George Boudreau, O.P.

3 credits

Intensive: February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> (8:30 – 4:30); Feb. 11 (9 – noon)

## **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 Praedicatio* 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 some 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 on-line and during the intensive demonstrating understanding and integration of course reading
- willingness to engage self-reflection and conversation with the class as a learning community

**Evaluation:** Demonstration of course outcomes through student writing, in-class and on-line discussion 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 an essential component for the development of the Admission to Candidacy portfolio.