

# ***THEO 5002: Graduate Thesis I***

*1<sup>st</sup> Term 2021-2022; Friday 9:30-11:15am*

## *Course Instructors:*

*THEO 5002A* Christina Wong (Church History; Practical Theology)  
CCT T<sub>31</sub> email: [wycwong@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:wycwong@cuhk.edu.hk)

*THEO 5002B* Sonia Wong (Biblical Studies; Systematic & Constructive Theology)  
YCT LG<sub>201</sub> email: [sonia.wong@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:sonia.wong@cuhk.edu.hk)

## I. Aim of the Course

This course is designed to facilitate M.Div./BD students in their graduate thesis writing. Students are to write a graduate thesis of 20,000 words under the supervision of their individual thesis supervisor.

## II. Learning Outcomes:

Following the instruction and timetable set by this course and through in-class discussions and thesis writing skill practice, students are expected to submit their thesis on time by the end of May 2022. **It is important to note that late submission may lead to a delay in graduation.**

## III. Learning Activities

### A) Lectures:

Lectures/individual advisory meetings/group seminars are scheduled in some weeks. The eLearning system Blackboard/group email will serve as a discussion and information exchange forum.

### B) Seminars:

Students will be divided into two groups for the seminars.

### C) Meetings with thesis supervisor:

Students shall meet/communicate with their individual thesis supervisor no less than three times during the first semester.

### D) Additional meeting by appointment:

Outside of the scheduled lectures and seminars, students are welcomed to make an appointment for individual or group discussion/meeting with the assigned course instructor. Please contact the assigned course instructor with the contact details provided above.

E) Class schedule:

(All sessions will be conducted face-to-face.)

Week	Content	Working Plan
(Prep) 3/9	Watch online lectures on Blackboard * Research skills (Christina, 30 mins) * Format & citation (Sonia, 30 mins) * Writing skills (Bryan Mok, 30 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choose a research topic</li> <li>Consult teachers at Divinity School and invite one to be your thesis supervisor</li> </ul>
#1 10/9	Lecture (CCT T31; 9:30am-11:00am) * How to do Human-Subject Research (Christina, 45 mins) * Format & Citation and Plagiarism Quizzes (Sonia, 45 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit research topic and confirm supervisor</li> <li>PC or smart phone is required for taking the quizzes.</li> </ul>
#2 17/9	Lecture (CCT T31; 9:30am-12nn): * Course outline (15 min) * Q & A on Research skills, Format & citation, Writing skills (45 mins) * Group sessions: How to begin in (60 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biblical Studies (Sonia, YCT LG201)</li> <li>Church History; Practical Theology (Christina, CCT T31)</li> <li>Constructive &amp; Systematic Theology (Francis Yip, CCT T41)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area of interest</li> <li>Scope of thesis</li> <li>Presentation Arrangement</li> <li>Select time slot (20 mins) for individual sessions</li> </ul>
#3 24/9	Individual sessions (9am-12nn, 1:30pm-3:30pm): * Individual discussion with the assigned course instructor	
1/10	(No. Class. Public holiday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission of Thesis Proposal begins on 4/10.</li> </ul>
#4 8/10	Seminar (9:30am-12:30am): * Individual presentation of thesis proposal and group discussion:	
#5 15/10	Presentation (5 mins) Response (5 mins) Presenter's response (5 mins)	
#6 22/10	Class discussion (20 mins) Instructor's feedback (5 mins)	
#7 29/10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission of the revised proposal to supervisor and course instructor, and the summary report of the first supervisory session</li> </ul>
#8 5/11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission of reading summary</li> <li>Submission of the first complete chapter begins on 8/11.</li> </ul>

#9 12/11	Seminar (9:30am-12:30pm): * Individual presentation of the first complete chapter and group discussion: Presentation (5 mins) Response (5 mins) Presenter's response (5 mins) Class discussion (20 mins) Instructor's feedback (5 mins)	
#10 19/11		
#11 26/11		
#12 3/12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission of the revised 1<sup>st</sup> chapter to thesis supervisor and course instructor, and a summary report of the second supervisory session</li> </ul>

#### IV. Assessment Scheme (based on Paper-Grading Rubric System)

1. Thesis Proposal 25%  
Thesis proposal shall include 1) thesis title, 2) research aim and question, 3) a brief literature review, 4) tentative thesis, 5) table of content, and 6) bibliography.
2. Reading Summary 10%  
Students are required to submit a reading summary of at least **5 books or articles** which are related to their thesis topic with **no less than 5 pages** (1.5 line spacing, font size 12), stating particularly the relevance of the readings to writing the thesis.
3. First Complete Chapter (any chapter, 8-10 pages) 25%  
[Assessment: Arguments (5%), Counter-Arguments (2%), Analysis (5%); Organization (5%), Writing Style (5%), Citation and Format (3%)]
4. Two Responses to a Classmate's Work 10% (@5%)  
Each student is to submit two written responses, one to a thesis proposal and the other to a chapter submitted by a classmate.
5. Two Summary Reports of Meetings with Supervisor 20% (@10%)  
Each student is to meet his/her thesis supervisor regularly and at least three times. Two written reports of the supervisory sessions are to be submitted on 29 October 2021 and 3 December 2021 respectively. Each report shall consist of a one-paragraph summary of the supervisors' advice and/or comments.
6. Participation 10%  
Should a foreseeable event occur that may result in tardiness or absence, the student is required to notice the instructor in advance. Unexcused tardiness or absence would lead to mark deduction.

\* *The assigned course instructor will suggest a final grade to the supervisor based on the assessment scheme, but the supervisor may adjust the grade according to the academic potential of the research thesis and individual learning paces.*

V. Other Instructions

- Student shall invite a **full-time Divinity School teacher** to be his/her thesis supervisor. Exceptional case must be approved by the Graduate Thesis course instructors.
- Presentation and group discussion of thesis proposal and the first complete chapter follow the same pattern of the Faculty-Student Seminar.
  - Students shall present according to the presentation schedule.
  - For the rundown of each presentation, see Class Schedule above.
  - Presenters shall submit their works 5 days before the presentation (on Monday).
  - Respondents are required to submit a one-page written response the day before the presentation.
- All assignments shall be submitted to Group Discussion Forum on Blackboard. Deduction of marks may apply to late submission:

Late Submission	Mark Deduction
1 day	1 subgrade
2 days	2 subgrades
3 days	3 subgrades
4 days	4 subgrades

- File name format

Assignment	File name
Thesis Proposal	GT_TP_YAM Ho Yan (rev)
Reading Summary	GT_RS_YAM Ho Yan
First Complete Chapter	GT_1CH_YAM Ho Yan (rev)
Response	GT_1CH_YAM_[+Respondent's Name]
Report of Supervisory Session	GT_Report 1 [or 2]_YAM Ho Yan