

BT702 PRINCIPLES OF DISSERTATION RESEARCH

Course:	BT702 Principles of Dissertation Research
Credit:	3 Semester Hours
Semester:	Fall 2020 Cycle 2
Date:	August 17 – October 9, 2020
Time:	Wednesdays (6:00-9:00 pm)
Place:	CABRE 101
Professor:	Dr. Gary Gromacki, Th.M., D.Min., Ph.D. Department Chair and Professor of Bible and Theology Director of the Ph.D. in Bible and Theology Program

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 is a blended class, meaning that both campus (in class) and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person; online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.

N.B. Students are not obligated to use the topic they choose for this course as their 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 the *Chicago Manual of Style* 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.

The University of Chicago Press Editorial Staff. *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Seventeenth Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017.
ISBN: 978-0226287058 Cost: \$45.33 (Amazon, Hardcover)

Strunk, William Jr. and E.B. White. *Elements of Style*. Fourth Edition. Pearson, 1999. 105 pages. ISBN 13: 978-0205309023 Cost: \$5.10 (Amazon, 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: 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. Select a dissertation and read through it quickly and type out your observations on the dissertation following this outline: title of the dissertation, thesis, need for the study, literature review, research questions, outline with chapters, conclusion and abstract. Write a detailed response to the question on the lecture posted in Discussions and interact with other students on the question. (100 points).

Assignment #2: Do a Literature Review and begin your Research Bibliography. Search for Dissertations and Books on your topic and type out a minimum list of 30 resources. Read a minimum of 300 pages from these sources noting information with references (page number and topic) that you could use for your dissertation research. 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: Do a Literature Review of Journal Articles and electronic resources on the internet and type out a minimum list of 30 sources with your analysis of each as you continue your initial Research Bibliography. Read 300 pages from these sources and type out summaries of all 30 sources noting information that you could use for your dissertation research. 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: Read 300 pages from these primary sources: Hebrew Old Testament, Septuagint, OT Apocrypha, OT Pseudepigrapha, Dead Sea Scrolls, Philo, Mishnah, Talmud, Old Testament Archaeology. Type out summaries of sources consulted along with information you will use in your dissertation research. Write a detailed response to the question on the lecture posted in Discussions and interact with other students on the question (100 points)

Assignment #5: Read 300 pages from these primary sources: Greek New Testament, Josephus, Early Church Fathers, Greco-Roman sources, NT Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, Nag Hammadi Gnostic Library, New Testament Archaeology. Type out summaries of sources consulted along with information you will use in your dissertation research. Write a detailed response to the question on the lecture posted in Discussions and interact with other students on the question (100 points)

Assignment #6: Watch a minimum of twenty training videos on how to use Logos and/or Accordance. Type out 20 things you learned from watching these training videos. Now type out how you will use Logos and/or Accordance in your dissertation research. 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 #7: Read 300 pages from 30 Secondary Sources: 15 Systematic Theologies and/or Biblical Theologies and 15 Commentaries that relate to your dissertation topic. Write a summary of each resource noting information that you will use for your dissertation research. 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: Read the book *Elements of Style* by Strunk and White. Read quickly through the book *Chicago Manual of Style*. Type a list of 30 points (10 from *Elements of Style* and 20 from the *Chicago Manual of Style*) to remember as you write your dissertation. 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 #9: Write the proposal for your dissertation using the information you discovered in assignments 1-8 (Minimum of 20 pages double spaced). You will present this proposal to the dissertation committee. Write a detailed response to the question on the lecture posted in Discussions and interact with other students in the discussion forum (100 points)

The Title of your dissertation

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 - Previous Research (dissertations, books, journal articles) on the topic of your dissertation

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: Present your proposal to the professor and the PhD class in Week Eight. Resident PhD students will make a 20 minute presentation in class; online PhD students are required to make a 20 minute video and post to Canvas before the Week Eight class meets in person. Respond to each of the dissertation proposals presented in class by the PhD students and type a critique of each (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

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Week One – Topic Selection; Steps to Writing a Dissertation

Week Two – Literature Review and the Research Bibliography

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

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

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

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

Week Seven – *Chicago Manual of Style*; *Elements of Style*; Style of Writing for a Dissertation; Logic and Logical Errors

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

NOTICES

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the DSS Coordinator (dss@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 *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Seventeenth edition.

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) located in the library building is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all CU students. 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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