

RESEARCH & WRITING WORKSHOP

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Office room: 238 (McMaster Divinity College Press)

Office hours: by appointment

Workshop Schedule: 28 September to 9 November 2016 (every Wednesday); no meeting on October 12 (reading week)

Workshop hours: 1:30–3:20PM

About This Workshop

Designed as a supportive/collaborative learning community, the MDC Research & Writing Workshop introduces you to the basics of graduate-level reading, research, and writing. The workshop aims to help you in these specific areas of graduate-level work. The workshop is composed of six sessions, and each session focuses on one of the foundational tasks of graduate-level writing, which includes the various elements of comprehension in reading, skills in research and writing, and tools in English grammar, usage, and argumentation.

Cost: \$180—MDC pays \$100, student pays \$80

Workshop Activities

The bulk of workshop time will focus on tasks related to your actual coursework. This means that participants will collaborate in learning and practicing the foundational concepts and skills involved in graduate-level writing through their course assignments. In between these practice activities are short intermittent lecture periods that will ensure participants learning the best practices not only in academic writing but also in graduate-level education. The asterisk (see below) indicates the knowledge components involved in each workshop session.

Workshop Schedule and Lessons

Session 1

- I Don't Need This Workshop. Well, Actually, You Need It!
- Time, Time, and Time...Manage It Well!
- Oops...I Thought This Was the Thing Required in the Assignment.

*Overview of the research and writing process and its various components, time management and schedule organization, and different types of assignments

Session 2

- Of course I can write!
- Reading & Writing—I Didn't Know They're Twins.
- Learning Reading: Really? Don't I Know How to Do That?

*Initial strategies in research and writing, and various levels of reading

Session 3

- The Principles of Simplicity, Clarity, and Unity

*Writing sentences and paragraphs, and elementary rules of English usage

Session 4

- There Is NO Easier Way to Learn English Usage and Style than to Write, Write, and Write.

*Common errors in grammar and usage, commonly misused words, phrases, and expressions, and punctuation marks

Session 5

- Structuring Your Essay Is Like Assembling Your Gourmet Burger

*Essay outline and structure

Session 6

- What Is a Footnote?
- I Can't Believe Writing Can Be Sinful!

*MDC writing style guide, citing and documenting sources, and plagiarism

Helpful Resources (available in the MDC bookstore)

- Adler, Mortimer J., and Charles van Doren. *How to Read a Book: The Classic Guide to Intelligent Reading*. Rev. and Up. ed. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1972.
- Northey, Margot, Bradford A. Anderson, and Joel N. Lohr. *Making Sense in Religious Studies: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Strunk, William Jr., and E.B. White. *The Elements of Style*. 4th ed. New York: Longman, 2000.

Gender Inclusive Language

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty:

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>

Style

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses:

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>

Disclaimer

This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.