



## 2PT711/01 A THEOLOGY OF WORK

Guest Faculty: Mr. Orlando Rivera

### CLASS MEETS:

August 15 - August 20, 2011

Monday – Friday from 6:00p - 9:00p and on Saturday from 9:00a - 5:00p

**OFFICE:** 3-241

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday – Friday 1:00p to 5:00p

**EMAIL:** Orlando.rivera@nyack.edu

### PROFESSOR'S BIO

Rev. Rivera has an M.Div. from RTS Orlando and an MBA from Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. He is currently Assistant Professor and Department Head of Pastoral Ministry at Nyack College, NY. He also serves as pastor at Mount Vernon Alliance Church in Mount Vernon, NY. Prior to moving to New York, he served as pastor at Northland—A Church Distributed, taught Business Ethics at Rollins College, and owned and operated two Nature's Table Café franchises in Orlando, FL.

Rev. Rivera's passion is summed up in the words of the apostle Paul: "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." This verse gets to the heart of the way he views life, that is, all activities and professions are vehicles to glory God in the world. Professor Rivera endeavors to awaken his students to the sacredness of all human enterprises as an opportunity to make the kingdom of God visible on earth as it is in heaven.



### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the meaning and ministry of work which engages people for most of their waking hours. The approach taken is:

**Biblical**—surveying and meaning of work in God's revealed purpose;

**Contextual**—understanding how world-views and specific cultures affect one's work ethic and provide both points of content and a prophetic challenge;

**Integrative**—exploring how work is related to ministry, calling, mission and the phenomenon of globalization;

**Theological**—the understanding of and practice of work in the light of the timeless Word of God and the contemporary situation.

Having a theology of work is critical both for those people engaged in a societal occupation and also for pastors, whose primary challenge of equipping the saints includes empowering people for the primary arena of their service to God in the world.

**COURSE TEXTBOOKS:**

1. Stevens, R. Paul. *The Other Six Days: Vocation, Work and Ministry in Biblical Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.
2. Ryken, Leland. *Work & Leisure in Christian Perspective*. Wipf & Stock Publishers (May 2002)
3. Bakke, Dennis. *Joy at Work: A Revolutionary Approach to Fun on the Job*. Seattle, PVG, 2005.
4. Brennfleck, Kevin and Brennfleck, Kay Marie. *Live Your Calling: A Practical Guide to Finding and Fulfilling Your Mission in Life*. San Francisco, Jossey-Bass, 2005.

**STUDENT LEARNING GOALS:**

Students will:	Assignments &/or Assessments Used
Gain a biblical perspective on the redemption of work to its original state in the Garden of Eden prior to the Fall	Lectures on the redemption of work throughout Scripture Learning Journals on <i>Work &amp; Leisure in Christian Perspective</i> Chapters 5 & 6 Learning Journals on <i>Live Your Calling</i> Chapters 1 & 2 Learning Journal on <i>The Other Six Days and Work</i> Chapter 5 Exam on the redemption of work in Scripture
Be challenged to question the sacred and secular divide in ministry today; and to mobilize all of God’s people for ministry	Learning Journals on <i>The Other Six Days</i> Chapters 1 – 3 Learning Journal on <i>Work &amp; Leisure in Christian Perspective</i> Chapter 3 Class lectures on the Puritans
Gain a biblical perspective of leisure	Learning Journals on <i>Work &amp; Leisure in Christian Perspective</i> Chapters 7 & 8
Be exposed to a model of vocational assessment for themselves and those whom they may serve	Learning Journal on <i>The Other Six Days and Work</i> Chapter 4 Homework Written assessments in <i>Live Your Calling</i> , Life Calling Map Chapter 3

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Attendance. Due to the intensive nature of this course, credit seeking students must attend each session in order to pass the course.	
2. Learning Journal on <i>The Other Six Days: Vocation, Work and Ministry in Biblical Perspective</i> .	<b>200 pts</b>
3. Learning Journal on <i>Work &amp; Leisure in Christian Perspective</i>	<b>200 pts</b>
4. <i>Live Your Calling: A Practical Guide to Finding and Fulfilling Your Mission in Life</i> .	<b>200 pts</b>
5. Exam on Biblical foundations of the Theology of Work & Leisure	<b>200 pts</b>
6. Reading report on <i>Joy at Work: A Revolutionary Approach to Fun on the Job</i> .	<b>200 pts</b>
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>1000 pts.</b>

## GRADING SCALE:

<b>A</b>	970-1000
<b>A-</b>	940-969
<b>B+</b>	910-939
<b>B</b>	880-909
<b>B-</b>	860-879
<b>C+</b>	830-859

<b>C</b>	800-829
<b>C-</b>	780-799
<b>D+</b>	750-779
<b>D</b>	720-749
<b>D-</b>	700-719
<b>F</b>	below 700

## SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Learning Journals on *Work & Leisure in Christian Perspective* due on August 16<sup>th</sup>.
2. Learning Journals on *The Other Six Days: Vocation, Work and Ministry in Biblical Perspective* due on August 17<sup>th</sup>.
3. Learning Journals and exercises from *Live Your Calling: A Practical Guide to Finding and Fulfilling Your Mission in Life* due on August 18<sup>th</sup>.
4. Reading report on *Joy at Work: A Revolutionary Approach to Fun on the Job* due August 19<sup>th</sup>.

## LEARNING JOURNAL:

A minimum of two paragraphs and a maximum of one-page per question.

### Date/Name/Book Read/Chapter

Indicate the dates, book, and chapter for the reading for this journal entry.

### Vocabulary/Theories/Concepts

List terms or theories that were new to you or that you gained new insight into during this time. Create your own definition to describe the insight, and include the impact of the item.

### Reflection

What thoughts or concepts in your reading surprised or inspired you most? (Please use quotes & page numbers)? Where did you agree most with the author? Where did you disagree most with the author? (Please use quotes & page numbers)? Do you believe that something was missing from the perspective presented by the author in your reading?

### Impact

Select short phrases, sentences, or ideas that impacted you personally. Explain what you learned – “How do you feel about it?”, “How will I apply this learning to you life?”

## READING REPORT GUIDELINE:

<b>First section:</b> (1 page)	State the author's intent in writing the book, and his/her main thesis, as well as the basic construction of the text.
<b>Second section:</b> (2 -3 pages)	Here I want you to INTERACT with the content of the book. Conduct an analysis of the core message, or comment on some of the aspects that were more relevant to you in your experience of work. Do you believe that the author's approach is practical and actionable in the workplace as you know it? You may agree or disagree with the author's approach, but tell me why. What was not said that should have been? Don't just tell me what the author said. Reflect on it.
<b>Final section:</b> (1 page)	How will something from this book touch or influence your work? Be SPECIFIC and concrete. No generalities. How will your work change as a result of having read this book?

## SUPPLEMENTAL READING:

Courage and Calling: Embracing Your God-Given Potential by Gordon T. Smith (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1999)

Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation by Parker J. Palmer (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000)

Doing God's Business: Meaning and Motivation for the Marketplace by R. Paul Stevens (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006)

Business As A Calling: Work and the Examined Life by Michael Novak (New York: The Free Press, 1996)

After Sunday: A Theology of Work by Armand Larive (New York: Continuum, 2004)

Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling by Andy Crouch (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2008)

Loving Monday: Succeeding in Business without Selling Your Soul by John D. Beckett (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2006)

Stewardship: Choosing Service over Self-Interest by Peter Block (San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 1996)

Working in the Spirit: Toward a Theology of Work by Miroslav Volf (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991)

The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life by Os Guinness (Nashville: W Publishing Group, 2003)

God At Work: Your Christian Vocation in All of Life by Gene Edward Veith, Jr. (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2002)

Responsive Labor: A Theology of Work by David H. Jensen (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006)

Vocation: Discerning Our Callings in Life by Douglas J. Schuurman (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004)

The Gift of Being Yourself: The Sacred Call to Self-Discovery by David G. Benner (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004)