Impelled by the Catholic faith and the Dominican mission,
Aquinas Institute of Theology educates men and women to preach, to teach, to minister, and to lead.

HCM-T500C   PRACTICAL THEOLOGY FOR HEALTH CARE MISSION   3 CREDITS

Instructor: Michael Miller Jr, MA, HEC-C   Fall 2021
Email: miller@ai.edu   August 13 – October 8, 2021

Please expect a reply to emails within one day. I'm
happy to schedule phone/video calls upon request.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to a set of practices that are essential for theological study and ministerial formation at Aquinas Institute of Theology: written and oral communication, collaboration, close reading of texts, analysis of social context, and theological reflection. Students will engage these practices as they examine fundamental issues of theology such as faith, revelation, scripture, tradition, doctrine and dogma, and theological method, especially as these are encountered and relate to the healing ministry of the Church. The course will assist the student in developing a basic theoretical framework essential for grappling with theological issues in the context of Catholic health care.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:
1. Understand, apply language and methods required of graduate theological study
   - 1.1 – learn and utilized key theological vocabulary terms
   - 1.2 – close reading of theological text
   - 1.3 – locate and navigate Catholic Church documents
   - 1.4 – develop oral & written communication
   - 1.5 – utilize online library services, including literature databases
   - 1.6 – understand and apply Chicago Manual of Style citation methods
   - 1.7 – create an annotated bibliography
2. Analyze fundamental issues of Christian theology
   - 2.1 – read and analyze diverse interpretations and perspectives of key Christian theological issues
   - 2.2 – collaborate and discuss theological topics with classmates and instructor in online discussion forums
   - 2.3 - articulate the Catholic Church's teaching and explain the theological reasoning behind the teaching
3. Apply key theological concepts within the context of Catholic health care
   - 3.1 – learn and apply basic practical theology method

- o 3.2 – connect theological topics to relevant issues in the health care ministry
- o 3.3 – identify and apply spiritual practices to support health care ministry
4. Practice theological reflection
    - o 4.1 – understand key elements of theological reflection models
    - o 4.2 – develop and practice theological reflections on various topics, including vocation, creation, and organizational mission and values

III. COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

- McGrath, Alister E. *Theology: The Basics*. 4th edition. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Son, 2017.
    - o ISBN: 978-1-119-15810-3, E-book version available.
    - o Referred to below as "McGrath: Basics"
- McGrath, Alister E., ed. *Theology: The Basic Readings*. 3rd edition. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell, 2018.
    - o ISBN: 978-1-119-15818-9, E-book version available.
    - o Referred to below as "McGrath: Readings"
- Bouchard, Charles, ed. *Incarnate Grace: Perspectives on the Ministry of Catholic Health Care*. St. Louis, MO: The Catholic Health Association of the United States, 2017.
    - o ISBN: 978-0-87125-105-3
    - o Available from the Catholic Health Association Online Store.
        - ▪ NB: The Ashley-O'Rourke Center is a member of CHA. You should be able to register on the CHA website and receive member pricing for all items available in the store.
    - o Referred to below as: "IG"

Additional required texts will be made available electronically on Populi.

IV. TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- Upon enrollment, students at Aquinas Institute are issued an email address through Saint Louis University (username@slu.edu). Email communication from faculty and staff will be sent to students by means of their SLU email address. This email address will be listed as the primary email address in Populi. While students can change their primary email account, it is recommended that they use their SLU account for all academic communications. If changed, the student is responsible for verifying they receive all emails from Aquinas/Populi.
- All students have free access to Microsoft 365 through their SLU account, which includes software such as Word, PowerPoint, Excel, OneDrive, a calendar, and e-mail. All students have a licensed copy of Zoom account through their SLU account.

- Internet access is required to access Populi, participate in discussion boards, read required readings (often available as .pdfs), and view assigned videos.
- Students will submit assignments in .docx format and have an option to submit select assignments in video format.

V. EVALUATION

Assessment
Assessment and grading will be based upon each participant's demonstrated ability *to reflect critically* upon, *to analyze*, and *to apply creatively* the theological concepts discussed in this course. Evidence of these abilities will be provided through (1) weekly written assignments, (2) online discussion board participation, and (3) a final project.

Course Method
This asynchronous course will be conducted completely online through the Populi learning management system. At the beginning of each week, the instructor will upload a video introducing the readings and reviewing the upcoming week's assignments. Please review this video before completing the week's assignment. Students will view audio/video presentations, complete reading and writing assignments, and participate in online discussion board discussions.

Weekly Assignments
Unless otherwise noted, written assignments are to be 500-750 words in length and submitted in .docx format. Please format your document to have one-inch margins and use single spaced 11–12-point font. All assignments are due by midnight on the final day of the week, as indicated in the course schedule.

Online Discussion Boards
Engaging in dialogue with your classmates is a critical experience of this course. Each week will have 3 discussion threads. Students should contribute a minimum of 3 substantial posts each week, of which one may be a response to someone's post. To be substantial, a post must be between 150-250 words, and demonstrate an understanding of the course material as well as reference assigned readings and/or videos. Your first post for the week should be made by Monday. Students are not required to post in each discussion thread. At the end of each week, the discussions will be closed. By the fourth week of the course, you will be given a brief assessment of your discussion board posts indicating how well you are meeting these expectations.

Final Project
The final project will consist of a theological reflection and an annotated bibliography. Further instructions will be provided on Populi.

Grading

Weekly Written Assignments   35%

Online Discussion Board Participation   30%
Final Project   35%

Total	**100%**

The following scale will be used to determine course grades:

A   93% - 100%
A-   90% - 93%
B+   87% - 89%
B   83% - 86%
B-   80% - 82%
C+   77% - 79%
C   73% - 76%
F   00% - 72%

Description:

A range = excellent work, reflecting a *thorough* and *masterful* understanding of the material.
B range = demonstrates a *broad and intellectually responsible* understanding of the material.
C range = satisfactory work, demonstrating a *general* or *basic* understanding of the material.
F range = unsatisfactory work, failing to reveal an understanding of the material.

VI. COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: Schedule is subject to change via announcement from instructor.
Readings and assignment information will be available on Populi.

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignments	Objectives
1	8/13-8/19	Introduction to Theology	Read: • McGrath: Basics — Preface, The Development of Christian Theology: A Short Historical Overview, The Apostles Creed, Getting Started • McGrath: Readings — How to engage a reading • ITC: Theology Today: Perspectives, Principles, and Criteria — Introduction, Chapter 1, Chapter 2 • D'Costa: On Cultivating the Disciplined Habits of a Love Affair *OR* on how to do theology on your knees • Dark: Life's Too Short To Pretend You're Not Religious — Introduction Watch: • Mark Lau Branson: Practical Theology Introduction Recommended:	[68 pages] • 1.1 • 1.2 • 1.1, 1.3, 2.3 • 3.3 • 1.2 • 3.1

			• CHA: Mission Leader Competency Model, 2020 edition	• 3.2
			Create: • Introductory Video	*See assignments*
2	8/20-8/26	Faith & God	Read: • McGrath: Basics — Chapters 1-2 • McGrath: Readings — Chapters 1 Intro, 1.1-1.4, 1.8, 2 Intro, 2.2-2.6 • ITC: Theology Today: Perspectives, Principles, and Criteria — Chapter 3, Conclusion • IG: Ryan, Chapter 2.2 "God's Presence in Our Suffering Recommended: • Three Good Things Article • Hamm: Rummaging for God	[98 pages] • 1.1 • 1.2, 2.1 • 1.1, 1.3, 2.3 • 2.3, 3.2 • 3.3 • 3.3
			Write: • Reflection on Prayer	*See assignments*
3	8/27-9/2	Scripture & Narrative	Read: • Hahnenberg: Theology for Ministers — Chapter 1 • Vatican II: *Dei verbum* • IG: Martin, Chapter 1.3 "Interpretation of Healing Narratives in the Bible" • USCCB: *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services*, 6th edition – Read introductions to each part, skim the numbered directives Watch: • Luke Timothy Johnson: "Scripture in the Life of the Church"	[71 pages] • 1.1 • 1.3, 2.3 • 3.1, 3.2 • 1.3, 2.3, 3.2 • 1.1
			Write: • Your Vocation Story	*See assignments*
4	9/3-9/9	Creation & Catholic Social Teaching	Read: • McGrath: Basics — Chapter 3 • McGrath: Readings — Chapter 3 • Massaro: Living Justice — Chapters 3-4 • CHA: The Church, Social Justice and the Health Care Ministry • Condit: Catholic Social Teaching: Precepts for Healthcare Reform Watch: • Catholic Health Australia: Four Key Principles of Catholic Social Teaching Recommended: • Pope Francis: *Laudato si'*	[91 pages] • 1.1 • 1.2, 2.1 • 1.1 • 2.3, 3.2 • 2.3, 3.2 • 2.3, 3.2 • 1.3, 2.3

			Write: • Theological Reflection on Creation	*See assignments*
5	9/10-9/16	Jesus & Salvation	Read: • McGrath: Basics — Chapters 4-5 • McGrath: Readings — Chapters 4-4.3, 5 • IG: Kelly, Chapter 1.2 "Christology and the Essence of Catholic Health Care"	[91 pages] • 1.1 • 1.2, 2.1 • 2.3, 3.2
			Write: • Theological Reflection on Organizational Mission & Values	*See assignments*
6	9/17-9/23	Spirit & Trinity	Read: • McGrath: Basics — Chapters 6-7 • McGrath: Readings — Chapters 6-7 • IG: Omerrod, Chapter 1.1 "Health Care and the Response of the Triune God"	[100 pages] • 1.1 • 1.2, 2.1 • 2.3, 3.2
			Write: • Discernment Case Study	*See assignments*
7	9/24-9/31	Church & Sacraments	Read: • McGrath: Basics — Chapters 8-9 • McGrath: Readings — Chapters 8-9 • IG: Schellman, Chapter 3.4 "Sacraments for the sick and dying" • IG: Gaillardetz, Chapter 4.4 "Theology of institutions" • Gottemoeller, "The Vision of Vatican II: Alive in Catholic Health Care"	[104 pages] • 1.1 • 1.2, 2.1 • 2.3, 3.2 • 2.3, 3.2 • 2.3, 3.2
			Create: • Meeting Reflection	*See assignments*
8	10/1-10/8	Praxis: Health Care Mission	Read: • IG: Gentry-Akin, Chapter 3.2 "Lessons from history on institutional sacramentality" • Gremmels: Can Catholic Hospitals Sill Be Catholic • Swetz et. al.: What Makes a Catholic Hospital "Catholic" in an Age of Religious-Secular Collaboration? The Case of the Saint Marys Hospital and the Mayo Clinic • Bernardin: A Sign of Hope • Lysaught/Smith: Summary – Caritas in Communion	[74 pages] • 2.3, 3.2 • 2.1 • 3.2 • 1.3, 2.1, 2.3 • 2.3
			Write: • Final Project – Theological Reflection & Annotated Bibliography	*See assignments*

VI. COURSE POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

1. **Participation Policy:** Each student must complete all assignments and participate in online discussion board thread each week. If you believe you will be unable to complete an assignment or participate in the discussion boards to an exceptional circumstance, please inform the instructor at your earliest convenience. Each situation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

2. **Populi/SLU email:** Populi sends email/announcements to your SLU email account. If you do not check your SLU email on a regular basis, you will want to forward email from your SLU email account to an email account which you do.

3. **Audit and CEU Course Information and Requirements:** The student must view all assigned videos, participate in the discussion boards, and is required to read all required texts. The student is not required to do any papers or make any presentations or take exams. The student has a right to the course syllabus, class notes and handouts, and to full participation in the activities of the course.

4. **Opportunity for Student Evaluation of Course:** Students will complete a course evaluation on Populi at the end of the course. Input from students to the professor about the course is encouraged at any time during the semester. Completion of the evaluation is an important part of the institutional self-assessment.

5. **Disability Statement:** Students with needs for special assistance due to learning, physical, or medical disabilities on either a short- or long-term basis should contact Disability Services at Saint Louis University (SLU) to negotiate a letter of accommodation. Additionally, students must confer with their professors and the director of student services at Aquinas Institute within the first two weeks of class or at such other time that accommodation has been approved. A copy of the SLU accommodation letter is to be given to professors and the Director of Student Services if accommodation is requested. For guidelines and procedures, please see the Institute's *Policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities* in Appendix G at http://www.ai.edu/Students/Student-Handbook

6. **Academic Integrity:** Aquinas Institute of Theology holds honesty and integrity as primary goods related to the study of God's revelation and to the Order of Preachers' commitment to the proclamation of the truth. Academic dishonesty thwarts this purpose. Academic dishonesty includes *plagiarism*, *cheating*, and *falsification*. For definitions and consequences of academic dishonesty, see the Institute's *Policy on Violations of Academic Honesty* in Appendix H at http://www.ai.edu/Students/Student-Handbook

7. **Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy**: Aquinas Institute of Theology does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability or age in administration of educational policies, admissions policies, employment policies, scholarship and loan programs, or other school-administered programs. For additional information please see the Institute's *Policy Prohibiting Discrimination and Harassment* in Appendix D at http://www.ai.edu/Students/Student-Handbook

8. **Technology and IT Assistance:** Technology and IT Assistance: Aquinas Institute of Theology maintains an Office of Institutional Technology responsible for providing

technology assistance to students, faculty, and staff. The Coordinator of Institutional Technology for Aquinas Institute is always happy to assist students with their technological questions: ███████████████████████