

Course Description

The Proseminar introduces incoming degree students to the communal study model and pursuit of five essential practices for theological study and ministerial formation at Aquinas Institute of Theology: *written and oral communication, close reading of texts, analysis of social context, theological reflection, and collaboration*. Students will study and engage each *practice*, as well as set goals for future development in preparation for the admission-to-candidacy process.

Course Objectives

Coursework is designed to initiate students into graduate-level theological study as practiced at Aquinas Institute, while giving students the skills and tools necessary to be a full partner in theological conversation, including:

- the means of accessing and effectively using St. Louis University's research library and technology
- successful approaches to reading and writing at the graduate level
- methods of contextual analysis
- methods of theological reflection
- skills for collaboration, especially with peers in study and ministry
- orientation to the Dominican vision of the *Sacra Praedicationis* as practiced in the mission of the Order of Preachers

Course Method

The course will include lecture and discussion of readings, small group conversation, integrative exercises and online conversations through SLU Global.

Course Requirements

- access to the internet and ability to use SLU Global
- access to LiveText*
- regular, active participation in class and periodic on-line exercises demonstrating understanding and integration of course reading
- timely completion of assignments
- willingness to engage self-reflection and conversation with class as a learning community

Evaluation

Demonstration of course outcomes through student writing, in-class and online discussions of readings, class presentation, and preparation of a learning portfolio.

Required Texts

Gallagher, Michael Paul. *Clashing Symbols: An Introduction to Faith & Culture*. Rev. ed. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2003.

Killen, Patricia O'Connell and John de Beer. *The Art of Theological Reflection*. New York: Crossroad, 1994.

Sofield, Loughlan and Carroll Juliano. *Collaboration: Uniting Our Gifts in Ministry*. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2000.

Taylor, Barbara Brown. *When God is Silent*. Boston, MA: Cowley Publications, 1998.

Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 7th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago, 2007.

Additional required readings will be available through SLU e-reserve.

***Important Note:** There is an additional required fee of \$100 for LiveText access beyond course tuition. This on-line tool is required for the development of an Admission to Candidacy portfolio.