Statement of Purpose

This seminar is focused on topics and interests that you bring into the course. Having been formed in historical and theological method, and read extensively in the surveys, it is time to explore projects that reflect your research interests. Our purpose here is to create a critically supportive atmosphere to develop and hone your research skills on a topic of your choice. The topic may be related to a projected dissertation, an essay that you hope to publish, or simply a subject that intrigues you and you wish to explore more deeply.

Structure of the Course

Sessions will be a mixture of individual presentations, and interaction between the professor and students. You will be expected to declare a topic in the first two weeks of the semester, in consultation with the professor. Each student will make two presentations, and critique two conference style presentations made in the seminar.

Evaluation

Your grade will be determined by the following:

Grade scale: A = 100-94
B = 93-88
C = 87-80
D = 79-70
F = 69-0

The course grade will be based on:

- Class attendance and participation 10%
- Introduction of Research Topic 10%
- Presentation of Research Project 20%
- Critique of colleague’s presentation 10%
- Critique of colleague’s presentation 10%
- Research Paper 40%
Requirements

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance at all sessions is required. Absences without explanation will affect your final grade.

Readings:

Students are expected to study all readings assigned for discussions in class.

Introduction of Research Topic

Each student will identify a published article or chapter in a book that relates to the topic being researched. This will be made available to the seminar members in electronic form via email. A brief introduction will be made, summarizing the piece, as well as background, explaining the reason for selecting the topic and basic questions being explored. Student will lead a discussion on the topic.

Research Presentation

Each student will make a presentation summarizing the essential aspects of the essay they have written, and the line of argument. This presentation will be followed by two critiques by colleagues.

RESEARCH PRESENTATION MUST BE NO MORE THAN 15 MINUTES LONG!

Critiques

Each student must prepare two critiques of essays presented to the seminar. These will be written and read (in the style of a response following a conference presentation). A copy of the critique will be given to the professor at the beginning of the seminar. We will discuss the manner and content of these critiques in class.

MUST BE NO MORE THAN 10 MINUTES LONG!

Essay: The essay is the core of your work in this course.

Formatting and footnoting must conform to the Chicago Manual of Style (15th edition). These essays must be available on a recent version of MS Word. One hard copy must be submitted on the date assigned.

Research Essay –A draft of your research essay is due one week before the formal presentation to the seminar, so that those assigned to critique your paper have time to read it and prepare a response. This should be sent to all members of the seminar via email attachment. The final version of your paper is due the last day of class. The essay must be 20 to 30 pages long, excluding bibliography.
Special Topics in 18th and 19th century European Theology

CALENDAR: FALL 2007

30 August – Introduction
   Discussion of syllabus, the structure of the course and the topics being explored.

6 September – Presentation by Kenneth Parker
   Critique – Hudson Davis
   Critique – Michael Pahls

13 September – Introduction of Research Topic
   Presenter – Dan Handschy
   Presenter – Ben O’Connor

20 September - Introduction of Research Topic
   Presenter – Rob Porwoll
   Presenter – Sarah Sparks

27 September – Introduction of Research Topic
   Presenter – Mike Shea
   Presenter – Michael Pahls

4 October – Professor away for Presidential Inauguration at Houghton College
   Professor Jay Hammond will submit a paper on John Henry Newman. Everyone will submit a written critique and be prepared to discuss the essay.

11 October – Introduction of Research Topic
   Presenter – Nöel Pretila
   Presenter – Rajpaul Sundararaj

18 October – Introduction of Research Topic
   Presenter – Joe Rivera
   Presenter – Hudson Davis
25 October – Research Presentation

Presenter – Ben O’Connor

Critique – Hudson Davis

Critique – Dan Handschy

Presenter – Michael Pahls

Critique – Joe Rivera

Critique – Mike Shea

1 November – Research Presentation

Presenter – Sarah Sparks

Critique – Ben O’Connor

Critique – Hudson Davis

Presenter - Rajpaul Sundararaj

Critique – Rob Porwoll

Critique - Nöel Pretila

8 November – Research Presentation

Presenter - Nöel Pretila

Critique - Rajpaul Sundararaj

Critique – Sarah Sparks
Presenter - Mike Shea

Critique – Dan Handschy

Critique – Michael Pahls

15 November – Research Presentation

Presenter – Hudson Davis

Critique – Michael Pahls

Critique - Ben O’Connor

Presenter – Dan Handschy

Critique – Rob Porwoll

Critique – Joe Rivera

22 November – Thanksgiving Break

29 November – Research Presentation

Presenter – Joe Rivera

Critique - Sarah Sparks

Critique - Nöel Pretila

Presenter – Rob Porwoll

Critique - Rajpaul Sundararaj

Critique – Mike Shea

6 December – Final Discussion and Assessment of Seminar