

## Dominican University's Enduring Questions Seminar Program

Learn more at <https://www.dom.edu/academics/core-curriculum/enduring-questions-seminars>

Dominican's interdisciplinary seminar program is centered on questions that are both universal and urgent and that engage the whole person throughout life. The seminars are also designed to be integrative, helping students see and articulate connections between information and ideas originating in other courses; between their coursework and their lives beyond the classroom; and between their own lives and the lives of others—past, present, and future.

Title	The Examined Life First-Year Seminar	Life in the Natural World Seminar	The Good Life Senior Integrative Seminar
<b>Guiding Questions</b>	<p>What is the self?</p> <p>Who am I? How did I become who I am? Who will I be in the world?</p> <p>What does it mean to live mindfully and reflectively? What helps and hinders that process?</p>	<p>How do we define the natural world? How do we learn about, experience, and interact with the natural world?</p> <p>How do diverse societies and cultures understand their relationships with the natural world, in both its power and its fragility?</p> <p>What would it mean to live mindfully on Earth? How can we share responsibility for shaping the future of the planet on behalf of generations to come?</p>	<p>What does it mean to be good, to lead a good life?</p> <p>How does one reconcile self-interest with a sense of social responsibility?</p>
<b>Common Text</b>	Thich Nhat Hanh, <i>Living Buddha, Living Christ</i>	Pope Francis, <i>On Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si')</i>	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>
	<p><b>NOTE:</b></p> <p>All first-year seminars include a first-year experience component, which provides support for students as they transition to Dominican University. The FYE is the collaborative work of FYS faculty and Student Success and Engagement staff.</p>		

## LAS Seminar Overview

While liberal arts and sciences seminars are taught by instructors from various disciplines representing alternative approaches to the general topics, they share several features. As seminars, they are courses in which students, led by an instructor, investigate problems, design projects, explore resources, and share findings. They are, that is, courses in which students learn with and from each other.

Students will “take” from their seminars no more and no less than they “give” to them. By engaging actively the materials encountered and the ideas of classmates, by first informing themselves, then participating thoughtfully in class discussions, and by completing diligently their portion of the work of the group, students gain new information, new insights, and new perspectives. More important, though, is that they gain a “new” way to learn and new respect for the power of the mind that they will carry with them into their lives beyond the classroom.

### The Examined Life First-Year Seminar Learning Goals and Outcomes:

#### Vocational exploration

- Identify ways that one’s passions, skills, and aspirations align with career pathways and the world’s needs.
- Evaluate how one’s curricular and co-curricular experiences prepare one for work that is in service to the creation of a more just and humane world.

#### Intercultural competence

- Articulate insights into one’s own cultural rules and biases
- Communicate effectively and respectfully across cultures

#### Transition to college level academic life

- Practice skills that help develop one’s identity as a scholar.
- Explore Dominican’s academic programs, curriculum, high-impact practices, support services, and extra-curricular options.
- Become active, engaged members of the Dominican University community.

### Life in the Natural World Learning Goals and Outcomes:

#### Knowledge of the natural world

- Demonstrate knowledge of the natural world, including its history, phenomena, systems, laws, behaviors, interconnectedness, interactions, problems, conflicts, concords, dangers, pleasures, and/or beauties.

#### Civic engagement

- Connect and extend knowledge from one’s own academic study to participate in our communities.

### The Good Life Senior Integrative Seminar Learning Goals and Outcomes:

#### Vocational exploration

- Identify ways that one’s passions, skills, and aspirations align with career pathways and the world’s needs.
- Evaluate how one’s curricular and co-curricular experiences prepare one for work that is in service to the creation of a more just and humane world.

#### Ethical reasoning and action

- Explain the complexities and ambiguities of ethical problems and concepts.
- Apply key ethical perspectives or concepts to situations that arise on personal, professional, and social levels.
- Use relevant ethical perspectives to develop a justifiable stance on an ethical question in service to the creation of a more just and humane world.
- Reflect on a personal beliefs, decisions, actions, and consequences in terms of what it means to be an ethically responsible person within the context of community.