

6. Doctoral Dissertation Seminar

1. Course Description

- 1) This seminar-based course is designed to help doctoral students refine their dissertation topics, deepen their research design, and strengthen their academic writing skills.
- 2) Students will engage in literature reviews, develop methodological frameworks, and construct the outline of their dissertations.
- 3) Through continuous feedback from the instructor and peers, they will sharpen the focus and academic integrity of their research.

2. Learning Objectives

- 1) To establish the academic validity and relevance of the dissertation topic
- 2) To enhance skills in conducting systematic literature review and critical analysis
- 3) To develop the ability to outline and structure a coherent dissertation
- 4) To explore the student's original contribution to Pauline theology
- 5) To prepare for oral defense and final submission of the dissertation

Weekly Topics Overview

Week	Topic	Description
Week 1	Topic Finalization	Criteria for topic selection and writing the purpose statement
Week 2	Research Questions & Hypotheses	Theological inquiry and analytical framework
Week 3	Literature Review Methodology	Review and critical assessment of existing studies
Week 4	Research Methodology	Qualitative/quantitative, historical/hermeneutical approaches
Week 5	Dissertation Structure	Organizing the introduction, body, and conclusion
Week 6	Citation & Bibliography	Learning Turabian/Chicago style referencing
Week 7	Draft Writing & Presentation	Drafting the introduction and a sample chapter
Week 8	Revisions Based on Feedback	Incorporating feedback from instructor and peers
Week 9	Research Ethics & Originality	Avoiding plagiarism and maintaining academic integrity
Week 10	Dissertation Defense Preparation	Preparing materials and practicing oral defense

3. Assignments & Evaluation

Item	Weight	Description
Dissertation Proposal	30%	Includes topic, purpose, and research questions
Literature Review Report	20%	Summary and critique of major sources
Preliminary Draft	30%	Draft of the introduction and first chapter
Presentation & Peer Feedback	20%	Includes feedback on peer presentations

4. Expected Outcomes

- 1) Completion of a theologically rigorous and practically relevant dissertation topic
- 2) Strengthened academic skills for contributing original insights to Pauline theology
- 3) Preparation of a well-structured and review-ready dissertation draft