Dissertation Oral Defense Rubric

Student: ____________________________

Committee Chair: ____________________

First Reader: ________________________

Second Reader: ______________________

I. Learning Goals

- Students will demonstrate the ability to defend, clarify, and expand upon arguments made in the written dissertation.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to articulate their understanding of the nature of the discipline of historical theology.

II. Instructions

- Listen to the oral defense.
- Using the rubric key, evaluate the defense and provide a total score.

III. Rubric Indicator

| Defends, clarifies, and expands upon written dissertation with further evidence and argument |  |
| Directly and correctly answers the examiner’s questions |  |
| Demonstrates knowledge of dissertation subject, primary sources, and background scholarship |  |
| Demonstrates ability to synthesize dissertation topic with broader topics in the discipline of theology |  |
| Shows awareness of the limits of his or her knowledge |  |
| Demonstrates an understanding of the nature of the discipline of historical theology |  |

Rubric Key

5 = Outstanding
4 = Very Good
3 = Acceptable
2 = Needs Work
1 = Unacceptable

IV. Evaluation Score (Please List Number Score) ______

V. Evaluation Possibilities for the Defense

- Pass with distinction (a score of 27 or above)
- Pass (a score of 18 or above)
- Fail (a score of 17 or below, with option for one retake)

____________________________________  _______________________
Faculty Name                                      Faculty Signature