

# **WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

# **PLAINVIEW CAMPUS**

# **SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES**

# **Wayland Baptist University Mission Statement**

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success and service to God and humankind.

# **THST53611VC01**

**THESIS I**

# **SPRING 1 2022**

# **JAN 10-MAR 5**

# **Instructor: Randolph R. Rogers**

# **Instructor information:**

* **University Phone: 806-291-1167 (*email is a much more reliable contact method*)**
* **Email:** **randy.rogers@wbu.edu**
* **Office hours in Plainview, TX:**
	+ MW. 8:30-9:00 AM; 11:00-11:59 AM; 1:00-1:30 PM
	+ TT. 10:30-11:30; 1:30-3:30 PM.
	+ F. By appointment
	+ All Emails will be answered within 48 hours—usually much faster within office hours.
* **Office Location: Flores Building, Wayland Baptist University. 1900 W. 7th. Plainview, TX 79072**

# **Class Meeting Time:**

* As scheduled by the supervisor of the thesis

# **Catalog Description**

# THST5361: Thesis I – 3 hrs – Research toward the completion of the master’s thesis; supervised by full-time faculty.

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# **Prerequisite:**

Prerequisite(s): Admission into the MA in Theological Studies thesis (pre-doctoral) track; completion of all required graduate coursework, and minimum of 32 hours total graduate coursework; and approval from thesis approval committee.

# **Required Texts.**

| **TITLE** | **EDITOR/AUTHOR** | **PUBLISH** | **ED** | **YEAR** | **ISBN#** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* | Kate L. Turabian | University of Chicago Press | 9th | 2018 | ISBN: 978-0-226-43057 (paper); 978-0-226-43060 (eBook) |

# **Outcome Competencies: The student should be able to . . .**

* Select a supervisor and work with that supervisor to establish a thesis committee.
* Select a thesis topic in consultation with the supervisor and thesis committee.
* Conduct research in preparation of writing a prospectus for the thesis.

# **Attendance Requirements**

* As an online class, your attendance will be determined by weekly login to the class website and consistent participation in assignments.
* You are required to log in to class each week and meet specific deadlines. Skipping scheduled weekly assignments will be considered as an “absence” for that particular week.
* The Division's "no cut" policy allows no unexcused absences.
* No student missing morethan 25% of the class meetings (including both excused and unexcused absences) can pass the course. Thus, if you miss 3 weeks of weekly assignments and quizzes, you will fail this class.

# **Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:**

Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. [Per university policy as described in the academic catalog](https://catalog.wbu.edu/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=928), all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

# **Disability Statement**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291-3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.”

# **Course Requirements.**

1. **Select a supervisor and a thesis committee**
	* + The supervisor must have full-time faculty status with WBU.
		+ It is preferred that the supervisor be qualified to teach in the area of research that the candidate pursues
		+ The supervisor of the thesis is the chair of the thesis committee and will inform the committee of their roles in the process.
		+ The thesis committee should be selected at the beginning of the thesis process.
		+ Two other full-time WBU faculty members are to be chosen in consultation with the thesis supervisor.
2. **Start Research**.
	* + The candidate is required to complete the following task for research
			- Topic selection
			- Produce a working thesis statement
			- Bibliography building and categorization
			- Research and reading on the chosen topic
			- Develop a methodology for research
3. **Start writing**
	* + Build an overall thought process (storyboard) for the thesis
		+ Write a prospectus for the thesis
		+ Create an outline for the project, including major and minor subheadings for each chapter of the thesis

# **Course Evaluation (Method of Determining Grade)**

**• University Grading System**

Symbol Percentage

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F Below 60

* **Other symbols used for grading include:**

CR Credit Satisfactory, but without qualitative grading.

NCR No Credit Unsatisfactory, but without qualitative grading.

I\*\* Incomplete May be given to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required for work reasons beyond the student’s control.

IP In progress Assigned to a course indicating that at the conclusion of a term the course will still be in progress.

X No grade No grade has been submitted by the instructor. The course grade which will replace the X must be submitted within 30 days from the beginning of the next full term.

W Withdrawal Course dropped or withdrawal from the University.

WP Withdraw passing Course dropped or withdrawal from the University after deadline to withdraw with a W and prior deadline to withdraw with a WP or WF.

WF Withdraw failing Course dropped or withdrawal from the University after deadline to withdraw with a W and prior to deadline to withdraw with a WP or WF.

\*\*A grade of incomplete is changed if the deficiency is made up by midterm of the next regular semester; otherwise, it becomes "F". This grade is given only if circumstances beyond the student's control prevented completion of work during the semester enrolled and attendance requirements have been met.

# **Computation of final grade**

The student will receive a grade of Pass/Fail pending completion of the assignments required for the Thesis 1 class.

# **Student Grade Protection and Appeals**

Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

# **Course Outline/Calendar (Tentative)**

* Week 1
	+ Reading: Turabian, Chapter 1.
	+ Meet with advisor and discuss topic selection.
	+ Develop several options for topics. Do initial research on at least one topic to develop viable thesis statements.
		- Questions to consider:
			* What do I want to study?
			* Why do I want to study it?
			* For what purpose am I study? So what if I study it?
	+ Action Items
		- Select 2 members for thesis committee, in addition to advisor. Student is secure commitment from other committee members and present these names in writing to dean of SCS or the director of master’s programs in the SCS. The supervisor is the chair of this thesis committee.
		- Develop topics
		- Work on questions for each topic
		- Find topics that lend themselves to working thesis statements
* Week 2.
	+ Reading: Turabian, Ch. 3
	+ Meet with professor to discuss initial findings on topics and initial thesis idea.
	+ Discuss interest in topics and previous research in topics
	+ Discuss bibliography research and key sources
		- Types of sources
		- Organizing sources systematically
		- Proper form for bibliography entries
	+ Action Items
		- Provide initial list of bibliography
		- Provide any personal work or papers that may work with the topics chosen.
		- Begin working bibliography into categories for research
		- Narrow topic focus and work on thesis statement
* Week 3: Awareness of topic and growth in knowledge of the subject
	+ Turabian, Chapter 4
	+ Review awareness and engagement of current topic
		- Review past research
		- Review current reading and key sources encountered
	+ Review note taking strategy and process of putting notes into paper form
	+ Refine a specific topic in order to build working thesis statement
* Week 4
	+ Turabian, Ch. 5
	+ Provide working thesis statement
	+ Work with supervisor to develop the methodology for research
		- Search for dissertations and theses that may already speak to the chosen topic and observe the methodology used in those studies
		- Note books that speak directly to the topic and observe methodology
		- Build a methodological statement that summarizes the approach to the topic. This may include any or all of the following:
			* Description of Research Need
			* Definition of key terms
			* Description of central theoretical framework
				+ Philosophical approach: What presuppositions set the foundation for your research?
				+ What elements of your topic are you questioning, and what elements are you accepting?
				+ What sources or researchers have set the standard for your process?
			* Description of research strategy and methodology
			* Review of helpful research on the topic; placement of research within current state of research
	+ Work on the overall flow of your support for your thesis
		- Use your thesis statement and methodology to build an outline based on the topic and research process outlined
		- Develop a “story board” for your thought process
		- Develop chapter ideas within this outline; create sub-outlines for each chapter based on thesis and methodology
		- Make sure the outline provides support for the thesis statement
	+ Continue work on research
* Week 5
	+ Submit a prospectus.
		- Develop outline based on thesis statement and methodology
		- Provide your clear thesis statement
		- Show Outline of chapters
		- Body of prospectus: explanation of how major chapters will work to prove thesis statement.
		- Supporting bibliography for prospectus, plus any other potential research sources moving forward.
		- Length: not to exceed 10-pages, with 2-page bibliography limit
* Week 6
	+ Turabian, Ch. 6
	+ Produce sample of theoretical framework (for the introduction of thesis)
	+ Build key sections for each of chapter based on key words or ideas
	+ Review bibliography value and usage
* Week 7
	+ Meet with Supervisor for feedback on Prospectus. Make changes as necessary. Resubmit if needed.
	+ Write a brief introduction to each chapter and each section in the outline
	+ Continue research as needed
* Week 8
	+ Start working on completion of chapters, starting with Chapter 1: introduction
	+ Continue research as needed
	+ Revise and resubmit Prospectus, if needed

# **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

* Some assignments may be available on the class home page on Blackboard.
* The Syllabus and Grades will also be posted on Blackboard

# **Statement on Civility**

# **(Approved by the Administration Cabinet on July 1, 2013**)

In keeping with Wayland’s mission as a Christian higher education institution, Wayland Baptist University strives to demonstrate civility and Christ-like character in a positive manner where courtesy and respect are afforded to all persons at all times. Members of the University’s student and non-student community can expect Christ’s example to be modeled consistently by trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, and students in order to foster an environment for education and work, contribute to leadership development, and glorify God. While on any campus, attending any event, participating in any course, or engaging in any communication, Wayland trustees, administration, faculty, staff, students, and guests can all have the expectation of civility from one another. (Genesis 1:27; Deuteronomy 5:1-21; Micah 6:8; Matthew 22:36-40; Mark 9:34-35; Luke 10:29-37; John 13:34-35; Romans 12:9-21, 13: 7-10, 15:7; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 2:8-9, 4:1-3, 22-29; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Timothy 4:12; James 2:1-4; 1 Peter 2:21)