

Course Description

The Proseminar introduces incoming degree students to the communal study and pursuit of five essential practices (*habitus*) 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 *habitus*, as well as set goals for future development in preparation for the admission-to-candidacy process. Three credits.

Course Objective

Coursework is designed in order 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
- practice in theological reflection
- skills for collaboration, especially with peers in study and ministry
- orientation to the Dominican vision of the *Sacra Praedicatio* as practiced in the mission of the Order of Preachers

Course Method

The course will be conducted using adult, experiential learning strategies based on the pedagogical practices that are being learned and will employ both in-class and on-line learning.

Evaluation

At key points during the course, the professor will evaluate and give feedback vis-à-vis each student's progress in achieving desired course outcomes, as demonstrated through the student's writing, in-class and on-line discussion of readings and class presentation, and preparation of a learning portfolio. Midterm and final exams will be given, and at end of term each student will receive a final letter grade from the professor.

Readings

Articles will be available in a class reading packet and online. Textbooks will be available at the Saint Louis University bookstore.