

THE WORD OF GOD INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

DIRECTED RESEARCH STUDY I

Winter/Spring/Summer 2020-21

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Required Books: American Psychological Association® Publication Manual
Sixth Edition by American Psychological Association (APA)

A General Statement About The Course:

Directed Research is an opportunity for you to research and investigate a topic or subject of your choosing based on your vision or calling. Any topic related to your faith or calling is acceptable, making your “calling and election sure.” So, you should pick a topic that explains the “what” and “why” of your ministry for whatever you believe God would have you to do for the Glory of God. You will present your findings leadership presentation and dissertation; as well as, defend your findings before a Dissertation Review Board of doctoral alumni and staff as our authoritative experts.

“Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that reads it.” Hab 2:2

You are expected to demonstrate:

1. a good understanding of Biblical research concept and methodology;
2. the ability to “spiritually” discern and exercise critical thinking skills; and
3. the ability to communicate clearly, in both written and spoken forms.

The dissertation must be 200 pages (45,000 words), double space. The quality of your argument and the clarity of your prose is all that matters. Keep in mind that the paper should reflect sufficient work to earn 6 credits for the year; do not expect to throw something together at the last minute and pass the class. Your dissertation is published, and also a separate book. It is recommended that you look at other dissertations in order to get an idea of what is required to earn a pass for credit.

Much of the course will follow a traditional lecture format with note taking for final exams. The lectures will focus on how to write a dissertation, using the APA format. This academic course will also consist of student leadership presentations and class discussions. At the appropriate time, the class will be divided into “writing groups.” Members of the groups will read the papers of the other members of their group. They will then make suggestions to improve the content and style of your paper. Revised drafts will then be submitted, reviewed, edited, and/or further critiqued.

Research writing is an essential skill that has been neglected in Christian ministry, educational instruction, and training. It is understood that good writing and oral skills are rare and valuable. One important mission of this course is to help you to improve both.

A tentative list of FINAL deadline dates to observe:

December 2020: Determine and Research Topic, securing Preliminary Reference List.
January 2021: Designation of Academic Leadership Teams and Topic Presentations.
January 29, 2021: Leadership Presentations of Research Topic and General References.
February 1, 2021: Dissertation Topic and References Approval deadline. (Review Synopsis)
February 2021: Review of Dissertation Progress by Appointment in Academic Reviews.
March 1, 2021: Academic Approval of Dissertation Proposal deadline. (Review Synopsis)
April 1, 2021: Semi-Final Rough Draft and Abstract Approval deadline. (Review Synopsis)
May 3, 2021: Dissertation Rough Draft with Citing and References due. (Review Synopsis)
June 18, 2021: Final Draft and Exit Leadership Presentation deadline. (Review Synopsis)
June 30, 2021: Bound Dissertation Final Copy deadline and clearance. (Review Synopsis)
July 31, 2021: Dissertation Review Board Panel Evaluation and Book Publication deadline.
August 9, 2021: Published Book deadline and Graduation Confirmation. (Review Synopsis)

An outline of the associated readings:

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING ASSIGNMENT</u>
WINTER TERM 2020	
I. Introduction	APA Manual, pages 3-8; 228-231
II. Researching for Dissertation	APA Manual, pages 9-20; 240-243
WINTER TERM 2021	
III. Organizing your Dissertation	APA Manual, pages 21-59
IV. Writing your Dissertation	APA Manual, pages 61-115;150-167
SPRING TERM	
V. Citing your Dissertation	APA Manual, pages 169-192
VI. Referencing for Dissertation	APA Manual, pages 193-224
SUMMER TERM	
VII. The Publication Process	APA Manual, pages 225-244

Examination and Grades:

There is a pass/fail grade for this course. It is essential for you to understand that this course is more about the process of research, than just writing a scholarly dissertation. There is a final exam on the APA manual. You must be approved by a dissertation review board of doctoral experts. Consequently, a failure to complete any part of the course can automatically earn you an INC or N/C.

There are both graded and pass/not-pass components in the class. The graded components are as follows:

Dissertation Proposal approval	10 points
Pre and Post (Exit) Leadership presentation	10 points
Dissertation Review Board Panel approval	10 points
Final Exam	20 points
Dissertation Final Draft approval	50 points

The pass/not pass components are:

Initial presentation of your research question and sources:

“Not pass” means that you must meet with me individually and convince me that you have remedied the problem. A failure to do so means a deduction from your final grade.

Participation in your writing group, as evaluated by the other members of the group:

“Not pass” means a deduction from your final grade.

Your final grade is determined by adding up your point total. The result is applied on a curve.

Attendance

I will record attendance before each lecture. You can decide if they are worth hearing. Be advised, however, that I expect you to incorporate the information presented in the lectures into your dissertation. One purpose of the leadership presentations is to give you an opportunity to practice speaking in front of an audience, preparing you for the Review Board Panel and teaching. Attendance will be taken to ensure that there is an audience.

A Final Note

I want to re-emphasize the importance of writing and research skills for your ministry. It is worth your time to work hard to improve your skills. Read the APA Manual. Spend time writing and rewriting your dissertation. And mostly, remember that education is not something you buy... It is a lifelong process that improves you as an authority in your field of expertise. It is a prize that must be won with great effort. God expects you to be the best!