**MATUL 601 – Dissertation (20,000 words)**

**(15 credits)**

**Course Purpose:**

The dissertation is considered to be the key element of the whole programme. It allows the candidate to apply the skills that they have learned during the programme and to demonstrate their understanding. The project must relate to an area of work or ministry which they have been engaged in. This could be the context of their current work or ministry or it could be within a church or community based programme which they have engaged with earlier in the course. The project is designed to enable students to envision and make valid recommendations for transformational change within a community based on a process of disciplined research.

The topic for the dissertation is chosen in consultation with the HOD and a nominated supervisor.

A Supervisor will be assigned to the student in order to oversee the dissertation. It is expected that the student and supervisor will meet (once a month for not less than an hour) to plan, discuss and review the progress of the work.

A Research Manual with clear instructions as to the way the Proposal and the dissertation should be set out will be provided.

The length of dissertation is 20,000 words, not including Footnotes, Bibliography and any Appendices.

**Two** bound copies of the dissertation will be presented for examination.

**Expected Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the course the students will be able to:

1. Come up with a research topic
2. Write a research proposal
3. Develop further their capacity for critical thinking and analysis of literature
4. Plan and conduct community based research in an urban context
5. Structure an extended piece of academic writing
6. Organise their materials and information so as to sustain the exposition of a topic and pursue necessary argumentation
7. Carry out even more advanced research for a Doctoral Degree or for any other work
8. Write academically

**Course content**

The dissertation will cover the topic of research, and will include an introduction and background to the research, Problem statement, Research questions, Limitations and delimitations of the study, Critical review of relevant literature**,** methodology, research ethics, data analysis and presentation, writing conclusions and recommendations based on the findings. The research should be directed towards the envisioning and planning for transformational change within a local urban community

**Teaching methodologies:**

Individual monthly tuition with a supervisor and monthly peer review seminars with 3 – 4 fellow students.

**Instructional materials/equipment:**

Chalkboard, handouts, printed media, Charts, Pictures, Audio Visual aids, computer, PowerPoint, overhead projector, transparencies, and internet based sources

**Student Assessment:**

The course will be assessed through a 20,000 word dissertation at the end of the second year of study.

An oral defence of the dissertation will be scheduled when the dissertation is completed and will constitute the final mark.

**CoreTexts**

1. Research Project Handbook ( Prepared by the Department in collaboration with the St Pauls University Board of Post of Post Graduate Studies)

**Other Recommended texts**

1. Chandran, Emil P. 2004. *Research Methods: A Quantitative Approach*. Daystar University, Nairobi.
2. Johnson, B., & Onwuegbuzie, A. (2004). Mixed method research: A research paradigm whose time has come. *Educational Researcher 33*(7) 14-26).
3. Kitzinger, C. (2004). Interviews. In C. Seale, G. Gobo, J. Gubrium, & D. Silverman (Eds.), *Qualitative research practice* (pp. 14-33). London, Thousand Oaks, New Delhi: SAGE Publications
4. Merriegan, Gerianne. 2004 *Communication Research Methods*. Thomson Press, Canada.
5. Mugenda, Olive M and Mugenda, Abel G. Revised 2003. *Research Methods: Quantitative and Qualitative approaches.* Acts Press, Nairobi, Kenya.
6. Robson, C. (2002) *Real World Research,* Blackwell Publishing, Oxford.
7. Saunders, Mark. 2003. *Research Methods for Business.* Reason Education Ltd., London.
8. Sekaran, Uma. *Research Methods for Business*.
9. Shaughnesssy, John. 1990. *Research Methods in Psychology.* McGraw-Hill Companies
10. Wisker, Gina. 2001. *The Postgraduate Research Handbook: Succeed with Your MA, MPhil, EdD and PhD.* Creative, Print and Design (Ebbw Vale), Wales
11. Zikmund William G. 2003. *Business Research Methods.* R. B. Publication, Canada
12. Yin, R. K. (2003) *Case Study Research: Design and Methods,* Sage Publications, London.