



DMin 399

Dissertation 1: Research & Writing at the DMin level

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October 5, 7, 9, & 19, 21, 23

DMin Students only



Purpose of the Class

The SEATS D.Min. Program's goal is to develop leaders who are able to translate the Christian faith into local Asian contexts so that the deep cultural artifacts that exist in these contexts can also be impacted by the Good News of Jesus Christ. A key aspect to this strategy is developing functional churches but in order for these to be developed, the church must engage in theologizing.

One key aspect to doing theology is through Biblical, theological, & empirical research & one way for this research to be known is by writing it down.

This course will introduce the student to writing & research at the doctoral level including formulating a research question, preparing a review of related literature, creating a theoretical & conceptual framework, conducting research, & writing the dissertation proposal.

Concepts such as IMRAD, mindmapping, concept mapping, & technical writing will also be covered.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this Course you should have demonstrated growth in the following areas:

1. Know what research is & how to design it.
2. Understand the concept of a thesis or problem statement & framing questions.
3. Understand Mindmapping and Concept mapping & their role in research & writing.
4. Know the ins and outs of technical doctoral writing including outlining, citations, formatting, & publishing.
5. Understand the IMRaD format.
6. Reflexivity
7. Theoretical frameworks.
8. Have written a proposal for their dissertation.

Learning Tasks

1. Read & understand the syllabus.
2. Attend the classes (or watch the recordings). If you plan to be absent, please inform the professor.
3. Write a proposal for your desired dissertation topic.
 - a) Must have a clear problem statement.
 - b) Must use proper citations.
 - c) Must have a bibliography.
 - d) Must be approximately 100 pages in length.
 - e) Due date is 6 months after the end of class (April 30, 2021). The professor will be available for consultation with you during this time to help you with your writing process.

What is research & Why do it?

One of the pastor's tasks is to create knowledge to help the church be functional because God has invited us to be a part of his *missio dei*. This class will teach you how to conduct research (process, analyze, study biblically, theologically, & empirically) that can be applied to the local church. This research will be written down in the form of a dissertation.

One key aspect of theologizing is done through writing, which is simply the process of recording in words your process of doing theology. This leads to theology that can be applied by the local church to help further its part of missio dei.

Research is the process of study & analysis of data from the Bible, theology, & real life (empirical) that can be practically applied to the local church.

The Research Process

Formulating a
research
problem

Conceptualising
a research
design

Constructing an
instrument for
data collection

Selecting a
sample

Writing a
research
proposal

Dissertation 1 (this class)

Writing a
research report

Processing data

Collecting data

Dissertation 2

What's it about?

What is it in a nutshell?

Why did you do it?

Where did you do it?

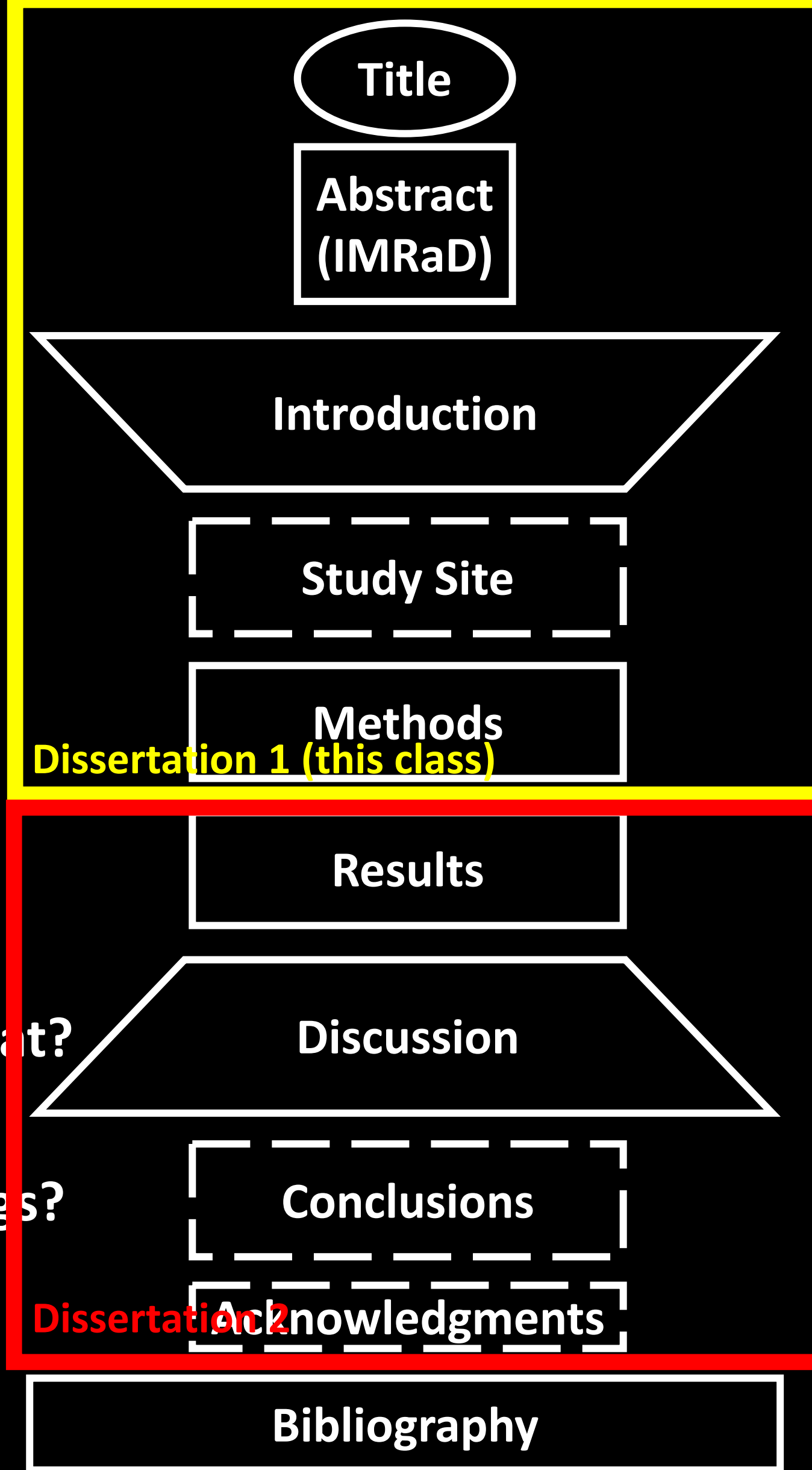
How did you do it?

What did you find?

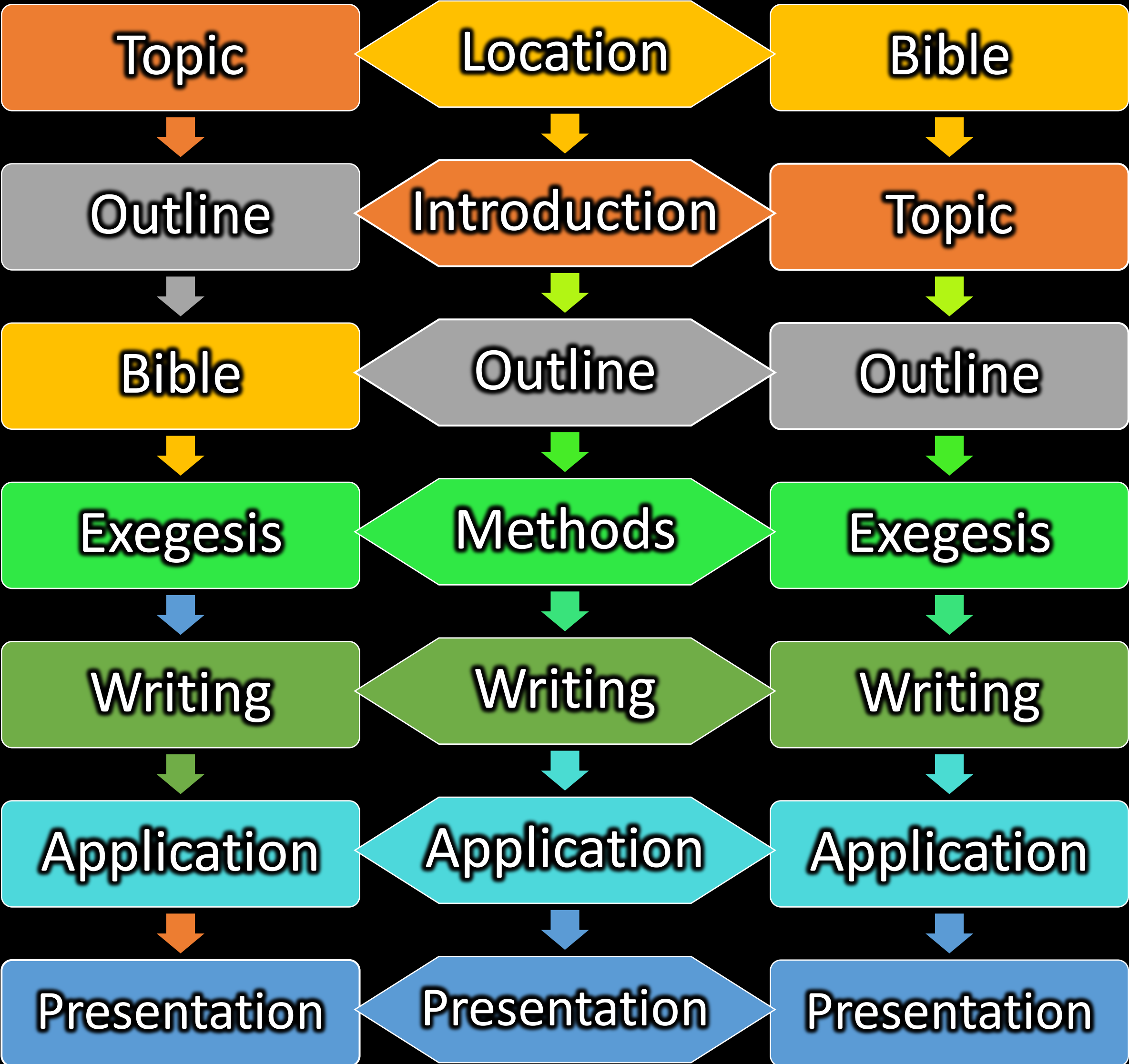
What does it mean & so what?

What are your major findings?

Wu, (2011), IMRAD Model diagram



Sermon Prep: Topical & Exegetical



SEATS DMin Dissertation Outline (Basic)

Chapter 1: What is the issue?

Chapter 2: Review of Related Literature.

Dissertation 1 (this class)

Chapter 3: Field research.

**Chapter 4: What is your reflection on the issue?
(Systematic theology)**

**Chapter 5: What is your conclusion? Your
recommendation? Your application?**

Dissertation 2

Bibliography

- Note: Chapters 1 & 2 are the elements of the dissertation proposal (both have bibliography).

Ch 1: What is the issue? 15-20 pp

1. Statement of the Problem.

- What is the specific problem you are trying to solve?

2. Audience & Ministry Opportunity to be Addressed.

- Who are the people with the most to gain & the most to lose in this study? Who benefits from the research?

3. Stakeholders.

- Who help make the research possible directly & indirectly?

4. Background of the Project.

- Why are you interested in this project?

5. Description of the Project.

- How do you plan to conduct your study?

6. Desired outcome of the Project.

- What are you hoping to accomplish by doing the study?

7. Contribution of the Project to Missional Ecclesiology.

- Since this is a DMin in Missional Ecclesiology, what contribution will your study make to how we understand & do church?

Ch 2: Review of Related Literature. 70-80 pp

- A literature review should set the scene, demonstrate current knowledge, identify gaps in the field and, if relevant, demonstrate where your research fits.
- It should be a personal critical appraisal of the current knowledge in a subject area.
- It should be evidence-based, using a variety of peer-reviewed original research articles, reporting facts, commenting on similarities or discrepancies and highlighting knowledge gaps or areas of unmet need.
- Structure your review with an introduction, subsections and a summary table.
- Summarise information in your own words and give appropriate credit to other authors' work.
- A systematic approach to writing a literature review should be used to reduce bias.

Ch 3: Field research. 30-40 pp

- What do your stakeholders say about the issue?
- Discovered using methodology
- Could be interview etc.
- What does the data say?

Ch 4: Reflections 30+ pp

- What is your reflection on the issue?

Ch 5: Conclusions 30+ pp

- What is your conclusion?
- Your recommendation?
- Your application?

Bibliography

- An alphabetical list of all your sources for the paper.
- Using Chicago/Turabian Style

Dissertation Outline (Detailed)

Chapter I: What is the issue? 15-20 pages

- 1. Statement of the Problem
- 2. Audience and Ministry Opportunity to be Addressed
- 3. Stakeholders
- 4. Background of the Project
- 5. Description of the Project
- 6. Desired outcome of the Project
- 7. Contribution of the Project to Missional Ecclesiology

Chapter II: Review of Related Literature. 70 to 80 pages

- What Does the Bible say about it (Biblical framework?)
- What does church history say about it (historical, theological framework?)

Chapter III: Field research. 30-40 pages

- What do your stakeholders say about the issue? Could be interview and etc.
- What does the data say?

Chapter IV: What is your reflection on the issue? (Systematic theology) 30 pages or more

Chapter V: What is your conclusion? Your recommendation? Your application? 30 pages or more

Bibliography

Upcoming Topics

PHASE I *DECIDING WHAT* TO RESEARCH

Step #1 *Formulating* a research problem

PHASE II *PLANNING* A RESEARCH STUDY

Step #2 *Conceptualising* a research design

Step #3 *Constructing* an instrument for data collection

Step #4 *Selecting* a sample

Step #5 *Writing* a research proposal