**Senior Paper Outline & Thesis Requirements**

**The RULE: ALL CHRM Senior Paper topics MUST somehow connect back to your discipline/degree.**

**Research Question:** This is what you want to research

* What do you want to inquire about? What is the issue or problem?
* What is your methodology? (How will you go about this?)
* Why must it be addressed now? (Why does this need priority?)

**Thesis for the paper:** This is the ANSWER to your research question and MUST BE APPROVED BY YOUR READER BEFORE YOU DIVE INTO YOUR PAPER. NO EXCEPTIONS.

* Answer the question clearly
* Take a defendable stance—you must have a clear, defendable position on the issue/topic. (Get off the fence.)
* All in ONE clear, well written sentence! (SEE HANDOUT FOR THE FORM AND PROCEDURE TO WRITE THIS.)

**Outline:** (Get this approved BEFORE you start writing!)

1. Introduction (4ish pages) (First round of this is really a proposal. This will get rewritten.)
   1. Introduce the problem—This is your research question.
   2. Why is this issue important in the life of the Church right now?
   3. Establish thesis statement for the paper—This is the answer to your research question.
   4. Set paper limitations (For example, if you are doing a paper on cats, you would want to state that you are only looking at domestic cats and will not be looking at big cats like tigers.)
   5. (The introduction will likely go through several iterations before the final paper is submitted.)
2. Scholarly Section (You could do the Bible section first if it fits better.) (15ish pages)
   1. Who are the primary scholars writing on this issue and what are the top positions/views these scholars tend to share?  How are these leading views alike and/or different?
   2. What do scholars who disagree with the foundational scholars say? Why do they disagree?
   3. Build the framework for your argument (think back to your thesis)
      1. What theories could be applied as a framework?
      2. How are these theories practical/relevant?
      3. What makes the theory you chose the right one?
      4. Give structure to what you will later propose as your solution.
3. Biblical Section (12ish pages)
   1. What does the OT say about the issue?
   2. What does the NT say about the issue?
   3. Use Bible commentaries and dictionaries
   4. Proper hermeneutics and exegetical work is expected
4. Conclusion (8ish pages)
   1. Based on the research (scholars & Bible), what then must the Church now do to be both obedient and wise?
   2. Lay out a clear plan of action (spending more $$$ is not a solution)

**WARNING! 40 pages of well-written material with 40 academic sources is the *minimum* requirement. Page requirements do NOT include the Bibliography, Table of Contents, Abstract, or Appendix information. CAREFULLY review the syllabus for what additional items will be turned in with your final copy of senior paper.**

**Getting in To the Process**

**Outline Practical Stuff:**

* Write each part in full sentences.
* Be as detailed as possible.
* Prepare the outline in proper outline format. (Remember, where there is a “I” there must be a “II.” Where there is an “a” there must also be a “b.”
* After you have completed the outline, go back and think through each letter under a major area. How many pages will you need to write to cover that letter? (Include your page allotment in parenthesis next to the topic areas for discussion with your reader. These will later become writing assignments.)
* Make sure it has a logical sequence and flow.  It might help to have a friend look at it and give you feedback.

**Some Writing Wisdom:**

* From the very beginning, make sure that your footnotes and bibliography entries are complete AND in proper format. Those who try to clean this up at the end are never happy people. You have been warned.
* Think of senior paper as a collection of several 2-3 page papers. Write one letter under a major heading from your outline at a time. Another option would be to write one portion of the outline at a time and then celebrate the completion of each section. Calendar when you plan to have each portion complete and treat it as a hard deadline.
* NEVER write until you have nothing left. Leave something “cooking” in your head so that when you sit down the next time to write, you will things to say/write. Some authors like to start the next section by writing the first few sentences for it while they are “in the writing flow.” This helps them get started more easily the next time they sit down. They recommend this as a safeguard against writer’s block.
* This is an academic paper. Proper format, style, word choice, academic sources, and professionalism are expected. Review the UG Theology Style Guide for reminders.
* Meet with your reader regularly for input/ask questions. Meet the deadlines your reader sets.

**Your Reader’s Job:**

* Approve topic and thesis statement.
* Point you in the direction of good resources/research that meet academic standards.
* Hold you accountable for writing deadlines.
* Help with argumentation.
* Encourage you as you go through this journey. (Kick your butt if you need it!)

**Remember, your reader is NOT your editor**! The Writing Center (LRC 5th floor) has FREE services to help you with this task. There are also paid services available through the Copy Center on campus and other businesses in the Tulsa area. Grammarly is a given and its use is EXPECTED.

**CHRM Senior Paper**

**Spring 2019 Due Dates**

**Reminders:**

* Your reader is NOT your editor.
* Work turned in to your reader needs to be in “final copy” form.
* Deadlines are hard deadlines with points attached to them that are connected to your final grade. Plan accordingly.
* Meeting with your reader is required. Points are attached to this requirement that are connected to your final grade.

***Due Dates:***

**Feb. 4 Introduction due—this is really your proposal for the paper AND Outline for Scholarly Section**

**Feb. 25 Scholarly Section due AND Outline for Biblical Section**

**Mar. 11 Conclusion Outline Due**

**Mar. 15 Bible Section Due (MUST turn in before spring break)**

**March 25 Conclusion Due**

**This is also when you update your Introduction and write your Abstract.**

**April 1 FINAL COPY DUE TO READER (Celebrate!!!)**

**Don’t forget….**

**CHECKLIST OF STUFF FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT (RESUME, LINKEDIN, ETC.)**