Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary
TS 601/602 MTS Colloquium Syllabus Fall 2026

April 10, 2026

Course Description and Requirements

(No books required)

Professor: Julie Ann Duncan – Pfeiffer 332
Time: Wednesday 1:30-3:30 pm Online – synchronous meetings

Course Description

The primary purpose of the course is to aid MTS students in developing and writing the thesis. The Colloquium will also provide a space where fellow MTS students can find support and feedback and form their own kind of academic community. Second year students will be expected to present and defend their thesis proposals within the course of the colloquium. The course will also offer tutorials with respect to various aspects of the thesis research and writing process, as well as guidance on the process of applying to PhD programs (finding a good doctoral program for one's area of interest, developing a strong application, etc.). Students with other vocational aspirations will also support one another in discerning their preparations.

Course Goals

Students in this course will:

- Receive preparation for researching and writing the MTS thesis
- Obtain guidance in building a strong course schedule for their proposed area of study
- Obtain direction on the process of applying to doctoral programs.
- Begin to build an academic community with their fellow MTS students
- Engage in peer feedback

Course Requirements

- In order to obtain 2nd-year credit (3credits) students must present their thesis proposal within this term. **Note: those presenting must arrange to have their thesis advisor present for that hour (please see to this as soon as we have set provisional dates). Presentations should include a presentation portion (25-30 minutes), and a discussion portion of 30-35 minutes.
- The thesis proposal will be posted **four** days in advance of class session (Saturday by 6 pm).
- Students are expected to read the proposal and be ready to offer constructive feedback.

Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course students should be able to:

-- Navigate relevant databases, formulate search terms, and do research in a digital environment

-- Develop a short bibliography of essential reading that moves research interests forward

-- Assemble a portfolio for application to a doctoral program

-- Second-year students will be able to construct and defend a thesis proposal within their discipline.

Additionally students will gain experience in:

– The steps entailed in developing a thesis statement or argument

– Conversing across disciplines

– Peer review of fellow student proposals

Resource Texts (*NOT REQUIRED*):

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colombo, Joseph M. Williams, Joseph Bizup and William Fitzgerald. *The Craft of Research*. **5th ed.** Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2024. $15.84 at Thriftbooks.com.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. **9**th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018. $14.70 on Amazon.com.[1]

Yaghjian, Lucretia. *Writing Theology Well: A Rhetoric for Theological and Biblical Writers*. 2nd ed. London: T&T Clark, 2015.

[1] Note: the **10th** edition of Turabian will be available October 2026.