

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: (1) **written and oral communication**, (2) **close reading of texts**, (3) **analysis of social context**, (4) **theological reflection**, and (5) **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 make use of effective, on-line pedagogical practices which foster wisdom communities, including some Video Conferencing. The intensive will include some lecture and discussion of readings, small group conversation, and integrative exercises.

Course Requirements

- access to the internet and ability to use Blackboard (via SLU Global)
- access to LiveText*
- regular, active participation on-line and during the intensive demonstrating understanding and integration of course reading (Intensive dates: June 22-29, 2013)
- willingness to engage self-reflection and conversation with the class as a learning community

Evaluation: Demonstration of course outcomes through student writing, in-class intensive and on-line discussion of readings, video conferencing, in-class and video presentations, 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.

Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 8th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago, 2013.

Additional required readings will be available through SLU E-Reserves.

***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 the Admission to Candidacy portfolio.

Course Dates: 8 weeks from May 20, 2013 through July 12, 2013. Intensive in St Louis, June 27-29th