

## Dissertation Rubric

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Committee Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_

First Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

### I. Learning Goals

- Students will present an original thesis in response to a question of significance to the field of historical theology.
- Students will craft a dissertation of substantial length that logically and persuasively argues in defense of the thesis.
- Students will demonstrate a critical grasp of major issues and themes in the field of historical theology and of relevance to the particular question that drives the thesis.
- Students will make an original contribution to the field of historical theology.

### II. Instructions

- Read dissertation.
- Using the rubric key, evaluate the dissertation and provide a total score.

#### Rubric Key

5 = Outstanding

4 = Very Good

3 = Acceptable

2 = Needs Work

1 = Unacceptable

### III. Rubric Indicator

<b>A. Foundational Elements</b>	
Statement of the Question <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articulates a question that has not yet been answered or has been answered inadequately</li> <li>• Articulates a question that can be answered</li> <li>• Articulates a question that deserves a dissertation-length response</li> </ul>	
Thesis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directly answers the question</li> <li>• Clear and concise</li> <li>• Advances the field of historical theology</li> <li>• Orients and drives the structure of the dissertation</li> </ul>	
State of the Question/Literature Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviews literature in English and other languages</li> <li>• Identifies schools, trends, patterns, or other relationships in the existing scholarship</li> <li>• Recognizes relative significance of various scholarly contributions</li> </ul>	

<p>Primary Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifies diverse types of sources (if applicable)</li> <li>• Demonstrates use of sources in their original language</li> <li>• Places logical and coherent limit on sources</li> <li>• Demonstrates knowledge and use of unpublished sources (if applicable)</li> <li>• Critically assesses published primary sources</li> </ul>	
<p>Method</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articulates coherent method that fits the sources and thesis</li> <li>• Situates method in the context of existing scholarship</li> </ul>	
<b>B. Formal Elements</b>	
<p>Style</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employs clear, correct English grammar and syntax</li> <li>• Employs accurate vocabulary and technical terminology appropriate to the question</li> <li>• Effectively transitions from section to section, chapter to chapter, etc.</li> </ul>	
<p>Organization and Argumentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines the structure of the argument proposed in defense of the thesis</li> <li>• Adheres to the outline given</li> <li>• Presents appropriate and persuasive evidence in defense of the thesis</li> <li>• Constructs a logical argument in defense of the thesis on the basis of evidence presented</li> <li>• Demonstrates significance of thesis to the field of historical theology</li> </ul>	
<b>C. Functional Elements</b>	
<p>Formatting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employs footnotes formatted in Chicago Style and according to the conventions of the discipline</li> <li>• Includes footnotes containing original text from foreign-language sources that have been translated into English in the body of the dissertation</li> <li>• Includes appendices (if applicable) presenting relevant documentary materials, datasets, etc.</li> </ul>	
<p>Bibliography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follows Chicago Style and the conventions of the discipline for bibliographic citations</li> <li>• Separates primary and secondary sources into discrete sections</li> <li>• Includes all sources cited in notes and appendices, as well as other works consulted</li> <li>• Arranges citations in alphabetical order</li> </ul>	
Total Score	

IV. Evaluation Score (Please List Number Score) \_\_\_\_\_

V. Evaluation Possibilities for the Dissertation

- Pass with Distinction (a score of 40 or above)
- Pass (a score of 27 or above)
- Fail (a score of 26 or below, with option for one retake)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Signature