



Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/268-5400

URB/THE 790: Theology of Work

Fall, 2011

Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available in the Essential Information section at <http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose Degree Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *Handbook for Inclusive Language*

Instructor Information

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Catalog 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 leaders, 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 with little integration of faith 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 in local contexts.

Course Narrative & Rationale

Theology of Work at NTS has been subsidized heavily by the Mustard Seed Foundation (now at \$450 a student) when the student has completed the course successfully. It is catalogued both as an urban and a theology course, for which the student must select one or the other listing at the time of registration. There are no specific pre-requisites required, though a basis in theology is helpful. Obviously, the requirements for “theology” credit will be weighted much more in the assignments, as theological study.

This is a course that encourages the participation of “lay” persons, or people invested in business or non-clerical occupations as it enjoins them to see their work equally as “mission” as the work of professional ministers and missionaries. It also will engage “tent-makers”, and persons assigned in non-traditional missionary roles.

One feature of the seminar will be the requirement to visit various local of Christian business-people who see themselves as transformative agents within their context of influence.

This course, the first time online, is scheduled to run through the 14 week semester during the fall of 2011.

A variety of teaching devices will be used including lecture, DVDs, interviews and PowerPoints.

Degree Objectives

This course will serve to address parts of the M.Div. Degree Objectives specifically:

Objective 1 - Mature knowledge of God and self, attained through practices of Christian formation and personal discipline

Objective 5 - Understanding of local and global diversity through the investigation of cultural contexts, to enable the Church to proclaim effectively and to embody the mission of God

Course Outcomes

The following outcomes are programmed into the requirements and will serve to . . .

1. Identify what one's calling or vocation might be, as seen at the beginning of the course, and at the end. *This will be measured by Assignment #1 (Vocation Paper) and Assignment #6 (Evaluation Paper).*
2. Understand how one's calling or vocation might leverage ministry. *This will be measured by Assignment #6 (Evaluation Paper) and Assignment #8 (Seminar Project)*
3. Know where to go to find support structures and resources for one's vocation in ministry. *This will be measured by Assignment #2 (Reading Requirement), by Assignment #3 (Reading Reviews), by Assignment #4 (Reading Report), by Assignment #5 (Field Visits), Assignment #8 (Seminar Project).*
4. Understand the complexities, frustrations and possibilities that will accompany one's ministry in vocation. *This will be measured by Assignment #2 (Reading Requirement) Assignment #3 (Reading Review), Assignment #5 (Field Visits), Assignment #6 (Evaluation Paper), and Assignment #8 (Seminar Project).*
5. Train lay people to discover their gifting and role in extending the Kingdom of God into their professional worlds. *This will be measured by Assignment #6 (Evaluation Paper), Assignment #8 (Seminar Project) and Assignment #9 (Final Exam)*
6. Show an ability to replicate the seminar to other audiences. *This will be measured by Assignment #6 (Evaluation Paper), Assignment #13 (Seminar Project) and Assignment #14 (Final Exam)*

Required Texts & Course Materials

Bakke, Dennis, ***Joy at Work: A Revolutionary Approach to Fun on the Job.*** PVG Press. 2006. 312 pages. ISBN #978-0976268642. \$10.17

Beckett, John D, ***Loving Monday: Succeeding in Business without Selling Your Soul.*** IVP Books. 2006. 198 pages. ISBN #978-0-8308-3390-0. \$10.20

Stevens, R Paul, ***The Other Six Days: Vocation, Work, and Ministry in Biblical Perspective.***Eerdmanns. 2000. 289 pages. ISBN #978-0802848000. \$21.06

Recommended Texts & Course Materials

Banks, Robert and William A Dyrness.***Redeeming the Routines: Bringing Theology to Life.*** Baker Academic. 1993. 188 pages, ISBN #978-0801021169. \$20.00

Dupree, Max. ***Leadership is an Art.*** Broadway Business. 2004. 178 pages. ISBN #978-038551265. \$10.85

Linthicum, Robert C. ***Building a People of Power.*** Authentic and World Vision. 2006. 348 pages. ISBN #978-1932805512. \$13.59

A lengthy bibliography and various other reading materials are loaded onto the Moodle course materials.

Course Outline

- Week #1:** Why a Theology of Work? Joy at Work
- Week #2:** God at Work and Rest: A Trinitarian Theology of Work
- Week #3:** Humankind: The Creating Creature
- Week #4:** What on Earth Happened and What Can We Do About It?
- Week #5:** Evil Destroys the Sacrament of Work in All Dimensions
- Week #6:** The Missional Calling of Israel: the Beginning of the Substantial Redemption of Work
- Week #7:** The Soul of Work and the Way of Wisdom
- Week #8:** The Futility of Work (Ecclesiastes)
- Week #9:** Developing a Kingdom Worldview: Jesus and Work
- Week #10:** The Anointed Worker: The Holy Spirit and Everyday Work
- Week #11:** Why and How to Work: The Apostolic Letters
- Week #12:** The Heavenly Good of Earthly Work
- Week #13:** Work Ethic
- Week #14:** Work and Calling

Course Assignments & Requirements

I. Vocation Paper: At the end of the first week of class, each student will submit a two page description of what he/she understands his/her vocation to be 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 via the Moodle format on Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. Central Time during the first week. Each student will be required to submit a posted response to another student's assignment by Sunday evening at 8:00 p.m. Choose a vocation paper that has not been broadly addressed by others. *This meets the partial requirements of Outcome #1*

2. Reading Requirement: Masters level students are expected to read 1,500 pages in the course of this seminar inclusive of all texts and posted reading assignments. However, the **Joy at Work** by Dennis Bakke read by Friday at 6:00 p.m. Central Time of the 2nd week. **The Other Six Days: Vocation, Work and Ministry in Biblical Perspective** by R Paul Stevens is to be read by Friday, 6:00 p.m. Central Time of the 4th week. And **Loving Monday: Succeeding in Business without Selling Your Soul** by John D Beckett is to be read by Sunday, 6 p.m. Central Time of the 6th week of class.

A broad variety of supplemental articles and resources will be available on the Moodle platform for this course. These should all be read contiguously for the lecture times given and reported as part of the reading report during the final week of the seminar. Each student should post a 50 or so word comment concerning one of the readings each week and send it to three students by Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. Central Time. *This meets the partial requirements of Outcome #3 and #4.*

3. Reading Reviews: A three page written review of both Stevens and Beckett texts will be posted on Moodle, with equal space devoted to: 1. Overview, 2. Critique, 3. Personal Application. Each student will be asked to post on the Moodle forum only the “Personal Application” section of their review of one of these three books within 24 hours of the deadlines given in the Reading Requirement for the book chosen. In turn, each student will respond with a meaningful post of a minimum of 50 words each to those review posts received even if your selected book for posting is not due. Please choose a post response not excessively responded to by others. *This meets the partial requirements of Outcomes #3 and #4.*

4. Reading Report: At 6:00 p.m. on Saturday of the 14th week, a report of the 1,500 pages read will be due, indicating source, title, author, and number of pages of each component. Students are encouraged to research journals, web pages, power points, film media, to construct their personal file of materials presented here. *This will meet partially the requirements of Outcome #3.*

5. Field Visits: Students will be required to visit the work site of at least three Christian workers and interview them concerning their “ministry” context at work. These may be business people, service providers, Christians ministering outside of the conventional Church context. These visits will take place by 6:00 p.m. Sunday at the end of the 5th, 8th and 11th weeks of the course. Each student shall be required to post a description of the visit indicating who, what, where and when related to the visit. This post will be shared with 3 students and should be offered with 48 hours of the visit. The post should answer the question: “In what way is Christian ministry communicated through the business or activity of this individual?” In turn, each student should respond to three of these field visit posts with reactions or commentary of at least 100 words. This response posting should take place within 48 hours of the initial posting or by Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. of the following week. *This meets in part Outcome #3*

6. Evaluation Paper: On Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. of the 14th week, the student will post an evaluation paper that reflects what one has learned and fulfilled anticipations from course learning objectives. This is an essential component required by Mustard Seed Foundation in a final professor’s report that will leverage the scholarship funds provided. This should be 2-3 pages long and ought to address both general and specific issues or ideas. The evaluation paper should include a self-grading score of A down through F, giving an honest rationale for why the student has so evaluated him or herself. This should be no longer than two to four sentences. *This meets partially Outcomes #1, #5 and #6.*

7. Letter to Mustard Seed Foundation: By Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m. of the 14th week, a letter addressed to Mustard Seed Foundation will be written and posted, thanking the financiers for the scholarship provided. *This meets partially Outcome #6.*

8. Seminar Project: A seminar project which requires participants to design, implement, evaluate and report on some aspect of a “Theology of Work.” Ideas will be suggested on the Moodle page. The paper should be 10-12 pages long and will be due on Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. of the 13th week. Those taking the course for Theology should bend their research topic in that direction with serious theological reflections and reading on a prearranged and approved basis. *This meets partially Outcomes #2, #3, #4, #5, and #6.*

9. Final Exam: There will be an “Objective” final exam administered, with True/False, Multiple Choice, Short Answers due by Sunday evening at 9:00 p.m. at the end of the 14th week. *This meets partially Outcomes #3, #4, #5 and #6.*

Additional Note:

Online Participation: Students are reminded of the following *minimum* requirements for online participation:

- Students are encouraged to read posts at least every other day.
- Students are required to write a quality post at least three days each week.
- A quality post is one that begins a new topic, critical reflection on another person's post, or one that moves the discussion in a new direction.

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

	hours
Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.	22
Reading	50
Writing	32
Other Assignments and Learning Activities	25
Exams & Quizzes, study time, etc.	5
TOTAL	134

Method for Submitting Assignments

All assignments for online courses will be submitted using the corresponding location within the Moodle course.

Form and Style Expectation

Assignments should be presented using the Moodle template, following consistent format that is easy to read, and conforms to any of the formal templates of acceptable written form. Footnotes or endnotes, appropriate bibliographic format, and title pages should be used. Accurate spelling and acceptable grammatical constructions are imperative. Author's name and course title should be included with every assignment.

Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams

Any assignment that is not turned in on the due date will be discounted in accordance to the reasons and context of the assignment. No grade will be deducted by more than a letter grade within 24 hours of the due date. However, all work must be turned in by December 15 to receive any grade. Materials turned in after that time, will be given failure grades.

Inclusive Language

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions,

and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

Course Grading

Vocational Paper	5%
Reading Requirement	5%
Reading Reviews	10%
Reading Report	5%
Online Participation and Interaction	15%
Field Visits and reports	15%
Evaluation Paper	5%
Self-Grading	3%
Letter Writing	2%
Seminar Project/Paper	20%
Final Exam	15%
Total	100%

If a student does not meet class participation standards in an online environment for four or more weeks, the professor may automatically fail the student.

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly, NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies that have been beneficial for the student in the past.

Course Calendar

Date	Week	Assignment
9-16	1	Each student will submit the vocational report this week
9-23 9-24	2	Joy at Work by Bakke to be read Book Review Submitted
	3	
10-7 10-8	4	The Other Six Days by Stevens to be read Book Review Submitted
10-16 10-18	5	Field Visit #1 to be Completed Field Visit Posted
10-21	6	Loving Monday by Beckett to be read

10-22		Book Review Submitted
	7	
11-13 11-15	8	Field Visit #2 to be Completed Field Visit Posted
	9	
	10	
11-27 11-29	11	Field Visit #3 to be Completed Field Visit Posted
	12	
12-11	13	Semester Projected to be Submitted
12-17 12-18	14	Reading Report, Mustard Seed Letter due Evaluation Paper, Semester Project due