

Course Description

The Proseminar introduces incoming degree students to the communal study 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 Praedicatione* as practiced in the mission of the Order of Preachers

Course Method

The course will make use of effective, on-line pedagogical practices which foster wisdom communities. The intensive will include lecture and discussion of readings, small group conversation, and integrative exercises.

Course Requirements

- access to the internet and ability to use Blackboard
- access to LiveText*
- regular, active participation in class and periodic on-line exercises demonstrating understanding and integration of course reading
- 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

To be determined.

~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 an essential component for the development of an Admission to Candidacy portfolio.

