

Your Professor

Dr. Emily Clark
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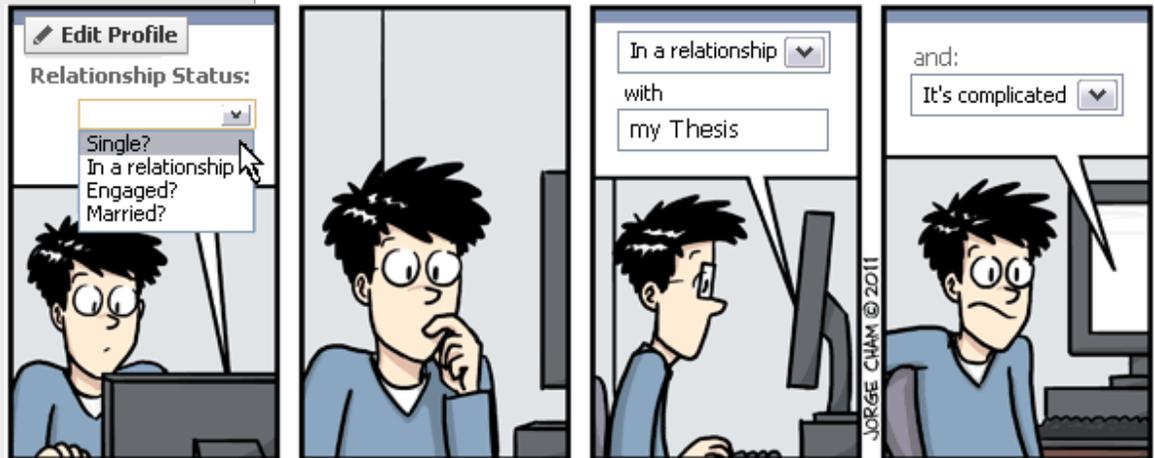
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SENIOR SEMINAR



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How This Course Helps You Graduate

This is a requirement for
 graduating seniors in Religious
 Studies.

Course Texts

Thesis Handbook, available on
 blackboard

Course Description

This senior seminar is a 3-credit hour course for graduating majors in Religious Studies. In this course students will complete an original piece of academic scholarship in the form of a senior thesis. A thesis is an extended piece of original research and scholarship in our selected discipline. It allows you to further develop your skills and content knowledge in a particular topic of our field. It assists your development as an independent, creative, and critical thinker.

Over the course of the semester we will approach the thesis as a process, which will culminate in a significant academic achievement. And then, to quote *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, [there will be much rejoicing](#).

More about what is expected in your thesis and how to accomplish the task is laid out in the Thesis Handbook provided by Dr. Clark.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Students in this course will cultivate their curiosity by completing an original research project in both written and oral forms. This requires an ability to analyze and synthesize from a variety of sources.
2. Students will demonstrate critical thinking on a chosen research question by integrating insights and employing various methodologies within Religious Studies and/or Theology.
3. Students will develop writing and speaking skills through the presentation of their research.
4. Like Rocky Balboa, students will [show resilience in the face of a challenging task](#).

How to Succeed in This Course

- 1) Come to class, arrive on time, and stay for the entire meeting.
- 2) Complete drafts and other writing assignments on time. Late assignments will knock you off track to complete the thesis on time.
- 3) Contribute to class discussions and engage with one another in their research endeavors. To quote Disney's *High School Musical*: [We're All in This Together](#).
- 4) Ask for help when you need it. I am happy to assist students in their attempts to master course materials and successfully complete course assignments. Come to my office hours and I am always available via email.

Assignments and Grading



- 1) Annotated Bibliography and Research Question: The first requirement for this class is the completion of an annotated bibliography and paragraph explaining your research question. Worth 100 points (10% of your grade).
- 2) Chapter 1 of Your Thesis: This section (8-10 pages) sets the stage for the project by providing a literature review on the chosen topic, presenting your methodology, and describing your sources. The

first draft should be completed on time and reflect engaged scholarship. Worth 150 points (15% of your grade).

3) Chapter 2 of Your Thesis: This section (9-12 pages) presents your research project, describes your methodology, and provides your original analysis regarding your topic. The first draft should be completed on time and demonstrate intellectual rigor. Worth 150 points (15% of your grade).

4) Chapter 3 of Your Thesis: This section section (7-9 pages) provides some preliminary conclusions regarding your project. The first draft should be completed on time and present clear insight. Worth 150 points (15% of your grade).

5) Abstract, Introduction, and Bibliography: The final short sections of your thesis, the abstract, one-page introduction, and bibliography bring together your three main sections into a full project. Worth 100 points (10% of your grade).

6) Final Project: This refers to the final submission of your full thesis, with all sections interwoven, bound, and submitted to Dr. Clark and your advisor. This should be submitted on time and offer a complete thesis. Worth 250 points (25% of your grade).

7) Oral Presentation: This will be a short 5-8 minute oral presentation distilling the most important part of your findings to a small audience of Religious Studies faculty. Worth 100 points (10% of your grade).

Annotated Bibliography and Research Question:	100 points
Chapter 1 (Lit Review, Methods, Sources):	200 points
Chapter 2 (Analysis):	200 points
Chapter 3 (Preliminary Conclusions):	200 points
Abstract, Introduction, and Bibliography:	100 points
Final Project Formally Submitted:	100 points
Oral Presentation:	100 points
Total:	1000 points

Course Policies

RESPECT FOR THE PROCESS AND YOUR PEERS

You might feel inclined to curse your thesis from time to time, and that's okay. Big projects can be challenging (remember that learning outcome about resilience and Rocky Balboa). Even in those moments of frustration, remember that this is a challenging but important task. When you've completed it, you'll have something worthy of celebration. More importantly, always lift up each other in this process. Though the work of a thesis is all your own, I expect you to support and encourage each other.

ATTENDANCE POLICY SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

According to the [Gonzaga University attendance policy](#), if you miss more than 6 class meetings, you will receive a "V" for this class, which is the same as a "F."

A NOTE ON HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Consistent with its mission, Gonzaga seeks to assure all community members learn and work in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Title VII, Title IX and Gonzaga's policy prohibit harassment, discrimination and sexual misconduct. Gonzaga encourages anyone experiencing harassment, discrimination or sexual misconduct to talk to someone from the Campus and Local Resources list found in the Student Handbook: www.gonzaga.edu/studenthandbook about what happened so they can get the support they need and Gonzaga can respond appropriately. There are both confidential and non-confidential resources and reporting options available to you. Gonzaga is legally obligated to respond to reports of sexual misconduct, and therefore we cannot guarantee the confidentiality of a report, unless made to a confidential resource. Responses may vary from support services to formal investigations. As a faculty member, I am required to report incidents of sexual misconduct and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. I must provide our Title IX coordinator with relevant details such as the names of those involved in the incident. For more information about policies and resources or reporting options, please visit the following website: www.gonzaga.edu/titleix. My office is a safe space, but I am legally required to report sexual misconduct.

Course Schedule

Note: Unless the schedule says "No Class," we're meeting. Many of these days will be "working days" in the classroom where we'll work on our individual projects (you on your research/writing and Dr. Clark on a manuscript of her own). Group writing sessions help keep us accountable to ourselves and help keep us on task. We can also share frustrations and crowdsource challenges. If not everyone has a laptop, that's no problem. We'll move our working day sessions to the library.

Week 1: Course Introduction

Wednesday, Aug 30: So, What's a Thesis Anyways?

Friday, Sept 1: Discussing Topics and Questions

Bring Intellectual Biography Brainstorming Sheet to class, filled out



Week 2: Brainstorming

Monday, Sept 4: No Class. Labor Day

Wednesday, Sept 6: Meet in Foley for Research Instruction

Friday, Sept 8: Narrowing in on Questions and Sources

Week 3: Compiling Sources

Monday, Sept 11: Finding Primary Sources. Meet in Foley.

Deadline for first meeting with research advisor

Wednesday, Sept 13: No Class. Mass of the Holy Spirit (morning) and Learning Outcomes Assessment Day (Afternoon).

Friday, Sept 15: Working with Primary and Secondary Sources

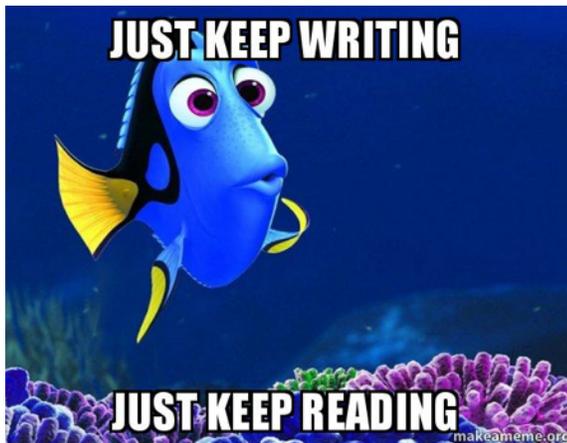
Week 4: Let's Get to Reading!

Monday, Sept 18: Annotated Bibliography Redux

Wednesday, Sept 20: Group Discussion on Annotated Bibliographies and Project Paragraphs

Annotated Bibliography and Project Paragraph due to Dr. Clark and advisor before class

Friday, Sept 22: From Annotated Bibliography to Literature Review

**Week 5: Let's Get to Writing!**

Monday, Sept 25: Working Day

Wednesday, Sept 27: Working Day

Friday, Sept 29: Working Day

Week 6: Building Momentum

Monday, Oct 2: Group Discussion on Chapter 1

First Draft of Chapter 1 due to Dr. Clark and advisor before class

Wednesday, Oct 4: Library Research. Meet in Foley.

Friday, Oct 6: Working Day

Week 7: Analyze This and That

Monday, Oct 9: Working Day

Wednesday, Oct 11: Working Day

Friday, Oct 13: Working Day

Week 8: Analyze This and That

Monday, Oct 16: Working Day

Wednesday, Oct 18: No Class. Dr. Clark will be out of town.

Friday, Oct 20: No Class. Dr. Clark will be out of town.

Week 9: Just Keep Writing

Monday, Oct 23: No Class. Founder's Day

Wednesday, Oct 25: Group Discussion on Chapter 2

First Draft of Chapter 2 due to Dr. Clark and advisor before class

[Dr. Angela Davis](#) will be giving a lecture this evening in Hemmingson Ballroom. This will be a once in a lifetime experience. I encourage you to go.

Friday, Oct 27: From Analysis to Preliminary Conclusions

Week 10: Just Keep Writing

Monday, Oct 30: Working Day

Wednesday, Nov 1: Working Day

Friday, Nov 3: Working Day

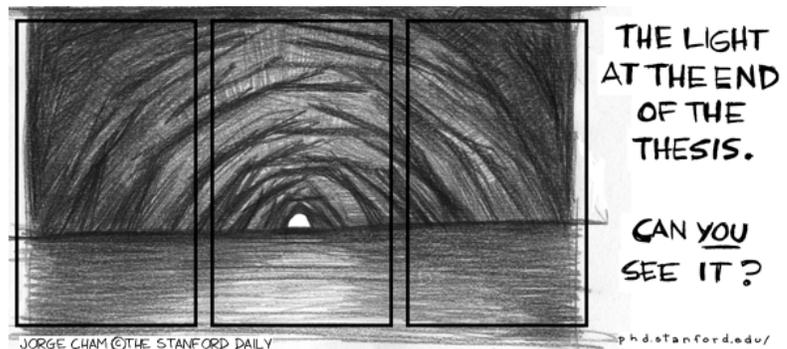
Week 11: It's the Eye of the Tiger

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Monday, Nov 6: Working Day

Wednesday, Nov 8: Working Day

Friday, Nov 10: Working Day



Week 12: ... It's the Thrill of the Thesis!

Monday, Nov 13: Working Day

Wednesday, Nov 15: Working Day

Friday, Nov 17: Group Discussion on Chapter 3

First Draft of Chapter 3 due to Dr. Clark and advisor before class

Week 13: No Class.

Nov 20 - Nov 24: No Class. Dr. Clark will be out of town at a conference, and [then Thanksgiving!](#) Use the week productively and revise your chapters.

Week 14: Revise those Chapters and Polish those Diamonds

Monday, Nov 27: Group Discussion on Abstracts and Introductions

Abstract and One-page Introduction due to Dr. Clark before class

Wednesday, Nov 29: Final Revisions

Friday, Dec 1: Final Revisions

Week 15: Final Products

Monday, Dec 4: Reflecting on the Process

Deadline for submitting final thesis to Campus Printing and to Dr. Clark and advisor

Wednesday, Dec 6: Preparing for Oral Presentations

Friday, Dec 8: No Class. Relax!

[Final Exam Week](#)

Thursday, Dec 14, 1:00-3:00 pm: Oral Presentations