



**Grading Rubric – Thesis Summer Reading
Class of 2025**

Student _____ Advisor _____

Annotation of Core Book (25 points) _____/25

Annotations cover the entire book (or selected chapters as agreed upon with your advisor)
Highlighting/underlining identifies significant ideas.
Marginal notes reflect thoughtful engagement with the text.

Commentated Table of Contents (100 points) _____/100

Two to four sentences summarize each chapter.
Summaries are comprehensive yet concise.
Key terms in each chapter are identified and defined.
Assignment reflects a thorough, analytical reading of the core book.
Assignment contains no spelling, punctuation, or grammar errors.

Topic-Question-Motivation handout (25 points) _____/25

At least two topic-question-motivation sentences are included.
Each sentence reflects a development from general topic to a narrowing of focus.
Each sentence evidences careful reflection and analysis.

Three-Paragraph Essay (50 points) _____/50

Idea Development and Organization (40)

Paragraph 1: explains and delineates the major facets of the issue as described in the core book. In-text citations from the core book are included.

Paragraph 2: suggests possible topics/areas for further research

Paragraph 3: addresses the understandings the reader/audience could gain as a result of your research. (Why is your topic important? Why should we care? What is the proper response to the ideas presented given a Christian worldview?)

Essay states ideas clearly and employs topic-specific terminology.

Mechanics and Language Usage (5)

Essay contains no errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, or usage.
Paragraphs evidence a variety of sentence structure and vocabulary.

Format (5 points)

Essay meets the length requirement of standard three-paragraph essay.
Essay displays correct MLA format and includes correctly formatted
in-text citations and Works Cited page.