



15800 Calvary Rd.  
Kansas City, MO 64147

# Syllabus

**Course:** RT690-O Thesis / RT691-O Thesis Continuation  
**Credit:** 3 Semester Hours / 0 Semester Hours  
**Semester:** Spring 2026, Sessions 1–2 (Jan 12–May 08)  
**Time:** Meetings will be scheduled as needed  
**Instructor:** Dr. Michel Dodds, (816) 322-5152 ext. 1348, mike.dodds@calvary.edu  
(913) 638-3291 (cell)

*\*About Disabilities: Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the DSS Director (dss@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.*

*\*About Assistance for All Course Assignments: The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all CU 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.*

*\*About Changes to this Syllabus: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time during the course, but any changes made will only be done after clearly communicating the need for the change and the specific change to be made via in-class announcement and Canvas announcement.*

## I. DESCRIPTION

**PS690 Thesis** – The student will produce an original paper of 50 to 75 pages demonstrating his ability to (1) do scholarly research on an approved topic, (2) express himself in a proper literary style, and (3) defend the thesis in a consistent theological and intellectual manner. (Fee: \$95)

**PS691 Thesis Continuation** – This course keeps the student's final product proposal current in the event the student is unable to meet the deadlines for the first draft, final draft, or final/library copy. Final Product Continuation may only be taken two times. (Fee: \$100)

## II. OBJECTIVES

**A. General competencies to be achieved.** You will be able to . . .

1. Produce graduate-level research on a ministry-related topic. (PLO- #1 & 2) (A- A, B, C, D, E, & F)
2. Demonstrate graduate-level ability with the Biblical languages, the Bible, and Theological analysis and synthesis. (PLO- #1, 2, & 4) (A- B, C, D, & F)
3. Defend a graduate-level thesis on a ministry-related topic. (PLO- #1, 2, 3, & 4) (A- A, B, C, D, E, & F)

*Our Mission: "...to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview."*

**B. Specific competencies to be achieved.** You will be able to . . .

1. Select an appropriate ministry-related Thesis topic to research. (PLO- #2) (A- A & B)
2. Compose a graduate-level Thesis. (PLO- #1, 2, 3, & 4) (A- A, B, C, D, E, & F)

**III. MATERIALS**

**A. Required:**

1. Bible.

-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 (NKJV), or King James (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.

2. Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Ninth edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-0226430577. Cost: \$18.00. 464 pages.

**IV. REQUIREMENTS**

**\*Note:** Specific instructions for each assignment are posted in Canvas.

**A. Select a ministry-related graduate-level research topic – Proposal.**

1. Consult with the Course Instructor to identify an acceptable research topic.
2. Submit the Thesis Proposal form and an initial bibliography.

**B. Present a Thesis research proposal – Syllabus.**

1. Following the process learned in RT615, submit a Thesis Syllabus.
2. This Thesis Syllabus will be approximately 2,500 words plus a bibliography.

**C. Research and write chapters 1 & 2 of the Thesis.**

1. Submit the draft of Chapter 1 of the Thesis. This chapter will demonstrate the need for research on the ministry-related topic. The general method of inquiry must also be outlined and explained in this chapter.
2. Submit the draft of Chapter 2 of the Thesis. This chapter will constitute the biblical and theological study of the selected topic.

**D. Research and write chapters 3, 4, & 5 of the Thesis.**

1. Submit the draft of Chapter 3 of the Thesis. This chapter will reveal the research findings, analysis, and conclusions of others pertaining to the research topic and your critique of the same.
2. Submit the draft of Chapter 4 of the Thesis. This chapter will present your answer to the research question / problem. It will incorporate your conclusions and recommendations in a well-reasoned application to a ministry-related context.
3. Submit the draft of Chapter 5 of the Thesis. This chapter will present in summary fashion your thesis and argument. It will also include suggestions for further study.

**E. Prepare the other elements of the Thesis.**

1. Submit the other elements of a Thesis: Title page, Abstract page, Contents page, List of Illustrations page (optional), List of Tables page, (optional), Abbreviations page, Appendices (optional), and Bibliography.

**F. Submit the final copy of the Thesis.**

1. Following the course instructor’s review of the Draft of the Thesis, you will make all recommended changes (i.e., to assignments C, D, & E).
2. Submit the final revised copy of the Thesis.

**V. METHODS**

**A. There are no in-class aspects** to this course other than as-needed conferences with the course instructor concerning the course assignments.

**B. Out-of-class methods** include research, analysis, synthesis, and writing.

**C. Grading.**

|                          |            |        |
|--------------------------|------------|--------|
| 1. Proposal. . . .       | .100       | points |
| 2. Syllabus. . . .       | 100        | "      |
| 3. Chapters 1 & 2. . .   | 100        | "      |
| 4. Chapters 3, 4, & 5. . | 100        | "      |
| 5. Other Elements. . .   | 100        | "      |
| 6. Final Copy. . . .     | <u>500</u> | "      |
| Total = 1000 points      |            |        |

**\*About written assignments:** Unless directed otherwise, all written assignments must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.

**\*About Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person’s or AI entity’s ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by

the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification. Any assignment that includes plagiarism will receive a **zero (0) grade**. (**Note:** Turn-It-In.com will be used to verify plagiarism.)

**\*About course grade:** See the grading scale in the University Catalog for specific grading scale that will be used for final course grade.

**VI. SUGGESTED COURSE SCHEDULE**

**\*Note:** This course may be taken over a 1-year (2 semesters) or 6 months (1 semester) period.

**\*Note:** Students will enroll in this course in the semester of graduation; (i.e., for the student doing the work of this course over a year, the first half of the schedule will be accomplished before officially enrolling in the course).

| <b>Thesis Element</b> | <b>1 Year Schedule (while taking other courses)</b> | <b>6 Months Schedule (taking no other courses)</b> |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Proposal              | End of 12 <sup>th</sup> month before graduation     | 24 weeks before graduation                         |
| Syllabus              | End of 10 <sup>th</sup> month before graduation     | 22 weeks before graduation                         |
| Chapters 1 & 2        | End of 7 <sup>th</sup> month before graduation      | 18 weeks before graduation                         |
| Chapters 3, 4, & 5    | End of 4 <sup>th</sup> month before graduation      | 6 weeks before graduation                          |
| Other Elements        | End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> month before graduation      | 4 weeks before graduation                          |
| Final Copy            | End of last month before graduation                 | 2 weeks before graduation                          |