



# Doctoral Course Descriptions

## **Dissertation Research (DR)**

### **DR 9108 - Dissertation Research**

This course will enable the student to conduct preliminary research for a dissertation proposal, to draw from bibliographical resources relevant to the proposed topic, to prepare for, and begin to write, the dissertation.

### **DR 9401 - Dissertation Research Project and Defense (6 credits)**

Students should give thought to the choice of the dissertation topic early in their program. Students must register for and complete a dissertation on an approved subject. The dissertation project should be on a subject giving evidence of the student's ability to do independent research and to think and write creatively. An optimum research dissertation length is 70,000 and 75,000 words. The dissertation proposal should state a thesis: what, exactly, does the dissertation propose to demonstrate or express? The dissertation proposal should then indicate the problem this demonstration would solve. The proposal should also provide schematic guidelines for developing and defending the principle thesis claims by chapters, anticipate methodological or other problems in the dissertation project, and provide a select bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

Three complete draft-copies of the research dissertation must be submitted to the Director of the Doctor of Theology Program by January 30th (for May graduation). The Dissertation Committee (Academic Dean, Director of the Doctor of Theology Program, Primary Supervisor) will decide whether the dissertation is ready for defense, and if it is, they will determine before February 30th the time for the oral defense. The dissertation must be successfully presented and defended in a face-to-face oral examination (viva voce) before the Examination Committee (determined by the Dissertation Committee and consisting of at least one external, credentialed scholar) at least thirty days prior to the anticipated graduation. The dissertation must conform to the format and bibliographical style requirement in *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian (8th Edition, 2013).

When the faculty supervisor determines that the draft is defensible, it will be submitted to the Director of the requisite doctoral program for the Examination Committee, and to an external reader who is a recognized scholar in the student's field of study. A passing grade requires the unanimous approval of the committee. The Examination Committee will also inform the student of any additional revision required for the final submission.

## **Independent Research and Writing (IR)**

### **IR 9001-9004 - Independent Research and Writing**

Four Independent Research and Writing courses will guide the student research and writing on a focused exegetical-theological study approved by the Director of the

Doctoral Program and the Academic Dean. The guided research will complement the student's dissertation concerns by exploring, researching, and preparing for the completion of the dissertation. Each of the research courses will include the close guidance of the student by the faculty member assigned to the course. The IR courses must be contracted between the student and the professor using the FTS Independent Studies Contract.

## **New Testament (NT)**

### **NT 9101 - NT Theology 1: Gospels**

To complement student skills in exegesis, the biblical theology of the Gospels will be examined, including the history of approaches to the theology of the Gospels. This study will include an exploration of the correlations between the Gospels and OT biblical theology, in terms of the unified relationship between the Testaments. This course will include the goal of discovering and articulating a biblical theology of the Gospels that focuses on the life and teaching of Jesus as fulfilling all of the Law and the Prophets.

### **NT 9102 - NT Hermeneutics & Exegetical Method**

This course explores advanced issues in New Testament hermeneutics and exegesis, including the role of the author and the reader in determining meaning, genre considerations, and critical methods relevant to the interpretation of the New Testament. The relationship of the New Testament to ancient interpretive materials such as the Septuagint, Targums, early rabbinic literature, and the historical materials of Josephus and Philo, their usefulness, and the principles of their use in New Testament exegesis will be explored. The uses and limits of archaeology in illuminating and interpreting the New Testament will be examined.

### **NT 9112 - NT Backgrounds**

This course will explore languages, literatures, and cultures of the Intertestamental, and New Testament periods. Intertestamental literature, including the Septuagint, will be read to enhance a student's understanding of the New Testament. A variety of background areas will be studied including, but not limited to: religion, philosophy, language, economics, and politics. The impact of archaeological discoveries on current understanding of the NT will also be studied.

### **NT 9113 - NT Theology 2: Epistles**

To complement student skills in exegesis, the biblical theology of the Epistles will be examined, including the history of approaches to the theology of the Epistles. This study will include an exploration of the correlations between the Epistles and OT biblical theology, in terms of the unified relationship between the Testaments. This course will include the goal of discovering and articulating a Biblical Theology of the Epistles that focusses on their exposition and application of the gospel of Jesus.

### **NT 9215 - Exegetical Seminar in Revelation**

Intensive, concentrated study of Revelation with an emphasis on the exegetical task, theological exposition, the Old Testament background of allusions, echoes, and motifs,

biblical Greek, textual matters, and suggestions for application towards teaching and preaching.

## **Old Testament (OT)**

### **OT 9104 - OT Theology 1: Law & History**

To complement student skills in OT exegesis, selected issues in the Biblical Theology of the Old Testament Law and History books will be examined, as well as definition and method for discovering and articulating the theology of these books. This study will include consideration of the continuity of OT Theology with NT Theology.

### **OT 9105 - OT Theology 2: Prophets & Wisdom**

To complement student skills in OT exegesis, selected issues in the Biblical Theology of the Old Testament Prophets and Wisdom books will be examined, as well as definition and method for discovering and articulating the theology of these books. This study will include consideration of the continuity of OT Theology with NT Theology.

### **OT 9106 - OT Hermeneutics & Exegetical Method**

This course will examine specific issues in Old Testament hermeneutics and exegesis. The balanced use of current literary-critical techniques such as poetics and rhetorical criticism in Old Testament exegesis will be investigated with a special emphasis on developing genre-specific hermeneutical principles. The relationship of the Old Testament to ancient interpretive materials such as the Septuagint, Targums, early rabbinic literature, and the historical materials of Josephus and Philo, their usefulness, and the principles of their use in Old Testament exegesis will be explored. The uses and limits of archaeology in illuminating and interpreting the Old Testament will be examined.

### **OT 9111 - OT Backgrounds**

This course will explore languages, literatures, and cultures of the Ancient Near Eastern civilizations related to the Hebrew Bible. Students will be exposed to Aramaic, Akkadian, and Ugaritic. Ancient inscriptions, contracts, and a variety of religious texts will be read to enhance a student's understanding of the OT. The impact of archaeological discoveries on current understanding of the OT will also be studied.

### **OT 9218 - Exegetical Seminar in Genesis**

Intensive, concentrated study of Genesis with an emphasis on the exegetical task, theological exposition, biblical Hebrew, textual matters, and suggestions for application towards teaching and preaching.

### **OT 9222 - Historical Geography and Archaeology of Israel**

An introduction to the geography, history, and archaeology of Israel. This work provides the necessary biblical background and regional introduction for the study-tour in Israel.

## **Project Methodology (PR)**

### **PR 8105 - Project Methodology and Research**

An analysis of various types of research appropriate to the interests of Christian ministry, with attention to areas, resources, procedures, and requirements for Ministry Research Projects.

## **Practical Theology (PT)**

### **PT 8103 - Church and Parachurch Ministries**

The Church and Parachurch course is designed for those who are involved or interested in church and parachurch ministries in any setting. This course is relevant to all ministry contexts, providing a solid foundation in biblical and theological reflection, ministry philosophy, practical skills, and personal spiritual formation. Students can tailor much of this course to their unique needs and interests that will best equip them for fruitful ministry.

### **PT 8106 - Introduction and Theology of Biblical Counseling**

This course is designed to enlarge and reinforce the confidence of students in the sufficiency, superiority, and practicality of Scripture for dealing with all of the issues of life, and to convince students that the resources we have in Christ and His Word are not only sufficient for handling and solving all of the personal and interpersonal problems of life but superior to the resources that are found in the world. Emphasis is given to the history, theology, and methods of the church's pastoral care of individuals, marriages, families, and congregations.

### **PT 8107 - Biblical Counseling Methodology**

This course focuses on the process of providing counseling from a biblical-theological perspective with interaction and evaluation of contemporary Christian and secular therapy approaches. Focus will be upon both the underlying philosophical foundations for counseling and upon the actual process of providing counseling. Case studies will be utilized to interact with approaches to actual counseling situations.

### **PT 8108 - Issues in Biblical Counseling**

In this course, biblical counseling principles and methodology will be applied to common counseling problems such as depression and anxiety. There will also be comparison with differing Christian and secular approaches to counseling these commonly encountered struggles. Specific problem areas covered will be selected with input from students and direct application through case studies will be a focus of the class.

### **PT 8109 - Marriage and Family Counseling**

This course will explore biblical foundations and approaches to counseling for marriage preparation as well as marriage and family concerns and problems. There will also be interaction with other counseling approaches so as to develop an ability to critically interact with the popular literature on the subject. The course will also touch upon the

specific issues of divorce/remarriage, abuse, premarital relations, and the counseling of children.

## **PT 8110 - Addictions and Biblical Counseling**

This course is designed from a biblical worldview to deal with addictions: gender issues related to sexual addiction, marital affairs, pornography, homosexuality, and pedophilia. It will also cover the basics of substance abuse, alcoholism, smoking, food, as well as introduce the student to Biblical counseling methods to address these issues.

## **PT 8111 - Foundations in Christian Leadership**

This course examines biblical and theological themes that directly impact leadership practice. This course builds a theological and ethical foundation for the practice of leadership. Students learn to think theologically about theories, issues, and concepts drawn from the disciplines of leadership, education, and the social sciences. A framework for integrative thinking is developed.

## **PT 8112 - Spiritual Formation**

An exploration of the relevance of biblical teaching to all of the Christian life of vocation, family, work, mental health, spirituality, worship, and service in the church and world. Corresponding to discipleship, the focus will be on how to grow in apprenticeship to Christ as his ambassadors who are prayerfully growing in likeness to him.

## **PT 8113 - Christian Leadership**

The primary objective of this course is to help ministers understand the theory and to develop the skills for effective leadership in the church. Christian Leadership and management will be explored in biblical, theological, philosophical, and methodological aspects. Various paradigms, philosophies, models, and strategies will be discussed with emphasis on Christian leadership development. Principles of organization, planning, delegation, and evaluation will be examined and discussed. The course also includes an internship component where knowledge and skills from the course must be implemented and practiced in a ministry context.

## **PT 8114 - Principles of Discipleship**

An introduction to a biblical life of discipleship and ministry that develops followers (disciples/apprentices) of Jesus Christ who seek to bring the gospel of Christ to all the world and to all of life.

## **PT 8115 - Developing Leadership Strategies**

This course provides a review of major personality and developmental theories and their potential application to leadership, education and discipleship. Course content includes an analysis of each theory's worldview assumptions, scientific worthiness and potential contribution to leadership and instruction.

## **Theology (TH)**

### **TH 8101 - Biblical Worldview for Ministry**

Worldview issues facing pastors and teachers will be studied in light of the “Lordship of Christ over all of life” principle, and the “Cultural Mandate” concept. A Christ centered approach that explores the relationship of the teaching of scripture to all of life. Discussion will be encouraged of worldviews and ethics in ministry, perspectives on history, political issues facing the church, economic issues and philosophies, and psychological issues related to worldview formation.

### **TH 8102 - Theology and Ministry**

This course explores how one’s theology affects one’s ministry through a study of ministerial activity and responsibility from a theological perspective. The biblical distinctives of the Reformed tradition are considered, as well as Christian apologetics, ethics, and historical theology as they affect the doctrine of the church.

### **TH 8104 - Biblical Theology**

An in-depth study of the history, principles, and practice of Biblical Theology, as well as a review of the diverse secondary literature. Emphasis will be on the biblical theology of the scripture, as it is traced through the entire history of redemption from creation to new creation. The perspective taken will be that of the unity and continuity of revelation in the gradual unfolding of the redemptive purposes of God in Christ.

### **TH 9114 - Teaching Methodology**

A seminar designed to introduce the skills and resources necessary for effective teaching. Consideration will be given to the teaching environment, the learning process, instructional methodology, the values of various media, and teaching in the local church as well as in educational institutions. This course is designed to prepare the student for the practice of teaching in TH Teaching Practice.

### **TH 9115 - Teaching Practice**

This course is designed to prepare students for teaching in a Christian higher education context. Major theories of learning and skills explored in TH Teaching Methodologies will be applied to practical curriculum design and teaching practice. The course also provides an understanding of the role of teaching and learning in the process of leadership practice and leader development. (prerequisite TH Teaching Methodology)



