: 1) improving your reading skills (increasing your reading speed, improving your reading comprehension); or 2) improving your writing skills (particularly writing academic papers and assignments). That decided, you should read one of the following (sets of) texts:

To work on improving your reading:	<a href="#"><u>Mortimer Adler, <i>How to Read a Book: The Classic Guide to Intelligent Reading</i> (New York: Simon &amp; Schuster, 1940), 335 pages.</u></a>
<b>OR</b>	
To work on improving your writing:	<a href="#"><u>Sanford Kaye, <i>Writing Under Pressure: The Quick Writing Process</i> (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989), 195 pages:</u></a> <b>AND</b> <a href="#"><u>William Strunk, Jr. and E.B. White, <i>The Elements of Style</i> (New York: MacMillan, 1935), 88 pages – available for free online in .pdf form, too.</u></a>

### COURSE PROCEDURES & COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Participate positively and thoughtfully in class discussions. Class contributions should be regular, but not monopolizing. Your class participation grade will be based on the quality of your class interaction, as well as your overall contribution to class morale and the overall learning environment.
- 2) Complete all writing assignments on time, with diligence and professionalism. The final writing assignment of this class consists of a 10-page paper that gives your reflections, lessons, applications, and/or theological points that you have researched from a passage of Scripture of your choice.
- 3) Reading and Reading Assessments.

Complete readings and reading assignments by the due date listed in the schedule. Use the form provided on the course website to receive credit for reading course texts. The form asks you to report how much of the course text you skimmed, scanned, or read (terms defined in the form).

### COURSE SCHEDULE WITH TOPIC, ASSIGNMENTS, SUBMISSION METHOD, & DUE DATES

DATE	IN CLASS	OUTSIDE-OF-CLASS
Thursday, 10/3/2019 5:30 – 10:00 pm	Topic: Course Introduction: <b>Welcome to the World of Academia – and the academic study of the Bible and theology</b>	Make your selection of texts ( <a href="#"><u>see above</u></a> ), plot your reading strategy, and begin reading as soon as you can.
Thursday, 10/10/2019 5:30 – 10:00 pm	Topic: <b>Reading: specifically, introduction to academic reading and research</b>	Continue reading course texts.
Thursday, 10/17/2019 5:30 – 10:00 pm	Topic: <b>Formulating analytical thought clearly and cogently; the art and science of careful, compelling logic, argumentation, and persuasion</b>	Continue reading course texts. Begin writing final 10-page paper.
Thursday, 10/24/2019 5:30 – 10:00 pm	Topic: <b>Introduction to credible research and academic writing</b>	Finish reading course texts. Finish writing final 10-page paper.
Saturday, 10/26/2019 8:30 AM – 4:30 pm	AM: <b>Writing skills exercises</b> PM: <b>Writing lab/workshop</b>	Reading assessment form DUE no later than 5:00 pm.

<b>FINAL ASSIGNMENT due no later than midnight, Wednesday, 10/30/2019</b>	10-page paper reflecting on and deriving lessons, applications, or theological points from a biblical text of your choice. Writing should be smooth and cogent. Logic should be careful and compelling. Resources should be credible and cited (no less than 3 sources). Overall preparation and presentation of the paper should be professional.
<b>Note:</b> All assignments must be submitted by the due date listed in the syllabus and no later than the final due date for the course listed in this syllabus by permission of the instructor. After the final due date, faculty cannot grant students permission to submit late work.	

### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC POLICIES

1. **Academic Policies:** Students are fully responsible to know and follow all seminary rules, regulations, and deadlines published in the Academic Catalog and all requirements concerning their degree programs. See the e-campus home page.
2. **Course Syllabus:** Students are fully responsible to know and fulfill the requirements stated in the course syllabus. Students should email the professor about issues related to course work and deadlines during the course. See above under “completion of course work” for policies on course extensions.
3. **E-campus Course Site:** Students are fully responsible for course content and materials that are posted on the course site. Students are encouraged to check the course site frequently during the course. Students who experience difficulty accessing or using the E-campus should email [helpdesk@Missio.edu](mailto:helpdesk@Missio.edu) and include their student ID# in their correspondence.
4. **Academic and General Integrity:** As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to integrity and Christ-likeness in all areas of life. What this means in the academic realm is that the completion of all assignments and assessments are to reflect your own work. Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive a grade of zero on the assessment and will follow the process outlined in the Academic Catalog. See the Academic Catalog for more information on plagiarism and policies related to cheating and plagiarism.
5. **Student PC Security Statement:** Missio Seminary recognizes the need for computer use throughout the entire educational process today. Computers equipped with Internet access and applications that help deliver information and knowledge are vital. Students are encouraged to bring their electronic computing devices to campus to facilitate their course work and supplemental activities. Given the current climate of online dangers such as viruses, malware, phishing scams, and other related risks it is critical to secure all such devices regardless if they're being used on campus or not. Please take the appropriate steps to safeguard the security of your own electronic devices to protect the integrity of the student network on campus and provide a safe computing environment for everyone to use.

### GRADING SYSTEM

BIBLICAL SEMINARY GRADING SYSTEM			
A	4.00	93.0 -100	Superior
A-	3.67	90.0 – 92.9	
B+	3.33	87.0 – 89.9	
B	3.00	83.0 – 86.9	Good
B-	2.67	80.0 – 82.9	
C+	2.33	77.0 – 79.9	
C	2.00	73.0 – 76.9	Fair
C-	1.70	70.0 – 72.9	
D+	1.30	67.0 – 69.9	Poor
D	1.00	63.0 – 66.9	
D-	.70	60.0 – 62.9	
F	0.00	00. - 59.9	Failing