

INT 690/691: Senior Colloquy and Project 2023-2024

Course Description

(The full syllabus and all assignment details will be on the course Moodle page.)

Professors:

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and

TBD

Teaching Assistant:

TBD

Note: There are no required books for this class. All readings will be provided on the course Moodle site. Although this *year-long course* is fully online and asynchronous, ***there will be a synchronous orientation session in the first week of class.***

Course Objectives:

The purpose of the Senior Colloquy and project is to provide a context through which students demonstrate the ability to integrate the curricular components of the M.Div. degree and their capacity for public theological reflection. The colloquy/project is a year-long process by means of which students develop, step-by-step, a considered theological and practical response to a problem, dilemma, and/or concern emerging in and from a particular context. Through this project students will demonstrate:

- a robust theological imagination rooted in the disciplines studied in the degree
- analysis and response to systemic evil, racism, and injustice
- creative linking of practice and theory
- problem-solving
- self-awareness and emotional intelligence
- clarity about what the gospel is and how to communicate it

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the senior colloquy process, students will be able to

- describe a situation in its personal, social, historical, cultural, and religious dimensions (with particular attention to the analysis of evil, racism, and injustice);
- utilize insights from biblical studies, history, theology, ethics and the practice of ministry, to give accurate and informed testimony to the activity of the living God in response to a concrete situation;
- identify and explain what the gospel is and how to communicate it;
- construct a theological and practical response that offers insight and guidance to a particular local situation, integrating description, interpretation, and analysis for the sake of constructive thinking and planning;
- provide accurate and complete explanations of key concepts and theories using media forms that are appropriate to the situation and prepared in a professional manner; and
- demonstrate self-awareness by reflecting on one's own learning and one's identity as a pastor/leader.

Assignments & Grading:

Discussion Forum posts on biblical texts and articles: Each of the six major units of this course begins with student responses to a biblical text and to an article on the intersection of practice and theology. Responses will be shared and discussed in writing within small groups. Responses to the biblical texts will focus on four questions: Who is God in this text? What is God doing and with whom? What is God calling us to do? To what specific end does God call us to do this? Responses to the essays will focus on two questions: How does this author connect theology and practice? What are the implications of the way the author makes this connection for my own work?

Portfolio Projects: Students will demonstrate the course learning outcomes through the development of a *portfolio* of six primary assignments. The work at each stage of the process will be undertaken in the context of small peer groups, through which students provide each other critical feedback about their work as well as ongoing support.

Peer Review: For portfolio assignments 1-5, you will review and comment on draft versions of the assignments from those in your small group. After you have completed your peer reviews of each of the primary assignments, you will also review your colleagues concerning the timeliness of submission of their work, the timeliness and quality of their review of your work, and the way in which they received the feedback you gave to them.

The **final grade** for the course is cumulative as follows:

Completed project portfolio: 60%

Writing assignments 1, 2 and 5 are each worth 15%; assignment 3 is worth 25%;
assignment 4 is worth 20%; and assignment 6 is worth 10%

Bible reflections: 10%

Essay reflections: 10%

Peer review process: 20%

Primary writing assignments 1-3 will be completed in the fall semester, assignments 4-6 in the spring semester. Each assignment will be due to the peer group at least one week before the assignment deadline for review and response. An overview of units and portfolio projects is below.