

## **THEO 6952 – BURNING ISSUES: ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MISSION**

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### **SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY MISSION STATEMENT**

The School of Theology at Seattle Pacific University seeks to educate and prepare all our students to engage the culture as thoughtful people. We seek to foster their intellectual, personal, and spiritual growth, and help them master those critical skills and multi-cultural sensitivities needed to understand Christian faith and translate it into practices that change the world.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This intensive weekend course at the intersection of theology and business will explore the potential of social enterprise as a means of participating in God’s mission. Through examining models of social impact, church planting, and business as mission, we will discuss practical ecclesiology, economic sustainability, and the role of entrepreneurship in the life of the church.

### **LEARNING GOALS & COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Under the guiding rubric of “Academy, Abbey, and Apostolate,” the School of Theology has established fourteen student learning goals for its various programs. Of these, the following goals pertain specifically to this course. Students will:

1. Develop an informed and reflective faith.
2. Learn and evaluate different worldviews operative from the perspective of Christian faith.
3. Recognize your membership in the body of Christ, entering into the moral and theological discourse of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church.
4. Be prepared to discern, own, and be equipped for your vocation.

In pursuit of these goals, this course will be guided by the following specific objectives to:

1. Bring the disciplines of theology and business into dynamic conversation.
2. Introduce students to the topics of entrepreneurship and social enterprise as they relate to the vocation of the church and the mission of God in the world.
3. Contextualize issues of entrepreneurship and mission for contemporary ministry settings and/or social enterprise opportunities.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

1. Lynch, Kevin and Julius Walls, Jr. *Mission, Inc.: The Practitioner’s Guide to Social Enterprise*. San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler, 2009.
2. Crouch, Andy. *Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2008.
3. Russell, Mark L. *The Missional Entrepreneur: Principles and Practices for Business as Mission*. Birmingham, AL: New Hope Publishers, 2010.

## SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS

Additional Resources on Theology of Mission and Social Engagement:

1. DeClaissé-Walford, Steve. *Mission as Holistic Ministry: Developing a Congregational Ethos of Community Engagement*. Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys Publishing, 2008.
2. Frost, Michael and Alan Hirsch. *The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003.
3. Gordon, Wayne and John M. Perkins. *Making Neighborhoods Whole: A Handbook for Christian Community Development*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2013.

Additional Resources on Social Enterprise:

4. Bornstein, David and Susan Davis. 2010. *Social Entrepreneurship: what everyone needs to know*. Oxford University Press.
5. Brooks, Arthur C. 2009. *Social Entrepreneurship: a modern approach to social value creation*. Pearson Prentice-Hall.
6. Dees, J. Gregory and Jed Emerson & Peter Economy. 2001. *Enterprising Nonprofits: a toolkit for social entrepreneurs*. Wiley.
7. Dees, J. Gregory and Jed Emerson & Peter Economy. 2002. *Strategic Tools for Social Entrepreneurs*. Wiley.
8. Oster, Sharon M. and Cythia Massarsk, and Samantha Beinhacker (eds). 2004. *Generating and Sustaining Nonprofit Earned Income*. Jossey-Bass.
9. Ries, Eric. 2011. *The Lean Startup*. Crown Business.
10. Wolk, Andrew and Kelly Kreitz 2008. *Business Planning for Enduring Social Impact: a social-entrepreneurial approach to solving social problems*. Root Cause.

## COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Your active attendance and participation is essential to the learning objectives of this course. Because of the intensive format of the schedule, staying engaged with both the instructors and your peers will be crucial for keeping pace with the course material. One pre-arranged absence of up to two hours may be allowed for rare, extenuating circumstances, but any unplanned absences will result in incremental reductions of your course participation grade (15% of your overall grade). This course is designed to facilitate a participatory and collaborative learning environment as we explore the interdisciplinary implications of theology of mission, entrepreneurship, and social enterprise.

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Comparative Book Review (35% of your grade), DUE Friday, February 7** [Course Objective 2]
  - a. This five page paper will compare and contrast two of the required course texts of your choosing with the following questions in mind:
    - i. What primary argument(s) are the author(s) making (either directly or indirectly) about the relationship between theology and business? Why do you find these arguments compelling, challenging, formative, or problematic?
    - ii. Identify areas of both coherence and divergence between the two texts. In what ways are the authors making complementary or conflicting claims?

2. **Mission & Social Enterprise Paper (50% of your grade)** [Course Objectives 1, 3]

- a. With specific references to each of the required course texts, answer the following questions in 8-10 pages for this summative essay:
- i. How are the practices of entrepreneurship (broadly defined) congruent and/or in tension with the mission of God in the world?
  - ii. How can the principles of social enterprise further enable the vocation of the church in society?
  - iii. Choose an existing social enterprise or entrepreneurial endeavor and discuss: How is this particular social enterprise an informative case study for the principles we've explored in this course?

-or-

Instead of researching an existing social enterprise, you may design your own entrepreneurial endeavor and prepare a preliminary feasibility study (i.e., condensed business plan) and theological justification.

A hard copy of your final essay is due by **5pm on Friday, March 14** in Dr. Leong's mailbox or office (B13) in Lower Moyer. All papers should be double-spaced with citations formatted according to the *Chicago Manual of Style* ([http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)) in the "Notes and Bibliography" format. Both assignments will be evaluated based on *cogency* (e.g., convincing argumentation), *clarity* (e.g., structure, organization), and *comprehensiveness* (e.g., balanced depth and breadth).

## SPS POLICIES

### 1. School of Theology Inclusive Language Policy:

The Christian gospel aims to provide a clear witness to the revelation of God through Jesus Christ. For this reason, the words we choose are influential and significant. Because language related to race, gender, class, and nationality has a particular power to liberate or to marginalize other human beings, our words ought to exhibit the sort of grace-filled sensitivity to human dignity that is part and parcel of the Christian gospel (James 3:1-18).

In particular, the School of Theology at Seattle Pacific University believes that language about God and people should mirror these biblical truths: that God created both male and female in God's image (Genesis 1:27); that God formed male and female into a working partnership to steward all of God's creation (Genesis 1:28); and that God loves every one equally without respect to race, gender, class, or nationality; yet all are equally in need of God's forgiveness and equally transformed by God's grace into new creatures because of Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:3-6). The use of nondiscriminatory language substantiates these truths and fosters a community where "there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for all are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

The social practices of Seattle Pacific University's Methodist heritage exemplify these biblical truths. Rooted deeply within Methodism is the active participation in the lifting of oppression in any form so as to extend and implement the freedom of the gospel to all whom God has created and seeks to redeem. The record of Wesleyans on behalf of those on the margins is impressive and honorable and should be furthered by the modern offspring of Wesley in word and deed.

Therefore, it is the policy of the School of Theology at Seattle Pacific University to use nondiscriminatory language in our syllabi, publications, and communications. (The grammatical particulars about nondiscriminatory language are spelled out in *The Everyday Writer*.)

Moreover, when writing and speaking about God, the School of Theology encourages the use of a wide variety of images found in Scripture and the Christian tradition, such as rock, sovereign, light, mother eagle, shepherd, creator, father, and so on. By drawing on the richness of these biblical images, we position ourselves to deepen our understanding of God's manifold attributes more fully and to help form God's multiform people into a more inclusive community.

2. Academic Integrity Policy: SPS students are expected to follow the SPU Academic Integrity Policy, as stated in the current *Graduate Catalog*. Guidelines for handling any cases of suspected infractions are stated in the same place.

3. **Attendance Policy for Graduate Classes:** Preparation for class, faithful and punctual attendance at class, and active participation in class are integral elements of education at SPS, and accordingly are mandatory. Students may not miss more than two sessions for a once-a-week quarter course, four sessions for a quarter course that meets three times a week, or one class session for a one-week intensive course without penalty on their final grade, unless valid, documented excuses are presented to the professor within two business days of missed session. Appropriate penalties will be assessed by the professor, and normally explained in the course syllabus. Advance notice to the professor is considered a professional courtesy, and should be given whenever possible. Valid excuses for missing class include are restricted to illness and other personal or family emergencies. Absences and tardiness due to church-related activities (e.g., mission trips, conferences, weddings, funerals, mid-week services, committee meetings, adult education classes or prayer groups), work-related activities (e.g., special meetings, overtime hours or emergency fill-ins for other employees) or non-emergency activities with family or friends (e.g., weddings or vacations) are not excused, nor should faculty be expected to

penalize themselves for unexcused student absences by assigning make-up work that they would then have to grade.

**4. Policy for Students with Disabilities:** If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please contact [Disability Support Services](#) to make your accommodations request. Once your eligibility has been determined, DSS will send a letter to your professors indicating what accommodations have been approved.

**5. Inclement Weather School Closure Policy:**

- **Full Closure:** All classes are canceled and all offices are closed. The Library, Campus Dining Services and the Student Union Building will be operational on a limited schedule.
- **Late Start:** Indicates that classes begin at 9:30 a.m. and offices open at 9:30 a.m. Classes beginning at 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. are canceled. All other classes will operate as scheduled. Chapel will be held if planned.
- **For Evening Classes and Events:** Allowing for weather changes during the day, a decision will be made by 2:00 p.m. for evening classes and events. Call the Emergency Closure Hotline for the updated information.
- **The Emergency Closure Hotline (206) 281-2800** always provides current and complete information.

**6. Emergency Evacuation Procedures:** In case of emergency (fire, earthquake, hazardous material spillage, bomb threat, etc.), the building must be evacuated with dispatch, according to the direction posted in the classroom. The primary emergency assembly area for classes meeting in **[name of building]** is **[primary assembly area]**. The secondary assembly area is **[secondary assembly area]**. For details, see [SPU Emergency Plan](#). The campus emergency number is **x-2911**.

**THEO 6952 COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Friday, January 24 @ SPU campus – Demaray 359**

5:30-6:00pm	Welcome & Course Overview
6:00-6:45pm	Connecting Entrepreneurship and Mission
6:45-7:00pm	Break
7:00-8:00pm	Lecture 1: Intro to Theology, Business, and Social Enterprise
8:00-8:30pm	Discussion groups

**Saturday, January 25 @ Union Church in South Lake Union**

9:00-10:00am	Site Orientation/Introductions
10:00-11:30am	Panel Discussion: Missional Entrepreneurship and the Church
11:30am-12:30pm	Lunch
12:30-2:00pm	Lecture 2: Ecclesiology and Social Engagement
2:00-2:15pm	Break
2:15-3:00pm	Discussion groups

**Friday, February 7 @ SPU campus – Demaray 359**

5:30-7:00pm	Lecture 3: Theology and Practice of Social Enterprise
7:00-7:15pm	Break
7:15-8:00pm	Social Enterprise Principles Examined and Applied
8:00-8:30pm	Discussion groups

**Saturday, February 8 @ Street Bean Espresso in Belltown**

9:00-10:00am	Site Orientation/Introductions
10:00-11:30am	The Story of Street Bean Espresso
11:30am-12:30pm	Lunch
12:30-2:00pm	Lecture 4: Community Partnership and the Common Good
2:00-2:15pm	Break
2:15-3:00pm	Discussion groups

**Friday, February 21 @ SPU campus – Demaray 359**

5:30-6:30pm	Summative Reflections: Entrepreneurship and Mission Revisited
6:30-7:30pm	Course Conclusion: Business, Vocation, and Cultural Engagement

**\* Meals and Transportation:**

- **Meals:** Light refreshments will be provided on Friday evenings, and lunches will be provided on Saturdays.
- **Transportation:** Liability issues discourage university-sponsored transportation, but students are strongly encouraged to arrange peer-facilitated carpools or utilize public transportation.
  - Union Church (<http://www.unionchurchseattle.org/Directions.aspx>)
    - 415 Westlake Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109
  - Urban Impact (<http://streetbeanesspresso.org/>)
    - 2702 3rd Ave, Seattle, WA 98121 / (206) 708-6803