

Nazarene Theological Seminary/Bresee Institute
Syllabus: URB790 and THE790 Theology of Work
3 credit units

Professor of Record: Fletcher L Tink, Ph.D

Contact Info:

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Class –Session Date: Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 10:00, beginning Feb. 3rd until March 31st
 Exception: Tuesday, March 10: 9-9, Extended Field Trips

Course Location: Nazarene Theological Seminary
 Rm 124
 1700 E Meyer Blvd
 Kansas City, MO 64131

Due Dates: Two textbooks to be completed February 17th
 All project papers and reports due by April 22, 2009

Biography of Professor of Record:

Dr Tink is adjunct professor of urban/compassionate ministries at Nazarene Theological Seminary, is academic dean of Rescue College, and part-time faculty of the Bakke Graduate University of Ministry. He has taught undergraduate and graduate courses since 1980 at ten different institutions and in 31 countries. Born in Canada, raised in Scotland and England, then Canada again, he is a graduate of Eastern Nazarene College, holds Masters degrees from Nazarene Theological Seminary, Luther Theological Seminary, Harvard University and Fuller Theological Seminary, this latter school where he earned his Ph.D. in the School for Intercultural Studies.

He has served in pastoral responsibilities in Kansas City, MO., Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Washington, DC, and Cambridge, MA. He also worked as a social worker for the United States Peace Corps in Brasilia, Brazil where he supervised programs in the Federal District Penitentiary. Later, he served as church planter and missionary for the Church of the Nazarene in Bolivia.

Currently he is the executive director of the Bresee Institute for Metro-Ministries. Earlier, he co-founded the Bresee Institute for Urban Training in Los Angeles, and the School for Urban Mission in Washington, DC. The current Bresee Institute in Kansas City supervises programs of rehabilitation for prisoners at Leavenworth Penitentiary, produces curriculum for Nazarene Compassionate Ministries and resources urban/compassionate ministries education for Nazarene Theological Seminary. He writes extensively on urban and compassionate ministry themes published in a variety of journals, magazines and books.

He is married to Dr Joyce Tombran-Tink, a molecular biologist, serving on the faculty of Penn State University and is father of four children, the youngest, Ryan, age 17, his remaining major project.

Dr Tink seeks to balance a variety of positions and assignments as teacher, speaker, writer, and family man, always trying to thread the Gospel through the activities and encounters that his diverse life throws at him. In the past year, he will have traveled to the Philippines, Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Nicaragua, Mexico, Cuba, Britain, Ethiopia and China on a variety of assignments and is scheduled to teach the Theology of Work in the Philippines, Costa Rica and India over the next several months.

Prerequisites: None

Course Description:

It has become apparent that most efforts of organized Christianity have failed significantly to transform cities into “the city on a hill” that radiates its shalom to those around. Institutionalized Christian has often created barriers that have excluded people rather than ministering to them. “Professional” Christianity has created classes of Christians that, by default, have excluded secularizing masses. In recognizing this, Post World War II urban missionary groups, often led by lay ministers, such Youth with a Mission, Navigators and Young Life have targeted neglected niches of society.

What has resulted is a deep chasm between “religion” on Sunday morning and the marketplace on Monday, with little carryover between the two. Christian laity finds itself consoled by religious inspiration on Sundays without integration into their workaday world. The result relegates lay people to second-class citizenship, where the “creative mandate” is considered inferior or irrelevant to the “redemptive mandate.”

This seminar is an antidote to this thinking, by providing theological, historical and practical underpinnings that disarm this unfortunate bifurcation. It will help the student. . .

- See both mandates (creative and redemptive) as equally important, mutually supportive and integrative
- Understand and practice a “theology of work” informed by perspective and passages in Scripture
- Correct theological misunderstandings pertaining to the role of lay Christianity
- Understand the importance of “vocation” as opposed to just “holding a job”
- See the various ways in which Christian history has used vocation for Christian ministry
- Evaluate one’s own calling and how it relates to Christian mission in the City
- Examine contemporary examples of church planting, evangelism, discipleship and community transformation through vocational commitments
- Understand the role of “systems” in the City and one’s mission to these systems
- Appreciate a variety of roles in vocation and to work in harmony with these
- Network and exchange gifts in the relationship encountered within the seminar experience
- Expose him/herself to hands-on case studies both in Kansas City and in individual ministry contexts

Instructional Methodology

The faculty and lecturers will provide in-class presentations, assign book reviews, prescribe the final course project, offer guided field experiences, case studies, multi-media presentations, peer group discussions.

Course Objectives:

Upon successfully completing this seminar, students should be able to . . .

- Identify what their calling or vocation might be
- Understand how their calling or vocation might leverage ministry
- Know where to go to find support structures and resources for their vocation in ministry
- Understand the complexities, frustrations and possibilities that will accompany their ministry in vocation
- Train lay people to discover their gifting and role in extending the Kingdom of God into their professional worlds
- Show an ability to replicate the seminar to other audiences

Pre-Class Session Requirements:

1. The Masters level students are expected to read 1,500 pages for this seminar, with two required books read prior to the third class meeting: **Joy at Work** by Dennis Bakke and **The Other Six Days: Vocation, Work and Ministry in Biblical Perspective** by R Paul Stevens. A three page review should be read from Stevens' book with equal space devoted to 1. Overview, 2. Critique, 3. Personal Application. All will read the Dennis Bakke text. A book review does not need to be written on the Bakke text but will count towards the 1,500 required pages.
2. Each student will submit a two page description of what he/she understands to be his/her vocation, and how that vocation impacts the quality of life within the Kingdom of God. Prior experiences may be included. This assignment will be due in written form on February 10.

In Class Requirements:

1. On March 31st, the student will provide an evaluation paper that reflects what one has learned and fulfilled anticipations from course learning objectives. The student will assign a grade for his/her learning and effort. This should be 3 pages long.

Post-Class Session Requirements: Due by April 22, 2009

1. A written journal of the seminar's process and activities, including ideas, events, presentations, field visits, case studies. The journal should include, on the left side, the content and description of the experience, and on the right side, evaluation, critique, integration, follow-up questions, etc.
2. A report of the 1,500 pages read, indicating source, title, author, and pages of each component. Students are encouraged to research journal, web pages, power points, film media, to construct their personal file of materials presented here.
3. An additional review of one book, following the outline given above.
4. A seminar project which requires participants to design, implement, evaluate and report on some aspect of a "Theology of Work." Ideas will be suggested in class. The paper should be 15-20 pages long. Those taking the course for Theology should bend their research topic in that direction.

Grading:

Course Participation	10%
Reading and Book Reviews	25%
Course Journal	25%
Project/Paper	25%
Self-Description of Vocation	5%
Personal Evaluation	10%

Required Reading:

Bakke, Dennis, ***Joy at Work: A Revolutionary Approach to Fun on the Job.*** PVG Press. 2006. 312 pages. ISBN #978-0976268642

Stevens, R Paul, ***The Other Six Days: Vocation, Work, and Ministry in Biblical Perspective.*** Eerdmans. 2000. ISBN #978-0802848000

Recommended Reading:

Banks, Robert. ***Redeeming the Routines: Bringing Theology to Life.*** Baker Academic. 1993. 188 pages, ISBN #978-0801021169

Dupree, Max. ***Leadership is an Art.*** Doubleday. 2004. 178 pages. ISBN #978-038551265

Linthicum, Robert C. *Building a People of Power*. 2006. 348 pages. ISBN 978-1932805512

Selected Bibliography:

See accompanying document

Class Seminars and Lecture Topics

Weeks One and Two

1. Theological Foundations of Work as Empowerment
 - The Triune God at Work
 - The People of God and their Activity
 - Missio Dei: God at Work
 - Concepts of Ministry: Rehabilitative, Creative, Confrontative
 - Biblical Lay Leadership: Rejects, Renegades and Revolutionaries
 - The Body: The Nature of Community
 - The Spirit: Working Outside of the Box
 - Leadership: Where You Least Expect It

Weeks Three and Four

2. Theologically Guided Strategies of Work as Empowerment
 - The Systems of the City
 - Systemic Evil and Understanding Resistance--- The Powers
 - Models of Equipping for the Gathered Life
 - Models of Equipping for the Dispersed Life
 - Special Guest

Week Five

3. The Church and the Workplace
 - Whose Work Matters to God?
 - Calling and Vocation
 - Issues Faced by Workplace Christians: Globalization, Ethics
 - Spiritual Disciplines for the Marketplace
 - The Ministry of Vocational Discernment
 - Reconnecting Sunday and Monday
 - Special Guest

Week Six, March 10 (9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)

4. Field Visits throughout the Day
 - Debriefing

Week Seven

5. The Spirituality of Work as Empowerment
 - Leadership as a Spiritual Discipline
 - Spiritual Disciplines for Leaders:
 - Passages: Fernandes Seven Stages
 - Creativity and Entrepreneurship
 - Special Guest

Week Eight

6. Issues for Spiritual Formation: Power, Success, Change
 - Finishing Well
 - Integration, Feedback, Reflection