



Northwind Seminary

NS-CTSF-553

RT Research and Treatise course (6 credits)

Faculty Mentors: Michael Christensen, Charlie Starr, or Crystal Hurd

Recommended Text:

The Dissertation Journey: A Practical and Comprehensive Guide to Planning, Writing, and Defending Your Dissertation (Updated) 3rd Edition by Carol M. Roberts (Author), Laura Hyatt (Author).

https://www.amazon.com/Dissertation-Journey-Practical-Comprehensive-Defending-ebook-dp-B07H4SV5J6/dp/B07H4SV5J6/ref=mt_other?_encoding=UTF8&me=&qid=1641958812

Course Description

The doctoral treatise is the final written requirement for the Doctor in Theology and Ministry programs of Northwind Seminary. Broadly speaking, the treatise is the culmination of a candidate's academic course of study as a permanent work dealing formally and systematically with a research subject. The treatise is expected to be of a quality that it could be published in a peer-reviewed journal or anthology as a contribution to the field of study. First review the General Guidelines for the Doctoral Treatise in the Student Writing Center. What follows are specific guidelines for the DTM in Romantic Theology:

This six-credit course is offered in an online format to doctoral students who have completed their core course work and are ready for their research phase of the program. Doctoral candidates may enroll at anywhere, anytime, and on any device with an internet connection. Guided education and research supervision via ZOOM is offered by appointment with faculty mentor.

Instructor Contact Information –

michael@northwindinstitute.org

Instructional Practices:

This is a class offered in an online format.

Online experiences may include:

1. Assigned readings
2. Video Conferencing
3. Online submission of Papers in the *.doc or *.docx file format

Statement on Learning and Physical Disabilities

Northwind Institute accepts students with learning and physical disabilities and provides reasonable accommodation to help them be successful.

Grading Policy

Submission of materials does not guarantee a passing grade.

Research documents are graded on the basis of the proper use of

- Texts
- Use of Course Materials
- Proper citation and footnotes using Turabian Style

Course Grading:

Northwind Theological Seminary degree programs are graded as follows:

A = 4.0 A- = 3.5 B = 3.0 B- = 2.5 C = 2.0 D = 1.0 F = 0.0 CR = Credit NC = No credit AD = Audit. WD = Withdrawn IP = In progress I = Incomplete

Academic Misconduct Policy

Northwind Institute does not condone academic dishonesty in any form. When an act of academic dishonesty has occurred:

1. The instructor has the right to not accept the assignment or test in question and record a "zero" for the assignment or test, and/or require the student to redo the assignment (or test), or require the student to complete a substitute assignment or test.
2. The student may be dropped from the class and assigned a failing grade (F). A written recommendation from the instructor is required.
3. In cases of extreme or repeated incidents (two or more) of academic dishonesty, the student may be suspended from the Institute.

The Academic Dean will notify the student as to the action taken. If the student believes there has been an erroneous accusation made, the student may appeal the action. The student must file a written appeal within 10 working days of notification. The President reviews all written appeals, and his decision is final. The Student, Academic Dean, and Instructor are informed via email of the action taken.

Course Outline – Guided Education and Research Supervision

Follow the Steps to creating a doctoral treatise and submit six documents to your faculty mentor:

1. research question
2. working bibliography of literature review
3. purpose for your treatise
4. research methods
5. project proposal
6. writing map

Steps in creating a Doctoral Treatise:

1. Begin the research for the treatise by asking questions and thinking about which topics and theories you are most interested in and what you would like to know more about. Among the many topics and issues that you studied during your course work and preliminary research, choose one you think that the general body of knowledge on that subject does not answer adequately. And focus on that topic or research question as an academic lens through which to organize your research. Once you decide upon your research question, write a sentence and a paragraph describing your chosen topic. Submit and discuss this **research question** and statement with your faculty mentor.
2. Continue your research by exploring the topic through a significant literature review. Ask yourself and others: Who else has taken on this topic and published their findings? Where are the gaps and unanswered questions? The purpose of the literature review is to select and focus on the relevant information in its theological framework, with a practical application to ministry, in a way that adds a doctoral candidate's layer of research and analysis and contributes to that field of study. Submit and discuss your working bibliography with your faculty advisor, and continue to build and annotate your **research bibliography of literature review**.
3. As you become more informed about prior thought on the topic, your acquired knowledge and insight should suggest a **purpose for your treatise**. When this purpose can be clearly articulated, you are ready to write a 4–6-page proposal to discuss with your advisor.
4. Add a few paragraphs on your chosen **research methods**.
5. Write (and re-write) a **project proposal** that succinctly states the research question, broader purpose of the study, methods of research, significance of the study to the chosen field, and a tentative review of the literature on the topic. Include a short narrative of the theological questions/issues that you will explore and its possible practical value and application to ministry. Attach your latest annotated working bibliography to the proposal. Submit and discuss your proposal with your faculty advisor
6. Once approved, begin writing your doctoral treatise. Submit a tentative chapter outline or **writing map**.

Writing

Although each doctoral treatise is unique, all will share several common elements and a general guide.. The specific outline will be proposed and negotiated you're your treatise faculty mentor. DTM Program Directors may customize the academic content requirements. For example, if you desire to write a book-length manuscript for peer review as part of your treatise, you will negotiate with your faculty mentor how to incorporate and satisfy the general requirements of the DTM treatise. What follows is a typical chapter outline for the doctoral treatise in the DTM program:

Chapter 1: Purpose and Significance of the Study

In the first chapter, clearly state the purpose of the study and explain the study's significance. The significance is addressed by discussing how the study adds to the body of knowledge on the topic and the study's practical significance for the issue being examined. Candidates should explain and demonstrate how their research makes an original contribution on the topic. They also should address the significance of the study for others exploring the issue or topic. It is especially critical that this chapter be well developed. Without a clearly defined purpose and strong theological or theoretical grounding, the treatise will likely be profoundly flawed from the outset.

Chapter 2: Review of the Literature

The purpose of the study should suggest some theoretical/theological framework to be explained further in this chapter. A literature review describes and analyzes previous research and thinking on the topic. It may be helpful to think of this in the framework of who were your conversation partners in the development of your study. This chapter, however, should not merely string together what others have found or decided. Rather, it should discuss and analyze the literature on the topic with the ultimate goal of determining what is known and held on the issue and what might not yet be examined about the topic. This analytical review will support your approach to the question.

Chapter 3: Method and Reasoning

This chapter describes and demonstrates your method and reasoning in your approach to the topic. Begin by describing the method(s) you chose and why this method seems the most appropriate. Explain how your method may provide for deeper understanding on the topic.

Chapter 4: Findings

This chapter solely addresses your analysis on the topic and does not include discussing others' reflections. What are the implications of your insight for the theological topic you chose?

Chapter 5: Applications and Final Discussion

The purpose of this chapter is not just to reiterate what you found but rather to discuss what your findings mean for the community of faith or for other's investigating the topic in relation to the general body of knowledge on the issue. Be sure to be thorough in this chapter because it may be the most important one since it answers the "So what?" question.

You could begin by discussing how your findings sit in relation to that of others introduced in the literature review. In some cases, you may want to introduce new literature if you find that insights from other perspectives may now have a bearing on your final conclusions.

This chapter may outline the limitations of the study and areas for future analysis or research may be proposed. Specific and contextual application to the practice of ministry should be clearly identified since the Doctorate in Theology and Ministry is a theological research degree with an application to ministry.

Finally, the doctoral treatise ends with a brief conclusion that provides closure. A strong final sentence should be written and then an **abstract** prepared. **Addendum** may be added in support of your treatise.

Once submitted to your faculty mentor, a second reader will be assigned in the next and final course. Notations will be made by readers, comments offered, formatting checked, changes made, and an oral defense of your treatise scheduled.