

Do not purchase your books. They will be provided for the class at no cost to the student. Students can pick up their free books from the following location anytime: Stealey Hall, EVPO Office, 2nd Floor, Room 209.

Doctrine of Vocation

THE6960

Professors:

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Mission Statement:

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary seeks to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by equipping students to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission.

Core Competencies:

To equip students to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission, the Southeastern Faculty build curricula and courses, drawing upon the great tradition of Christian orthodoxy and our Baptist heritage, to develop the following core competencies so that Southeastern graduates:

Spiritual Formation

Demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue an authentically Christian way of life, manifested by trust in God, obedience to Christ's commands, and love of God and neighbor.

Biblical Exposition

Demonstrate the ability to properly and effectively interpret, apply, and communicate the Scriptures.

Theological Integration

Demonstrate the ability to understand and apply the doctrines of Christianity to life and ministry.

Ministry Preparation

Demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and Christian disposition necessary for ministry and leadership in the church and the world.

Critical Thinking and Communication

Demonstrate the ability to think critically, argue persuasively, and communicate clearly.
We strive to do all of this while cultivating in students a delight in God, His Word, and His Church.

Core Competency Addressed:

Spiritual Formation
Biblical Exposition
Theological Integration
Ministry Preparation

Course Description

This course explores how the biblical narrative brings renewed meaning to work and the workplace. This class studies the dignity and difficulty experienced in the workplace, along with the eschatological significance of human vocation. This course combines theory and practice by integrating a rigorously biblical worldview into the daily experiences of the workplace. The course is designed to explore the mission and calling of work in both 'sacred' and 'secular' vocations as the work of Christian ministry.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Articulate the intersection between creation and vocation
2. Formulate a biblical theology of work.
3. Assess how work engenders human flourishing.
4. Explain the importance of biblical wisdom in vocation.
5. Engage work and the workplace as ministry.

Textbooks:

Keller, Timothy, *Every Good Endeavour*

Placher, William C., *Callings: Twenty Centuries of Christian Wisdom on Vocation*

Sevens, R. Paul, *Work Matters: Lessons from Scripture*

Whelchel, Hugh, *How then Should we Work*

Sherman, Amy L., *Kingdom Calling: Vocational Stewardship for the Common Good*

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Course Requirements:

In this three credit hour course, the professor expects each student to dedicate two hours outside of class for every hour in class a total of 112.5 hours (6,750 minutes) toward the mastery of the course content. The time is divided as follows:

- Work inside the classroom includes listening to lectures, taking notes, and interacting with the professor and other students comprises 37.5 hours (2,250 minutes).
- Work outside the classroom includes required reading, researching, analyzing and writing papers, preparing for and taking exams, and reviewing PowerPoint and lecture materials accounts for 75 hours (4,500 minutes).

Assignments

Reading

Integrative reading response questions from text books on Moodle.

Essays

1. Describe the intersection of vocation and creation 8 – 10 pgs.
2. Articulate a biblical theology of vocation 8 – 10 pgs.

Vocational Research Project, or Book Review

1. The vocational research project is required for the student to be eligible for an 'A' in the course. The written document is 12-15 pgs.

Assignment Description:

The student can conduct a 10 week vocation project, or write a formal research paper with at least 10 scholarly sources. Students are also free to explore other creative ideas that meet graduate level academic expectations in consultation with the professor(s).

2. If the student choose to completes a book review the highest grade they can earn is a 'B+'

Review one of the following books in 12-15 pgs.

- Nelson, Tom, *Work Matters: Connecting Sunday Worship to Monday Work*
- Garber, Steven, *Visions of Vocation: Common Grace for the Common Good*
- Volf, Miroslav, *Work in the Spirit: Toward a Theology of Work*
- Guinness, Os, *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life*
- Witterington III, Ben, *Work: A Kingdom Perspective on Labor*

Course Evaluation:

Summary

Essay #1	15%
Essay #2	15%
Research Project/Book Review	25%
Reading Response	25%
Attendance	20%

Grading Scale

A: 95 – 100
B: 87 – 94
C: 77 – 86
D: 70 – 76
F: Below 70

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
1	Goal and Def. of Vocation/Work	Whelchel, Chs. 1& 2	
2	History of Work	Whelchel, Chs. 3 & 4	
3	Where are we today?	Whelchel, Chs. 5 & 6	
4	OT and work	Stevens, Chs. 1-9	
5	NT and work	Stevens, Chs. 10-epilogue	

6	Putting it Together: A Theology of Work	Keller, Intro–Ch. 4	
7	Putting it Together: A Theology of Work	Keller, Chs. 5-8	
8	Putting it Together: A Theology of Work	Keller, Chs. 9-epilogue	
9	Where Vocation Meets Calling	<u>Placher:</u> -All Luther Readings -Calvin Reading -Dorothy Sayers Reading -Dorothy Sayers – “Why Work” (PDF on Moodle)	
10	Case Studies: Famers and Financiers	Sherman, Intro- Ch. 2 <u>Placher:</u> - <i>Sayings of the Desert Fathers</i> -Augustine	
11	Case Studies: Business and Education	Sherman, Chs. 3-5 <u>Placher:</u> -Bonaventure -Thomas Aquinas -Thomas A. Kempis	
12	Case Studies: Arts and Politics	Sherman, Chs. 6-8 <u>Placher:</u> -Perkins -Baxter -Winstanley -Wesley – <i>Sermon 51</i>	
13	Case Studies: Homemakers and Caretakers (medicine)	Sherman, Chs. 9-11 <u>Placher:</u> -Newman -Leo XIII -Webber	
14	Case Studies: The Church’s Role—Pastors and Missionaries	Sherman, Ch. 12- Conclusion <u>Placher:</u> -Bonhoeffer -Merton	
15	Recap and Conclusion		

Bibliography

- Badcock, Gary D., *The Way of Life: A Theology of Christian Vocation*
- Blackaby, Henry, *God in the Marketplace: 45 Questions Fortune 500 Ask about Faith, Life, and Business*
- Cosden, Darrell, *Heavenly Good of Early Work, The*
- DeKoster, Lester, *Work: The Meaning of your Life: A Christian Perspective*
- Garber, Steven, *Visions of Vocation Common Grace for the Common Good*
- Grudem, Wayne, *Business for the Glory of God: The Bible's Teaching on Moral Goodness in Business*
- Haughey II, John C. I., *Revisiting the Idea of Vocation (Theological Explorations)*
- Jensen, David H., *Responsive Labor: A Theology of Work*
- Keller, Timothy, *Every Good Endeavour*
- Miller, Darrow L., *LifeWork: A Biblical Theology for What you do Everyday*
- Nelson, Tom, *Work Matters: Connecting Sunday Worship to Monday Work*
- Nichols, Stephen, *What is Vocation (Basics of the Faith)*
- Placher, William C., *Callings: Twenty Centuries of Christian Wisdom on Vocation*
- Russell, Mark L., *Work as Worship: How CEOs Bring Meaning to their World*
- Ryken, Leland, *Work and Leisure in Christian Perspective*
- Schuurman, Douglas J., *Vocation: Discerning Our Calling in Life*
- Sherman, Amy L. *Kingdom Calling: Vocational Stewardship for the Common Good*
- Smith, Nancy R., *Workplace Spirituality: A Complete Guide for Business Leaders*
- Stevens, R. Paul, *Doing God's Business: Meaning and Motivation for the Marketplace*
- _____, *Satisfying Work: Christian Living from Nine to Five*
- _____, *The Other Six Days: Vocation, Work, and Ministry Biblical Perspective*
- _____, *Taking Your Soul to Work: Overcoming the Nine Deadly Sins in the Workplace*
- _____, *Work Matters: Lessons from Scripture*
- Van Duzer, Jeff, *Why Business Matters to God*
- Veith, Jr., Gene Edward, *God at Work: Your Christian Vocation in All of Life*
- Volf, Miroslav, *Work in the Spirit: Toward a Theology of Work*
- Whelchel, Hugh, *How then Should We Work?: Rediscovering the Biblical Doctrine of Work*
- Williams, Hendricks, *Your Work Matters to God*
- Wingren, Gustaf, *Luther on Vocation*
- Witherington III, Ben, *Work: A Kingdom Perspective on Labor*
- Wong, Kenman L., *Business for the Common Good: A Christian Vision for the Workplace*