This handout, and most of the others it mentions, can be found online at
https://spu.libguides.com/WRI1100HolmesL/ViewPresentationHandouts

**Dictionaries and encyclopedias of theology (or Bible)**

- What are they?
  - Collections of (usually) alphabetically organized entries on the various themes of Christian theology composed by experts and designed to give basic information. These usually include
    - (in the body) a variety of related keywords you could put to use;
    - cross-references to related entries that you might want to read;
    - a brief starter bibliography (books and articles on the theme that the author of a given entry thinks you should read for more information).
  - This is, by the way, information that you should be able to put to good use well beyond WRI 1100 or even your courses in theology. For every discipline on campus, which is to say every major, has its own specialized works of reference (among them dictionaries and encyclopedias), and looking for and making appropriate use of these is something that you would be wise to do also outside of just this one introductory class.

- Where can they be found?
  - Those on paper, at the Reference Collection call numbers given under both Dictionaries and Encyclopedias of Theology and Bible Dictionaries and Encyclopedias here: https://spu.libguides.com/WRI1100HolmesL/ViewPresentationHandouts. (The Dictionaries of Theological Terms contain much shorter entries that usually do little more than simply define the properly theological sense of various words and phrases.)
  - Those Bible Dictionaries and Encyclopedias online, at https://spu.libguides.com/sg/Bible/DictionariesEncyclopedias#s-lg-box-wrapper-13513249. (Links to the Dictionaries and Encyclopedias of Theology that we happen to have online are given in the online document above.)

- What do I do if my term or phrase (my literary theme) isn’t present in a dictionary or encyclopedia of theology (or Bible)?
  - Brainstorm for synonyms, as you did on Wednesday last.
  - Try a thesaurus, for example
  - Ask someone trained in theology, for example Dr. Holmes or Mr. Perisho.
  - Try more theological (or Bible) dictionaries and encyclopedias. I tried almost 30 before finding an entry on transformation (spirituality and transformation) specifically in the Zondervan Dictionary of Christian Spirituality, transformation being a much less established term theologically.
  - Watch for cross-references to additional entries, as well as starter bibliographies.
  - Scan the tables of contents to some introductions to Christian theology or doctrine. For some of these, browse the General Collection both before and after BT60 (roughly BT19-BT77).
Search

- The Advanced search area of the SPU Library’s Discovery System or Catalog (http://spu.edu/library) and
- The ATLA Religion Database (http://spu.libguides.com/az.php?s=103523) for introductory books and articles on your theme, as demonstrated. (A great many of the items you turn up will be either too advanced and/or too narrowly focused for your purposes, but if you persist, you may find a title that will help you either 1) understand your theme theologically or at least 2) come up with additional terms to look up in the theological (or Bible) dictionaries and encyclopedias.)

Read what you’ve found, watching for additional terms that you might look up in the theological (or Bible) dictionaries and encyclopedias.

A headstart on 6 February

- REMEMBER:
  - It can take between 3 and 5 days for a book requested via Summit Borrowing to arrive.
  - It can take between 3 days and more than 2 weeks for a book or article requested via InterLibrary Loan to arrive.

- SO IF YOU’D LIKE TO GET STARTED ON YOUR RESEARCH BEFORE 6 FEBRUARY (WHICH IT WOULD BE WISE OF YOU TO DO), start with
  - the Advanced search area of the SPU Library’s Discovery System or Catalog (http://spu.edu/library) for BOOKS and
  - the Subjects (http://spu.libguides.com/az.php) area of the database page for ARTICLES.

For example,


- THOSE OF YOU WORKING ON NAOMI NOVIK AND HER NOVELS IN PARTICULAR ARE GOING TO HAVE TO THINK VERY CREATIVELY IF YOU ARE GOING TO COME UP WITH THE REQUISITE AMOUNT OF RELEVANT SCHOLARSHIP.