

BT702 PRINCIPLES OF DISSERTATION RESEARCH

Course: BT702 E - Principles of Dissertation Research
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Spring 2023 Cycle 4
Date: January 9 – March 3, 2023
Time: Tuesdays (6:00-9:00 pm)
Place: Microsoft Teams
Professor: Dr. Gary Gromacki, Th.M., D.Min., Ph.D.
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DESCRIPTION

This course guides the student in research strategies, dissertation topic selection, employment of the correct form and style for dissertations, and the use of bibliographic resources, library materials and computerized data bases.

This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person. Online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

N.B. Students are not obligated to use the topic they choose for his/her dissertation proposal as his/her final dissertation topic.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

General competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Learn the principles of dissertation research (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A1, 8)
2. Discover the best resources to consult for dissertation research (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4) (A 2,3,4,5,6,7)
3. Write and present the proposal for his/her dissertation (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 9, 10)

Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Choose and narrow a topic for the dissertation (PLOs 1, 2, 3) (A 1)
2. Do a literature review to discover what has been written on your topic (PLOs 1, 2, 3) (A 2, 3, 4, 5, 7)
4. Learn how to use the electronic Bible study resources Accordance and/or Logos in your dissertation research (PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 6)
5. Learn the difference between primary, secondary and tertiary sources (PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4) (A 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)
6. Evaluate commentaries and systematic theologies to use in writing the dissertation (PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4) (A 7)
7. Determine the research questions to be answered along with research paper topics for the classes in the PhD program (PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 9)
8. Write an introduction to your dissertation explaining the thesis, need for the study and research questions to be answered (PLO 5) (A 1, 9)
8. Write an initial outline for the dissertation (PLO 5) (A 9)
9. Learn how to write a dissertation using Turabian style guide and the book *Elements of Style* (PLO 5) (A 8)
10. Type out an initial research bibliography for the dissertation (PLOs 3, 4) (A 2,3,4,5,6,7)

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James Version (NKJV), or King James Version (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

Kibbe, Michael. *From Topic to Thesis: A Guide to Theological Research*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2016. ISBN: 978-0830851317 Cost: 11.99 Amazon paperback

Evans, Craig. *Ancient Texts for New Testament Studies*. Hendrickson, 2005. ISBN: 978-0801048425 Cost: \$30.51 Amazon paperback

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph, M. Williams, Joseph Bizup, and William T. Fitzgerald. *The Craft of Research*. Fourth Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016. ISBN: 978-0226239736 Cost: \$13.52 paperback

REQUIRED: ORIGINAL LANGUAGE BIBLE STUDY SOFTWARE (Accordance OR Logos)

Students are required to have digital resources to engage Biblical study in the original languages, including but not limited to *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS)*, *Nestle Aland 28 (NA28)* – both including critical apparatus; *Septuaginta (LXX)*, *a Greek Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (BDAG)* by Bauer, Danker, Arndt, and Gingrich; *Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (HALOT)* by Koehler and Baumgartner.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment #1 (100 points)

First: Read Kibbe, *From Topic to Thesis* and type out a list of 10 things you learned about writing a dissertation from this book.

Second: Type out 10 possible topics to research for a dissertation and number them from 1-10 in order of preference. Explain why each topic is of interest to you and what you would want to learn about each topic.

Third: Select a dissertation and read through it quickly and type out 10 observations of the dissertation.

Four: Write a detailed response to the question on the lecture posted in Discussions and interact with other students on the question.

Assignment #2 (100 points)

First: Search for Dissertations and Books on your topic and type out a minimum list of 30 sources in a Word document using Turabian style to begin your Research Bibliography.

Second: Read a minimum of 300 pages from these sources and type out summaries of each source. Explain how each source relates to your dissertation topic.

Third: Write a detailed response to the question on the lecture posted in Discussions and interact with other students on the question (100 points)

Assignment #3 (100 points)

First: Search for journal articles and electronic resources on the internet on your topic and type out a list of 30 sources in a Word document using Turabian style to continue your Research Bibliography.

Second: Read a minimum of 300 pages from these sources (journal articles and electronic resources on the internet) and type out summaries of each source. Explain how each source relates to your dissertation topic.

Third: Write a detailed response to the question on the lecture posted in Discussions and interact with other students on the question (100 points)

Assignment #4 (100 points)

First: Read two articles posted in Modules written by Dr. Gary Gromacki. Type out a short paragraph summary of each article. Explain how each article could relate to your dissertation.

Second: Read the following sections in the textbook *Ancient Texts for New Testament Studies* by Craig Evans and write a short paragraph summary of each section. Explain how each section of the textbook could relate to your dissertation.

The Old Testament Apocrypha (p.9-25)

The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha (p.26-75)

The Dead Sea Scrolls (p.76-154)

Targums (p.185-215)

Rabbinic Literature (p.216-255)

Third: Write a detailed response to the question on the lecture posted in Discussions and interact with other students on the question

Assignment #5 (100 points)

First: Read two articles by Dr. Gromacki posted in Modules and type a short paragraph summary of each. Explain how each article could relate to your dissertation topic.

Second: Read the following sections in the textbook *Ancient Texts for New Testament Studies* by Craig Evans and write a short paragraph summary of each section. Explain how each section of the textbook could relate to your dissertation.

Philo and Josephus (p. 167-184)

The New Testament Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha (p.256-267)

Early Church Fathers (p.268-277)

Gnostic Writings (p.278-286)

Other Writings (p.287-328)

Examples of New Testament Exegesis (p.329-340)

Third: Write a detailed response to the question on the lecture posted in Discussions in Canvas and interact with at least one other student on his/her answer to the question.

Assignment #6 (100 points)

First: Write out 20 research questions for you to research and study on your dissertation topic.

Second: Watch a minimum of twenty training videos on how to use Logos and/or Accordance. Type out 20 points you learned from watching these training videos (one for each training video).

Third: Type out how you will use Logos and/or Accordance in your dissertation research. Be specific and list the type of searches you will do for your dissertation.

Four: Write a detailed response to the question on the lecture posted in Discussions in Canvas and interact with other students in the discussion forum.

Assignment #7 (100 points).

First: Search for 15 biblical theologies and/or systematic theologies and 15 commentaries that relate to your dissertation topic. Type these out in a Word document using Turabian format.

Second: Read a minimum of 300 pages from these 30 Secondary Sources: 15 Systematic Theologies and/or Biblical Theologies and 15 Commentaries. Type a summary paragraph of each source in a Word document. Explain how the source could be used in your dissertation research.

Third: Write a detailed response to the question on the lecture posted in Discussions and interact with other students in the discussion forum (100 points)

Assignment #8 (100 points):

First: Read the book *The Craft of Research* by Booth, Colomb, Williams, Bizup and Fitzgerald. Type a list of 20 points to remember as you write your dissertation.

Second: Write an initial outline of your dissertation with chapter divisions including a summary of what each chapter will include in the dissertation.

Third: Write a detailed response to the question on the lecture posted in Discussions and interact with other students in the discussion forum.

Assignment #9 (100 points)

First: Write the dissertation proposal using the information you discovered in assignments 1-8 (Minimum of 20 pages double spaced following Turabian format). You will present this proposal to the PhD students in our week 8 class. The dissertation proposal should include:

The Title of your dissertation – This title may be revised later on in the program.

The Thesis of your dissertation – What are you trying to prove/demonstrate in your dissertation?

The Need for the Study – Explain why your dissertation is necessary. How will your dissertation add information to the topic/debate/text?

Literature Review – Give an overview of previous research (dissertations, books, journal articles) on the topic of your dissertation (chronological by date of writing or thematic by topics).

Research Questions: Write 20 research questions that you will try and answer in your dissertation.

Initial Outline of the dissertation with chapters and chapter sections

How you will use Accordance or Logos in your dissertation research

Initial Research Bibliography

Assignment #10 (100 points)

First: Present your dissertation proposal to the professor and the PhD class in Week Eight. Each PhD student will make a 20 minute presentation in class.

Second: Type out a short evaluation of each dissertation proposal presented in class (100 points)

GRADING SCALE

960-1000 points A

940-959 points A-

920-939 points B+

880-919 points B

860-879 points B-

0-859 points F

SCHEDULE

Week One – Selecting a Dissertation Topic to Research; Steps in Writing a Dissertation

Week Two – Starting the Research Bibliography; Writing the Literature Review

Week Three – Using Logos and Accordance (Electronic Bible Study Resources)

Week Four – Surveying Primary Sources: Hebrew Old Testament; Septuagint; OT Apocrypha; OT Pseudepigrapha; Dead Sea Scrolls; Targums; Talmud; Philo; Old Testament Archaeology

Week Five – Surveying Primary Sources: Greek New Testament; Josephus; Greco-Roman Sources; Early Church Fathers; Nag Hammadi Gnostic Sources; New Testament Archaeology

Week Six – Surveying Secondary Sources: Commentaries; Biblical Theologies; Church Histories; Systematic Theologies

Week Seven – Outlining the Argument of the Dissertation; Introduction to Logic and Logical Fallacies

Week Eight – Presentation and Evaluation of Dissertation Proposals by PhD Students

NOTICES

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying the author. This also includes taking another person's ideas and presenting them as your own.

All class papers must follow Turabian format – See Calvary University 2019 style guide.

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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