

BI / OT / NT / or TS7400
Advanced Reading Course
[Biblical Studies, New Testament,
Old Testament, or Theological Studies]

3 credits.

Prerequisites: 24 credits completed



Directed Study

Semester Length:
September to December,
or January to April,
or May to August.

Faculty Name
Email address

Please note: *To fulfill a student's program requirements at Horizon Seminary, a student must finish this course with a grade of B- or higher.*

Course Goals

Course Description

This course is an independent research project in a specialized topic related to biblical or theological studies that should be completed near the end of a student's program. Students who wish to take this course will propose 1000-1200 pages of focused reading to a professor who consents to oversee the course. The student and professor will meet at regular intervals to discuss the readings, and, at the conclusion of the course, the student will produce a 25–30-page paper that provides a focused analysis and thesis-driven discussion of his or her findings.

Relationship to Horizon's Mission

Horizon's mission is: *Advancing God's Kingdom by Preparing Competent Christian Leaders for Spirit-Empowered Life and Ministry.* This course will provide opportunity for the student continue developing competency in biblical and theological literacy as they engage in independent and focussed research in biblical or theological studies.

Course Competencies and Learning Outcomes

To demonstrate competency in *Biblical and Theological Literacy*, students will complete the following:

1. Develop a research proposal to guide the student's focused reading and analysis of that reading.
 - *Assessment:* Research Proposal and Reading List, Library Module

2. Curate and read a focused reading list that serves as the body of literature for the final research project.
 - *Assessment:* Focused Reading and Discussions with Professor
3. Compose a detailed analysis of a body of literature that addresses a pressing research question and sustains a logically constructed argument.
 - *Assessment:* Final Research Project

Course Work

Required Readings

Kibbe, Michael. *From Topic to Thesis: A Guide to Theological Research*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2015. ISBN: 9780830851317.

DTL: <https://thedtl.on.worldcat.org/oclc/928136904>.

**While students have the benefit of accessing many of their textbooks online through the [Digital Theological Library](#), they will not have access to the Digital Theological Library upon graduation. Therefore, we encourage students to purchase select textbooks to build their personal library.

Course Assignments and Activities

1. *Library Module (5%)*.

After reading Kibbe's *From Topic to Thesis*, complete the following two parts to this assignment.

Part A) Think of three topics that are of interest to you in the field of study related to this reading course (e.g., New Testament studies, Old Testament studies, Theological studies). Think of three topics you would like to explore and document your initial ideas using this format:

1. I would like to study _____ because _____.
This topic would help me _____.

Repeat the above process for your next two research topics and submit Part A to Populi and to the library tech by email (library@horizon.edu).

Part B) With your completed Part A assignment, arrange a one-hour appointment with Horizon's Library Tech (library@horizon.edu), either in person or on Zoom. Using the context of your three potential research topics, the Library Tech will guide you in the following areas:

- Advanced searching in the catalogue and DTL (with an emphasis on articles).
- Inter-Library Loans
- Services available at STU.
- Any information the library can offer you based on your three chosen topics.

- Related learning outcome(s): #1.
- **Assignment length:** 1 page (Part A) + 1 hr with HCS Library Tech (Part B).
- **Due date:** _____.

2. *Research Proposal and Reading List (10%).*

In consultation with your supervisor, draft a two-three-page proposal of your intended course of study along with an initial bibliography (at least 15 sources). This proposal should outline your research question (or hypothesis), your proposed approach/method to answering the research question, and a brief explanation of the importance of your study and its contribution to the academy and the church. Append the bibliography.

- Related learning outcome(s): #1.
- **Assignment length:** 2-3 pages + bibliography.
- **Due date:** _____.

3. *Focused Reading and Discussions with Professor (10%).*

Complete ~1000-1200 pages of reading from your proposed bibliography, in consultation with your supervising professor. You may need to supplement your bibliography with further research, which will lead to more reading. In the process of reading, you will be responsible to schedule at least two meetings with your supervisor to discuss your progress and to receive guidance and constructive feedback.

After you have completed your focused reading, submit your finished bibliography to Populi.

- Related learning outcome(s): #2.
- **Assignment length:** ~1000-1200 pages reading + revised bibliography (if needed).
- **Due date:** _____.

4. *Final Research Project (75%).*

Using your research proposal, focused reading, and guidance from your supervising professor, write a paper that addresses a pressing research question and sustains a logically constructed argument. Your Final Research Project will take on its own distinct quality as you engage in the rigorous tasks of research and constructing an argument. Your supervising professor will guide you throughout this process.

In general, your Final Research Project should include the following elements (subject to change based on your topic and supervising professor's guidance):

- Introduction to the topic/problem
 - explanation of context (why is this important?)
 - limits of the research
 - approach/method
 - thesis statement
- Review of the literature from your bibliography that is relevant to your argument
- Argument proving your thesis statement based on your review of the literature
- Implications/Practical Considerations
- Conclusion
- Related learning outcome(s): #3.
- **Assignment length:** 25-30 pages.
- **Due date:** _____.

Estimate of Time Investment (individual time investments may vary)

1. Library Module	2 hrs	Due date	5%
2. Research Proposal and Reading List	15 hrs	Due date	10%
3. Focused Reading and Discussions with Professor	55 hrs	Due date	10%
4. Final Research Project	55 hrs	Due date	75%
Total =			~127 hrs

All assignments are due at 11:59pm **SK time** unless otherwise indicated.

- Assignments will not be accepted after _____

Academic Policies**General Guidelines for the Submission of Written Work***Formatting Papers*

- Papers should be typed, double-spaced and follow the appropriate formatting guidelines (e.g. 1 inch margins).
- Follow the [MCS-Horizon Format Guide](#) consistently.
- The length of papers should fall within +/- 10% of the stated length. Papers that fall outside the length guidelines may not be graded and will receive a grade reduction.

Failure to follow these guidelines warrants a grade reduction.

Submitting Your Assignments

Assignments should be submitted via Populi. The resource at this [link](#) explains how to submit assignments on Populi.

Late Assignments and Extensions

All assignments are due when stated by the professor or, if not specified, within 8 weeks after the first day of class. Please contact the professor well in advance if you would like to request an adjustment to any of your due dates. A late penalty will be assessed for all overdue assignments: 1-3 days late, penalty of 10%; 4-6 days late, penalty of 20%. After six days late, an assignment receives a grade of 0.

Grading

Grade	Percentage	GPA	Descriptor
A+	97-100%	4	Exceptional
A	93-96%	4	Excellent
A-	90-92%	3.7	Excellent
B+	87-89%	3.3	Good
B	83-86%	3.0	Good
B-	80-82%	2.7	Good
C+	77-79%	2.3	Satisfactory
C	73-76%	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	70-72%	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	67-69%	1.3	Minimal Pass

D	63-66%	1.0	Minimal Pass
D-	60-62%	0.7	Minimal Pass
F	<60%	0	Failure

Academic Integrity

Students learn best when practicing academic integrity. A lack of integrity is displayed in acts such as deception, abuse of confidentiality, cheating, inappropriate collaboration, or plagiarism. Plagiarism occurs when a student presents the words or ideas of another person or an artificial intelligence (AI) tool in such a way as to give others the impression that it is their own words or ideas. In academic writing, there should be no doubt which words or ideas are the student's and which are drawn from other sources or AI. Students are expected to submit their own original work and give due recognition to sources from which all substantial phrases, sentences or even ideas are drawn. Note also that you may not submit work done in one course to satisfy the requirements of another course (unless both instructors agree beforehand to accept such work). See [here](#) for examples of plagiarism and further guidelines in the [Student Handbook](#).

Accessible Learning Services Information

Horizon aims to provide an accessible learning environment for all our students. If you would benefit from learning accommodations due to temporary or ongoing physical or mental health conditions or learning disabilities, please contact us as soon as possible to schedule a conversation. In all cases we ask that you provide current [documentation](#) of the disability or condition you wish to disclose. Horizon takes appropriate care to ensure confidentiality about any such disclosures. For more information, contact Richelle Bekkattla, Horizon's Library Technician and Academic Accommodations Coordinator, at library@horizon.edu.

Use of Technology

Horizon encourages the use of electronic devices in the classroom to enhance learning. Careful consideration must be given to privacy issues, copyrighted materials, and the general care and concern for others. Please respect the following classroom policies:

- Please use online access for course learning only. This is a matter of respect for the instructor's teaching, your own learning, and fellow students who may be distracted by other uses.
- Students should secure permission from the instructor to record any teaching material. This includes PowerPoint slides, white board illustrations, notes, and any form of audio or video.
- Student feedback is a valuable input for course improvements. Please resolve any classroom grievance about the instructor or course with the instructor personally, through the Horizon College and Seminary grievance procedures, or the Populi-based course evaluations. It is inappropriate to air classroom grievances on a social media platform.
- When instructors use recording mechanisms in the classroom, recorded materials will be used for the sole purpose of instruction and cannot be released to any social media outlet without the written consent of the students whose images have been recorded.

In general, it is not acceptable to share photographs or videos of students in the classroom setting without permission from those whose images appear in such media