Doctoral Project Research Methodologies

Course description
This course is designed to take intimidation out of research, writing and formatting the doctoral project, so that your valuable time can be maximized in your doctoral project journey and the D.Min. coursework studies can reach fruition with your doctoral project completion. You will be acquainted with the practical aspects of library research methods/avenues and project formatting, while respected research professors who are also practitioners will walk you through the nuts and bolts of the elements of a D.Min. project: building research, data collection, analysis, etc. Class sessions will consist of lecture and dialogue with students on their specific topics, and as an outcome of the course, students should be able both to craft an acceptable project proposal and to begin the research and writing of the project itself.

Instructors
- Dr. Bob Burns bobb@sevenhillsfellowship.com
- Dr. Bill Fullilove bfullilove@rts.edu
- Dr. Bruce Lowe blowe@rts.edu
- Mr. Brad Ost bradley.ost@gmail.com
- Mr. Jonathan Stuckert jstuckert@rts.edu

Required reading


**Assignments (Total 100 pts.)**

**Online forum participation 20 pts.**
Students will participate in forum discussions on Canvas course homepage. Full participation at a minimum is a 4 x 4 (four paragraphs of four sentences each) initial posting in answer to forum question and then at least two substantial interactions with peer postings.

**Draft of research profile 20 pts.**
Students will post a draft of the research profile assignment by November 2. Format and approach for this assignment will be discussed online in the open Research forum.

**Presentation and peer review 20 pts**
In the third weekend session, students will give a fifteen minute presentation on their research. This will include a PowerPoint presentation that will be submitted in advance on November 2. Students will also be responsible to review the research profiles of their peers and participate in class feedback to presenters.

**Final of research profile 20 pts.**
Students will submit a final version of their research profile. Due by midnight EST on February 5, 2016.

**Annotated bibliography 20 pts.**
Students will produce an annotated bibliography of foundational literature for their research. There should be a minimum of 10 sources, all academic. Students will include a page count total for reading for this assignment that should equal at least 700 pages, but preferably more. The format and approach for this assignment will be covered in the third on campus weekend. Due by midnight EST on February 5, 2016.

**Schedule**
August 27 -31: Personal introductions on Canvas discussion forum.
August 31 – September 4: Discussion forum on asking good questions. Please have read Getzels.

September 11-12: On campus meeting.

1. Friday September 11: What makes for good research? Bruce Lowe
2. Saturday September 12
   a. What are the types of research? Jonathan Stuckert
   b. What does the proposal process look like? Bill Fullilove
   c. What are some research tools and how do I use them? Brad Ost

September 14-18: Reading week

September 25-26: On campus meeting with Bob Burns. This weekend will cover the nature of DMin projects, qualitative research methodology, topic identification, the formulation of research purpose statements and questions, among other topics of importance for successful completion of the DMin project.

September 28 – October 2: Reading week/topic exploration

October 5 – 9: Discussion forum with Brad Ost.

October 12 – 16: Discussion forum on doing research as a Christian. Please have read Powlison.

October 19 – 23: Discussion forum on using research in the church. Please have read Garland.

October 26 – 30: Discussion forum on implementing change in the church. Please have read Berry.

November 2: Post your draft research profile in forum and also submit it along with your presentation in the Assignments area.

November 6 – 7: On campus meeting with Jonathan Stuckert. This weekend will be highly interactive with student presentations, peer review, and group exercises.

August 27, 2015 – February 4, 2016: There will be an ongoing open forum in Canvas for the exchange of research ideas and issues.

February 5, 2016: Submit final draft of research profile and annotated bibliography in Canvas.
## Course Objectives Related to DMin* Student Learning Outcomes

In order to measure the success of the DMin curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the DMin outcomes.

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<tr>
<th>DMin* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Biblical/Theological Foundations:</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Students will apply theological understanding to the choice of a research problem in the church and then to design a research profile to better understand a facet of pastoral ministry and church life.</td>
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<td>Significant knowledge of biblical and theological foundations for pastoral ministry. (This includes interaction with Biblical texts, as well as awareness of Reformed Theology.)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Students will access their knowledge of pastoral ministry and the church in order to identify a topic area and then move into a research question.</td>
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<td><strong>Historical/Contemporary Practices:</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Students will wrestle with the use of secular theory from a Biblical and Reformed theological perspective.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of historical and contemporary practices of pastoral ministry.</td>
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<td><strong>Integration:</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Students will apply theological understanding to the choice of a research problem in the church and then to design a research profile to better understand a facet of pastoral ministry and church life.</td>
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<td>Ability to reflect upon and integrate theology and practice, as well as implementation in a contemporary pastoral setting.</td>
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<td><strong>Sanctification:</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>In the third weekend, students will discuss Biblical anthropology and how that applies to our understanding of human development including Christian formation.</td>
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<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids in the student’s sanctification.</td>
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