

TS803, "Work, Economics, and the Church,"

Jun 2 through Aug. 22, TS803P course is Sept. 2-Dec. 19, intensive week Jun 23 – 27

*****You must register for TS803P separately for fall 2014 term.*****

Purpose, goals

How important is it for pastors to talk to their congregants about their daily work?

Recent Barna research shows that millennials who have remained active in their churches are 3 times more likely than those who "dropped out" to say they learned to view their gifts and passions as part of God's calling (45% vs. 17%). They are 4 times more likely to have learned at church "how the Bible applies to my field or career interests" (29% vs. 7%). A biblical understanding of God's purposes in our work can give congregants new energy and affirmation in their work, a sustaining vision in difficult work situations and unemployment, new impact on our communities and cities. TS803, "Work, Economics, and the Church," is for those wishing to help laypeople connect their faith and their work. The course, meeting in Summer 2014 under the leadership of Professors Chris Armstrong and Kyle Roberts, provides excellent materials, guest speakers, and discussions. By special arrangement, the final project includes writing a grant proposal to the Kern Family Foundation on behalf of your church. Students will receive coaching in the grant-writing process directly from Kern Family Foundation staff. Successful applicants will receive up to \$20,000/grant and will be invited to become part of the Kern Pastors Network.

Books

Tim Keller, *Every Good Endeavor* (240 pp)

Michael Novak, *The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism* (440 pp)

EITHER Steve Garber, *Visions of Vocation* (230 pp) **or** Amy Sherman, *Kingdom Calling: Vocational Stewardship for the Common Good* (250 pp)

EITHER Bill Healey, *The Gift of Work: Spiritual Disciplines for the Workplace* (155 pp) **or** Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, *All You Who Labor: Work and the Sanctification of Daily Life* (170 pp)

http://www.amazon.com/All-You-Who-Labor-Sanctification/dp/0918477263/ref=sr_sp-atf_title_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1393192321&sr=8-1&keywords=cardinal+work+sanctification. The latter is out of print, but many cheap used copies are available online. I find the latter (Wyszynski) to be particularly strong. The author was a mentor of Pope John Paul II. The theological mindset is Catholic, but there is plenty of good practical stuff here for a Protestant reader.

David Miller, *God at Work: The History and Promise of the Faith at Work Movement* (210 pp)

Tom Nelson, *Work Matters: Connecting Sunday Worship to Monday Work* (205 pp)

Forum postings

Each student is expected to participate in the weekly on-line forums in an informed and constructive manner. Note the following guidelines on frequency, length and schedule.

Frequency: In the 21 days before the intensive week, each student is expected to write one thoughtful reflection on each *book* read in preparation for each of the five days of the intensive. The schedule is listed below, and precise readings, etc., are all listed under the five days of the intensive, below. Your post can integrate material from the shorter readings, videos, or podcasts, but the focus of your reflection should be the full-length book you have read for each of the five topic areas. In addition, each student should write at least two (equally-thoughtful) secondary responses to a post by some other member(s) of the class.

Length: Posts should always be written in sentence form. Normally they will be from 100 to 200 words in length.

Based on students' performance in posting on each topic, each student will be asked to help lead discussion in-class on one or more reading

Work load

These courses are 115 hrs/term. Summer term comprises 115 hrs covering the pre-reading plus our 5 (4.5)-day intensive. Fall term comprises 115 hrs for the paper plus the grant writing project.

Here's how the hours for summer term have been calculated (see below for detailed accounting of prep work): We'll count the 4.5 day of the intensive as 27 hrs (6+6+6+6+3). That leaves 88 hrs for pre-intensive prep activities: reading, viewing, listening, browsing, and forum posting. Reading has been calculated here using a "normal" reading rate of 30 pp/hr. Some materials will read faster and some slower. Forum posting is assumed to take 1.5 hrs per topic – 1 hr for the initial post and 30 mins for the responses. As you'll see below, we've actually come in below our 88 hrs.

Prep time by day

N.B.: Attend carefully to the hours required and the posting dates – this will be a full schedule to get it all in before intensives. If you start to fall behind and must prioritize, reading is Priority One, but note that full participation in the course includes all of this prep work. For exact information on what to read, listen to, view, and browse, see below under the five topical days of the intensive week.

For Day 1:

9 hrs reading, 1.25 hrs listening, 4 hrs browsing, 1.5 hrs posting = 15.75 hrs

Day 1 post due Jun 5 (all posts and responses due 11:59 pm on the day indicated); Day 1 responses due Jun 7

For Day 2:

18 hrs reading, .5 hr viewing, 2 hr browsing, 1.5 hrs posting = 22 hrs

Day 2 post due Jun 10; Day 2 responses due Jun 12

For Day 3:

15 hrs reading, 4 hrs browsing, 1.5 hrs posting = 20.5 hrs

Day 3 post due Jun 14; Day 3 responses due Jun 16

For Day 4:

7.25 hrs reading, 4 hrs browsing, 1.5 hrs posting = 12.75 hrs

Day 4 post due Jun 17; Day 4 responses due Jun 19

For Day 5:

7 hrs reading, 1 hr viewing, 1.25 hrs listening, 4 hrs browsing, 1.5 hrs posting = 14.75 hrs

Day 5 post due Jun 20; Day 5 responses due Jun 22

Total prep

85.75 hrs

Intensive, with prep assignments indicated for each session

Intensive week runs 6/23/14 through 6/27/14. **All prep must be completed in the 21 days prior to the intensive week, including reading, viewing, listening, browsing, and posting. Exception: brief videos will be viewed in class, and so can be skipped.**

Day 1: Word and Work (The Narrative)

Tying the whole narrative of God's work, from creation through new creation, to our work

READ: Tim Keller, *Every Good Endeavor*, pp. 11 – 251 (240 pp)

[To be summarized in class: Darrell Cosden, *The Heavenly Good of Earthly Work* (150 pp)]

READ: John Jefferson Davis, "Will there be *new* work in the New Creation?" posted to Moodle (19 pp)

VIEW (in class): Andy Crouch <http://www.qideas.org/video/power.aspx> (18 mins)

LISTEN: Audio & PowerPoints: Three short talks by Paul Ferris, Jeannine Brown, and Kyle Roberts from MISSION:WORK conference. Work in the OT, NT, and Christian theology. Download "Breakout 1: Biblical/theological": <https://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/work-matters/id613659832?mt=10> (72 mins) PowerPoints posted on Moodle

BROWSE: church-based Bethel Work with Purpose faith-work curriculum posted to Moodle

BROWSE: "Word and Work" section of MISSION:WORK Patheos channel.

Day 2: The Big Picture (The discourse/public debate on capitalism)

Strengths, weaknesses, and theologically based discussion of our economic system (democratic capitalism)

READ: Michael Novak, *The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism* (440 pp)

READ: Economic wisdom project <http://www.oikonomianetwork.org/Resources/EWP.aspx> (25 pp) Focus especially on the Five Pathways to Pastoral Application, pp. 14 – 31. Review and think about the questions at the end of each of the brief pathway descriptions.

VIEW in class: 5-minute Hans Rosling video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbkSRLYSojo>.

VIEW in advance: Paired talks by Wheaton economist P J Hill and Chris Armstrong at ETS 2013: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nC8q2zpaRno&list=PL98bSNAG4IO_HgYAj3EaDrCxf2vqN_WwK&index=1 (34.5 minutes)

BROWSE: “The Big Picture” section of MISSION:WORK Patheos channel.

Finally, once you have finished Novak, READ two or more of the following articles from the ATLA religion database (avg 20 pp) – browse first, then identify two for thorough reading:

The dilemma of traditional and 21st century **pastoral** ministry: ministering to families and communities faced with socio-**economic** pathologies:

<http://web.a.ebscohost.com.ezproxy.bethel.edu/ehost/detail?vid=5&sid=bef246f0-d6e0-409a-b62f-d609634b9e0b%40sessionmgr4002&hid=4114&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWZvc3QtbGI2ZSZzY29wZT1zaXRI#db=rfh&AN=ATLA0001864333>

Practicing the justice of God:

<http://ezproxy.bethel.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rfh&AN=ATLA0001809662&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

A decade after "Economic justice for all": continuing principles, changing context, new challenges: a pastoral message on the tenth anniversary of the economic pastoral:

<http://ezproxy.bethel.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rfh&AN=ATLA0001706386&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

Pastoral care in time of global market capitalism:

<http://ezproxy.bethel.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rfh&AN=ATLA0001451773&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

Pastoral hermeneutics and the challenge of a global economy: care to the living human web:

<http://web.a.ebscohost.com.ezproxy.bethel.edu/ehost/detail?vid=6&sid=bef246f0-d6e0-409a-b62f-d609634b9e0b%40sessionmgr4002&hid=4114&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWZvc3QtbGI2ZSZzY29wZT1zaXRI#db=rfh&AN=ATLA0001418564>

The ethical heresies of the neoconservatives:

<http://ezproxy.bethel.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rfh&AN=ATLA0000792054&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

Poverty and prosperity in global economics : making sense of conflicting claims.

<http://ezproxy.bethel.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rh&AN=ATLA0001198552&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

<http://ezproxy.bethel.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rh&AN=ATLA0001783441&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

Profits without honour? Economics, theology and the current global recession:

<http://ezproxy.bethel.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rh&AN=ATLA0000994719&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

Global Capitalism: The New Context of Christian Social Ethics:

<http://ezproxy.bethel.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rh&AN=ATLA0001198552&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

On the edge: living with global capitalism:

<http://ezproxy.bethel.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rh&AN=ATLA0001646149&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

A Global Market--A Catholic Church : The New Political (Ir)Realism:

<http://ezproxy.bethel.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rh&AN=ATLA0000902141&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

Day 3: Living our Labor

Vocation, discipleship & character dimensions of work, pastoral care to workers

Vocation

READ Chris Armstrong, "Refocused Vocation," *Leadership Journal*

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/2013/winter/refocused-vocation.html>. Sets up the history of how the church has seen work, while dismissing a myth or two about the early and medieval periods. This gets to the question of how we gauge the meaning of our own individual work. (6 pp)

READ William Messenger, "Vocation" overview article <http://www.theologyofwork.org/key-topics/vocation-overview-article/>, (20 pp)

READ Gordon Preece, "Vocation in Historical-Theological Perspective,"

<http://www.theologyofwork.org/auxiliary-pages/vocation-depth-article>, 20 pp

READ **either** Steve Garber's new book *Visions of Vocation* (230 pp) **or** Amy Sherman, *Kingdom Calling: Vocational Stewardship for the Common Good* (250 pp)

Character and spiritual formation in our work

This links back to Day 2: Dallas Willard on the kinds of virtues and fruit of the spirit church leaders owe it to their people and to the world to teach and inculcate in their congregations, for the *economic* good of society:

<http://www.oikonomianetwork.org/Newsletters/Archives/Apr13ArchivePage/Apr13WillardonWisdom.a>

[spx](#). The podcasts are not great quality, and hover near an hour each (I think), but the outline itself and the few quotes provided at the link above are useful even without the podcasts

READ Bill Healey, *The Gift of Work: Spiritual Disciplines for the Workplace* (155 pp) OR Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński, *All You Who Labor: Work and the Sanctification of Daily Life* (170 pp)

http://www.amazon.com/All-You-Who-Labor-Sanctification/dp/0918477263/ref=sr_sp-atf_title_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1393192321&sr=8-1&keywords=cardinal+work+sanctification.

BROWSE: “Living our Labor” section of MISSION:WORK Patheos channel.

BROWSE: “Spiritual Formation for Work” topic on www.theologyofwork.org (search box under “topics” – many articles to choose from).

WATCH the three 2-minute videos linked here <http://www.thehighcalling.org/video/work/dylan-weston-ranch-hand-and-wrangler#.UxSjSfk7um5>. The second and third will appear once you’ve watched the first. These capture reflections on faith & work by a ranch hand/wrangler, a machinist, and a chocolatier.

Day 4: Church and workers

Failures, successes, and principles of church involvement in faith/work integration for their congregants, and in economic issues and efforts (e.g. social-entrepreneurial, access/training for work)

WATCH in class: Video of O.N. members filmed at Grohmann Museum (brief, 11 minutes or so), setting up why the church should attend to this: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHdhofAWQyA>.

READ: Chris Armstrong, “The Other 100,000 Hours” and “Theology for Workers,” *InTrust*: <http://www.theologyofwork.org/resources/the-other-100000-hours/>. Honesty about failures of the church in this area – suggestions for church and seminary initiatives to do better. (7 pp)

READ: David Miller, *God at Work: The History and Promise of the Faith at Work Movement* (210 pp) frames the history of faith & work movement/s in America). Can also follow along with the 164-slide PowerPoint summary of the book created by Dr. Armstrong and posted on Moodle, culminating in the last 10 slides on a “strategy for training clergy” to prepare them to address issues of faith and work with their congregants.

BROWSE: Search on “Equipping Church” at www.theologyofwork.com and browse the material there, writing a brief reflection on what you find. Also consider the practical suggestions made by Miller in his book – especially

BROWSE: “Church and workers” section of MISSION:WORK Patheos channel.

Day 5: Brass tacks

With a lean toward discussing actual experiences of, and initiatives in, a variety of churches – a launching pad for Kern grant proposals

READ: Tom Nelson, *Work Matters: Connecting Sunday Worship to Monday Work* (205 pp)

READ: Review Amy Sherman's stories from *Kingdom Calling* (if you read that earlier)

VIEW: Video of Tom Nelson from lunch event in 2013 sponsored by Bethel Work with Purpose:
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/work-matters/id613659832?mt=10> (63 mins)

VIEW: Brief video of Tom Nelson in conversation, describing some things to do in church to support faith-work integration (5.5 minutes)

LISTEN: Audio of "church-based" breakout session from MISSION:WORK, with Amy Sherman, Joel Johnson, and Daniel Harrell. Available at this page, labeled "Breakout 3: Church-based Panel":
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/work-matters/id613659832?mt=10> (72 mins)

BROWSE Resources posted on Moodle – may include materials from the Kern Pastors Network, including Dr. Armstrong's talk at Bethel before the MISSION:WORK conference this past October and printed copy and/or audio of Tom Nelson's and Dr Armstrong's talks for Fred and KPN here at a Twin Cities meeting.

BROWSE Kern Pastors Network "resources" pages: <http://www.kernpastorsnetwork.org/resources>.

Final project is dual: a paper, and a grant proposal

Paper

Each student will write a 20- to 25-page (excluding notes and bibliography) research paper on an aspect of the topics covered during the course. This paper may or may not relate directly to the grant-writing project (second half of the final project, described below). 20 to 25 pp = 60 - 75 hrs

Grant-writing project

The course intensive will run 6/23/14 through 6/27/14. On the fifth day of the intensive, we will meet via videoconference with Fred Oaks and Drew Cleveland of the Kern Family Foundation to hear an intro to the Kern Family Foundation, its funding priorities, the Kern Pastors Network, and the grant program, and to help us begin to visualize what a good grant proposal will look like.

After the end of intensives, there will be three checkpoints on this project:

At POINT A, we will ask students to hand in to us at least the germ of a grant idea, if not an outline. This will be at least a couple of weeks after intensives (date to be negotiated with the group).

Then sometime perhaps a few weeks after that (POINT B), Fred and Drew have offered to host a second videoconference for our students. For this one, which we can schedule using Doodle, students don't need to be together in one room and it doesn't have to be mandatory. The goal for this session is to "workshop" the grant proposals in progress, to further help each student write the best possible grant proposal. At least one week before the call, the Kern team will email participants copies or summaries of successful grant proposals for their confidential use. Kern Pastors Jeremy Lind and Nate Gustafson will be on the call and describe how they developed their successful proposals and what they learned, or are learning, during the implementation phase.

At POINT C, at or near the end of the Fall term (early Dec?), proposals will be due to KFF. The proposal is half of the final project. Proposal amounts will be up to \$20,000. Pastors whose churches develop successful proposals, and implement them well, will be expected to share all project artifacts (sermons, curricula, etc.) with KFF to share at our discretion with KPN. These pastors may be invited to join the KPN.

Total time for grant-writing project: 40 – 55 hrs.

From Fred Oaks of the Kern Pastors Network:

1. We will provide a document for inclusion in the course syllabus. The document will describe the basics of the FWE grants initiative and provide an overview of the process for writing a strong proposal.