

Sioux Falls Seminary

IC 531 Faith, Business, Money

Instructor: SFS Faculty
Dr. Nathan Hitchcock (lead instructor) Phone: 605.274.2783

Semester: Spring 2014
Thursday, 6:00-8:50pm E-mail: nhitchcock@sfseminary.edu

Credit Hours: 3

We equip servant leaders who engage the mission of Jesus Christ.

Course Description

Business and money are serious matters to God. This interdisciplinary course lays a biblical-theological foundation for economics in order to examine cultural issues and design an innovative Christian business plan. Students will discover ways to connect their Sunday and Monday lives.

Course Objectives

Identity

- The student comes to see his or her own work, whether in the church or in the world, as a holy vocation.

Intellect

- The student can articulate a holistic biblical theology of work and wealth.
- The student can appreciate and critique various human economies.

Integration

- The student is able to draw up a business plan to implement an innovative Christian ministry in his or her own mission field.

Required Course Textbooks

- Kenman L. Wong and Scott B. Rae, *Business for the Common Good: A Christian Vision for the Marketplace* (Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011). ISBN: 978-0-8308-2816-6.
- Craig L. Blomberg, *Neither Poverty nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999). ISBN: 978-0-8308-2607-0.
- Robert D. Lupton, *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (and How to Reverse It)* (New York: HarperOne, 2011). ISBN: 978-0-06-207621-2.

Please do not purchase an electronic version of the book unless you are certain its page numbers correspond exactly with the print version.

Students are required to read assorted digital documents linked to the Moodle site.

Course Requirements:

Engagement: Students are expected to engage the content of this class. They are to read every assignment before class, take thorough lecture notes, and engage in prescribed group activities. Everyone is required to be subscribed to Moodle, the seminary's online platform: <http://moodle.sfseminary.edu>. There one will be able to see weekly assignments, contribute to forums, and access materials. Before the first class the lead professor will send all students a key code to access the course on Moodle.

In-class conduct: The lead professor will keep a record of in-class attendance. Absences and tardiness, as well as failure to converse in class, result in a diminished participation score. Students absent from a local class session are still responsible for the material. **Use of cell phones and other communication devices is not permitted in the classroom.** A student must turn them off (not to vibrate) while in class. If a student chooses to answer a call in the middle of a session, the professor may ask him or her to leave the class for the day. If a student anticipates an emergency call, he or she must speak with the professor beforehand.

Writing style for papers. Students are expected to be familiar with the Sioux Falls Seminary handbook for style: <http://sfseminary.edu/assets/users/general/2013WritingGuide.pdf>. Due to the nature of the Moodle forums, paragraph breaks should be done with a line break, and citations should be put in parentheses.

Contacting the professor. Please contact Dr. Hitchcock or other faculty person by email first. In the case of a pressing matter, a student may reach the professor at his or her office phone. While the professor can provide additional assistance with class content, all matters concerning disability services must be addressed formally through Brenda Medalen in the administrative offices.

Course Grading Criteria

Class Participation: 20% One's attendance, analysis, and level of group interaction will be taken into account for this score.

Reflection Forums: 50% Ten forums will gauge one's competency in processing the material. These forums are formal responses to the prompt, written like short essays (though informal interaction after the initial post is also welcomed, and may help a student's score). Forums should show evidence of reading and lecture comprehension, as well as an analysis of the

issues at hand. The first five reflection forums will be graded by the lead professor half way through the semester.

Innovation Project: 30% Each student will design and present an innovative project, demonstrating specific economic problem-solving informed by a Christian worldview.

Calculation of Grade: The lead professor will use a point system (1000 total over the semester), and assign final grades based on the following percentile scale:

93-100	90-92	88-89	83-87	80-82	78-79	73-77	70-72	68-69	63-67	60-62	<60
A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F

Course Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Instructor
1	2/6	Introduction/ Defining Economics/EWP	Hitchcock
2	2/13	Vocation	Reese
3	2/20	Innovative Solutions I	Van Zee/Watley
4	2/27	Innovative Solutions II	Van Zee/Watley
5	3/6	OT and Money	Carpenter
6	3/13	READING WEEK	
7	3/20	NT and Money	Rainbow
8	3/27	Theology of Work: Creation	Hitchcock
9	4/3	Theology of Work: Eschaton	Hitchcock
10	4/10	The Church and Pre-modern Economies	Thompson
11	4/17	The Church and Modern Economies	TBA
12	4/24	READING WEEK	
13	5/1	The Church and Non-western Economies	Caldwell
14	5/8	The Pastor and Economic Issues	Sisk/Helling
15	5/15	Innovative Solutions III	Van Zee/Watley
16	5/22	Project Presentations	Van Zee/Watley

Important Seminary Guidelines

Guidelines for student conduct, procedures and rights may be found in the Student Handbook. Especially important is the school policy regarding plagiarism and cheating:

Sioux Falls Seminary takes seriously the problems of plagiarism and cheating. In the case of suspected plagiarism on class papers and term papers, the individual professor shall

be responsible to decide whether there is a case of carelessness in acknowledging sources or actual plagiarism. If he/she feels there is plagiarism, he/she will report to the Academic Vice President and Dean. The consequences may range from rejection of the paper to dismissal from the class. Subsequent proven or admitted cases of plagiarism in the same or other classes will be considered grounds for dismissal from the Seminary with the decision being made by the faculty. Copying, cribbing, or otherwise cheating on examinations shall be treated in the same manner and with the same consequences as plagiarism. . . . A definition of plagiarism is the use of another author's research, ideas, or language without proper attribution. In a word, plagiarism is intellectual theft. There are many shades of accidental or intentional plagiarism that color the whole picture. Students should avoid any hint of dishonesty by maintaining good research habits and paying attention to basic rules of writing and documentation. Carefully distinguish between your ideas and the ideas of others. Give credit where credit is due.

Note: As a part of the seminary's ongoing assessment of the Master of Divinity curriculum, specific assignments within this course may be rendered anonymous and juried by qualified individuals to determine the degree to which the seminary is achieving its goals for this course.