

LSCM4300-80 SENIOR SEMINAR
NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
LEAVELL COLLEGE
Dr, David Lema
Spring 2014 (Term 142)

Center for the Americas
Hialeah, Florida
305-888-9777
dlema@nobts.edu
Tues. 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to help prepare seniors for ministry and/or graduate studies and to assimilate their educational experience. Emphasis will be placed on a synthesis of knowledge within each discipline, utilizing research, writing, and oral presentation. Prerequisites: Research and Writing, Oral Communication, and must have 90 or more semester hours completed.

Course Objectives

The emphasis in the course is on the ministerial competencies of Biblical Exposition, Theological Heritage, and Interpersonal Relationships. Students will also strengthen the Life Skills of reading, writing, oral communication, computer skills, and critical thinking.

By the end of the semester, the student will:

1. Integrate prior learning within each discipline through dialogue between students and the college faculty.
2. Refine research and writing skills.
3. Refine oral presentation skills.
4. Value the integration of the various disciplines needed for the practice of ministry.
5. Be able to practice ministry in an integrated, holistic manner.

Course Textbooks

The following textbooks are required:

Gushee, David P. and Walter C. Jackson, eds. *Preparing for Christian Ministry: An Evangelical Approach*. Grand Rapids: BridgePoint Books, 1998.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (7th edition) Chicago, IL: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2007.

Course Methodology

This course will consist primarily of class discussion centered on the reading of the text and the discussion of students' senior papers. Most of the class meetings will be student-led. During the semester, attention will be given to writing styles, proper use of Turabian, and grammatical/syntactical issues by means of lecture and professor feedback to the students.

Course Requirements

1. Each student will be required to attend seminar meetings and participate in seminar discussions.
2. Each student will be required to participate in a discussion of the text books on Blackboard.
 - a. The professor will post questions each week on the chapters assigned.
 - b. By Friday Midnight of each week, students must post responses to the questions.
 - c. In addition, students must react to the responses of other students on the Discussion Board in a discussion of the chapters.
3. Each student will be required to research, write, and present a critical paper on an approved topic.
 - a. **Note:** These papers are intended to be **thesis** papers in which the writer presents a thesis and either defends or discredits the thesis in the paper.
 - b. Other types of papers are not acceptable to satisfy this requirement.
 - c. The thesis must be clearly stated in the introduction of the paper.
 - d. The students will be required to submit a Selected Bibliography, a developed Thesis Statement and an Outline of the senior paper they are intending to write on the dates **indicated in the Assignment Schedule**.
AT LEAST 10 BOOKS AND AT LEAST 5 ARTICLES AND/OR WEB SOURCES
 - e. Each of these assignments will be brought to class for presentation and discussion according to the Assignment Schedule.
 - f. The paper must be 15-20 pages of text in length, typed and double-spaced.
 - g. **Note:** Papers longer or shorter than the required length will be penalized.
 - h. The required number of pages does not include title page, table of contents, the blank page, or the selected bibliography.
 - i. Students must use a 12-point font for the entire paper (text and footnotes);
 - j. Students must left-justify the paper.
 - k. The format must be according to the latest edition of Turabian with footnotes.
 - l. Endnotes are not acceptable.
 - m. This paper should be generated using a computer and word processing program (Preferably MSWord or WordPerfect – Consult professor if you will be using another type of software).
 - n. The paper must be submitted to the professors in **hard/print** copy on the due date with a two-point penalty assessed for each late day (including weekends).
 - o. **The student must also post a copy of his/her paper in the File Exchange on Blackboard for the benefit of all of the other students in the seminar. See below for the instructions on File Exchange.**
 - p. The seminar paper will be graded on style, format, grammar, adherence to the rules of Turabian, and presentation in class. The major emphasis for the grade, however, will be on the content of the paper.
4. Students must read the senior papers of all other students by the time they are discussed in class.

- a. A critique form, which is posted on Blackboard, must be completed for each paper (except one's own) before coming to class.
 - b. Each section of the evaluation form should be completed, and examples demonstrating your evaluation should be given. **THE CRITIQUE MUST BE POSTED IN THE DIGITAL DROP BOX. See below for instructions.**
 - c. The papers will be available for the students in the File Exchange on Blackboard.
 - d. Each student will give an oral critique of one senior paper from another member of the class.
 - e. The student will be required to identify the thesis of the paper and to note strengths/weaknesses of the content of the paper being reviewed.
 - f. Some attention should be given to Turabian style issues.
5. Each student must submit a **reflection paper** regarding his/her own Senior Seminar and Leavell College experience.
- a. This reflection paper must be 4-6 typed, double-spaced pages in length.
 - b. The paper is due on the day of the final exam: Tuesday, May 13, 2014.
 - c. No late reflection papers will be accepted.

A NOTE ABOUT **PLAGIARISM**: All written assignments must be your own work!

- a. If you use an author's exact words, you must put his/her words in quotation marks and footnote the source.
- b. If you paraphrase, you must footnote the source.
- c. Any information that you include in your paper that you did not previously know must be footnoted because the information came from someone else.
- d. If you do not footnote someone else's information, you are plagiarizing that person's work.
- e. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense, and the penalties can include (1) a failing grade in the course, and/or (2) dismissal from seminary!

Course Evaluation

The final grade will be determined by the professor in the following manner:

- 10% — Attendance and verbal participation in class
- 20% — Chapter summaries of text
- 50% — Research paper, oral presentation, and critiques
- 10% — Critique of another senior paper (Oral)
- 10% — Reflection paper

Instructions for Opening Blackboard Account (See Handout)

Instructions for Posting on the File Exchange

- **Go to the course; Communication; Group Pages; Group Everybody; File Exchange. Follow the instructions to load your common file to the general File Exchange and all students have access to it.**

Instructions for Posting on the Discussion Board

- **Go to Blackboard**
- **Go to Senior Seminar Course (LEMA)**
- **Go to Communications**
- **Choose Discussion Board**
- **Choose the name of the forum you want**
- **Click Thread**
- **Click Reply**
- **Type in the message box your reply to the thread that has been started**
- **Click Submit**
- **Click OK**

Instructions for Posting on the Digital Drop Box

- **Go to Senior Seminar Course (LEMA) on Blackboard**
- **Click on Tools**
- **Click Digital Drop Box**
- **Click Add File**
- **Name File (include your name: e.g. dlema.ch 1.trans)**
- **Browse to attach your work from your saved file**
- **Click Submit**
- **Click OK**
- **Click Send File (if you do not do this one, it will not go)**

Assignment Schedule

Seminar Date	Assignment	Professor/Student
Jan 21	Introduction to the course; Organization of the course; assignments; Lecture on Writing Style, key Turabian issues; Writing Thesis Statements; Plagiarism	
Jan 28	Students bring theses and outlines for discussion	
Feb 11	Finalize theses and outlines; present bibliographies	
March 4	Last class discussion on Paper Discussion; Assign Critiques; First Draft; Train on File Exchange	
April 1	ALL PAPERS DUE, POSTED ON BLACKBOARD IN THE FILE EXCHANGE	
	The Written Critique is due on the Digital Drop Box on the Friday before the paper is to be presented on Tuesday.	
April 8	First paper week	See Below for presentation and responder assignments
April 15	Second paper week	See Below for presentation and responder assignments
April 22	Third paper week	See Below for presentation and responder assignments
April 29	Fourth paper week	See Below for presentation and responder assignments
May 6	Fifth paper week/Review	See Below for presentation and responder assignments
May 13	Reflective Essay Due; Exit Exam for Leavell College	

LSCM4300-30 Senior Seminar
Dr. Lema – Spring 2014
Order of Student Presenters and Responders

Date	Presenter		Responder		
April 1	ALL PAPERS DUE IN BLACKBOARD				
April 8					
April 8					
April 8					
April 8					
April 15					
April 15					
April 15					
April 15					
April 22					
April 22					
April 22					
April 22					

Date	Presenter		Responder		
April 29					
April 29					
April 29					
April 29					
May 6					
May 6					
May 6					
May 6					