



# Nazarene Theological Seminary

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

---

PRH790 — Preaching Faith at Work (Module)  
Spring 2012 (12/12/2011-3/16/2012)  
KC campus Jan 24- Feb 3; 8am-12:15pm

## ***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*

## ***Instructors Information***

Professor: Dan Boone

Email: [dboone@trevecca.edu](mailto:dboone@trevecca.edu)

Office: (615) 248.1251

Professor: Merritt Neilson

Email: [MJN@nph.com](mailto:MJN@nph.com)

Office: (816) 931-1900

## ***Catalog Description***

Problems of homiletics and the pastoral ministry. Repeat credit will be allowed for non-duplicated seminar subjects.

## ***Course Narrative & Rationale***

How do pastors raise up the importance of work as an aspect of Christian calling? Where do the laity hear that their daily lives in the workplace, alongside life in the family and community, represent a major arena for ongoing discipleship? This course explores the role of the preacher in lifting up the importance of work as an aspect of vocation (calling) in the lives of all Christians.

The course will use resources developed by several pastor's working on a "Labor's Day" project through the Kern Family Foundation. This project included several sermon series dedicated to

incorporating the workplace as a primary venue of Christian discipleship and its importance for the life of the church. The course is co-taught by two professors deeply aware of the necessity of identifying the workplace as a key component of the Christian life.

- Dan Boone completed a Bachelor of Arts from Trevecca Nazarene University in 1974, the M. Div. from Nazarene Theological Seminary in 1977, and the D.Min. from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1996. Dan has served pastorates in New Salem, MS; Overland Park, KS; Raleigh, NC; Nashville, TN; and Bourbonnais, IL. He is currently the President of Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, TN. Dan is the author of 6 books including a textbook on preaching, *Preaching the Story that Shapes Us*, and his most recent book, *A Charitable Discourse: Talking About the Things That Divide Us*. He is married to Denise, is the father of 3 married daughters, and the exuberant grandfather to 4 grandchildren.
- Dr. Merritt J. Nielson is Curriculum Director for the Church of the Nazarene at Nazarene Publishing House. He is a graduate of Eastern Nazarene College (B.A. English); Nazarene Theological Seminary (M.R.E); and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary ( D.Min., Workplace Leadership and Business Ethics). His professional responsibilities have included college teaching (English, Literature, Theology of Work), college administration, missionary church planting, non-profit social service leadership, public relations and broadcast media production, and five pastoral ministry assignments in the Church of the Nazarene, as well as additional pastoral service with the American Baptists, United Church of Christ, and the United Methodists.

## ***Degree Objectives/Outcomes***

### **M.Div.**

4. Cultivation of gifts, practical skills, and vocational identity as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through engagement in and reflection on the pastoral arts, exhibited in the **following outcomes**; the student/graduate will:

- c. Communicate effectively in written, spoken, artistic, and other forms (Assignment 1, 3, 5)
- d. Engage the holistic nature of the church in redemptive ministries of restoration (Assignment 1, 2, 4)

## ***Course Outcomes***

Upon completion the course the student will:

1. Articulate a theology of work that is rooted in the Biblical text and church doctrine. (Assignment 1, 2, 3, 4)
2. Form and deliver a sermon series that addresses the way Christians understand and do their work in the context of the world. (Assignment 3, 5)
3. Identify aspects of congregational life that encourage people to see work as an expression of their Christian calling. (Assignment 1, 2, 3, 4)

## ***Church of the Nazarene COSAC Competencies***

Upon completion of this course, students should satisfy the competency requirements as set forth in the Course of Study for Ministers in the Church of the Nazarene. The following will be addressed through the course objectives and requirements:

CP 1 Ability to communicate publicly through multiple methods (oral, written, media, etc.) with clarity and creativity for the sake of fostering meaning (Assignments 1, 3, 5)

CP 3 Ability to speak coherently in the mode of discourse appropriate for the various ministry contexts. (Assignments 4, 5)

CP 22 Ability to prepare, organize, and deliver biblically sound sermons in culturally appropriate ways, using appropriate techniques and skills. (Assignment 5)

CP 23 Ability to develop and utilize existing ministry forms such as evangelistic preaching, pastoral care preaching doctrinal/teaching preaching, and preaching Christian seasons / calendar, by which individuals, families, and congregations may be formed into Christlikeness. (Assignments 1, 5)

## ***Required Texts & Course Materials***

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>ISBN (13 characters)</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Copyright Date</b>	<b>Pages</b>	<b>List price</b>
<i>Work: The Meaning of Your Life: A Christian Perspective</i>	Lester DeKoster	978-1880595725	Acton Institute	2010	70	6
<i>Work: A Kingdom Perspective on Labor</i>	Ben Witherington III	ISBN-13: 978-0802865410	Eerdmans	2011	180	18
<i>Work in the Spirit: Toward a Theology of Work</i>	Miroslav Volf	978-1579106416	Wipf and Stock	2001	250	27
<i>Business as a Calling, Work and the Examined Life</i>	Michael Novak	978-0684827483	Free Press	1996	220	25
<i>Church on Sunday, Work on Monday,</i>	Laura Nash and Scotty McLennan	978-0787956981	Jossey-Bass	2001	300	28
<i>The Fabric of this World</i>	Lee Hardy	978-0802802989	Eerdmans	1990	220	20
<i>On Human Work: Laborem Exercens</i>	Pope John Paul II	978-0819833488	Pauline Books & Media	1981	70	6

*Note: students will read additional sermon resources materials provided including online resources for the following [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_14091981\\_laborem-exercens\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_14091981_laborem-exercens_en.html) and Why Work? By Dorothy Sayers <http://faith-at-work.net/Docs/WhyWork.pdf>*

## ***Recommended Texts & Course Materials***

See Sermons provided by the Labor's Day series at the Moodle website

## ***Course Outline***

1. Preliminary insights into a theology of the workplace
2. Scriptural accounts of work and workplace
3. Preaching workplace faith
4. Exegeting the Business Culture for Preaching With Workplace Sensitivity

## ***Course Assignments & Requirements***

1. **Class Participation.** Because theological education assumes that significant learning takes place in integrative dialogue, regular class attendance is required as well as meeting assignments prior to and following scheduled class sessions via Moodle.

**Moodle Discussion Component:** To assist in this process, and also to allow students to demonstrate process strengths more written than oral, a Moodle discussion process will be included in the pre-module and post-module phases of the course around assigned readings or discussions of work. Students will be required to **report two crucial** insights or emerging themes from the assigned pre-module weekly reading (minimum 150 words including citing the location of the insight) **before 11:55 pm Thursday of the scheduled week.**

In addition students will be asked to **visit one of the congregations** represented by the Labor's Day pastor community or a similar congregation where the pastor practices workplace preaching (to be assigned). In service **students traveling to Kansas City will be expected to visit these congregations the Sunday of Module (January 29).** Video conference students and students resident in the Kansas City area will arrange to visit these congregations on a different Sunday but **all visits must be completed by Sunday February 26<sup>th</sup>.** Students will be asked to post an online Moodle reflection around their visit. Students are also invited to a faculty lunch and dialog on workplace faith Thursday January 26<sup>th</sup> immediately following class. RSVP required during pre-coursework. Other class activities will include student lead devotionals, theological conversations, and pastoral interaction. (CO 1, 2, 3, 4; CP 1, 22, 23)

2. **Prior to the class,** students will submit two 750 word assignments (three pages) for a total of 1500 (six pages total) due January 10 to the designated Moodle site.
  - a) The first 750 assignment includes **a narrative description of "God as Worker"** drawn from Biblical texts which describe the activity of God in creation and redemption due by January 20. (CO 1, 3)

b) The second 750 page assignment includes a **comparison of the 3 approaches to a theology of the workplace** based on the readings of the Volf, DeKoster, and Witherington texts due by January 20. (CO 1, 3; CP 1)

3. **During the 1<sup>st</sup> week of class**, each student will be assigned one of the Biblical texts for **exegetical review**. The summary of the review will be reported verbally in class on January 25-26. For students wanting to do prior work on their text, they can request a textual assignment from [dboone@trevecca.edu](mailto:dboone@trevecca.edu) after December 15. (CO 1, 2, 3; CP 1, CP22)
4. **During the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of class**, beginning Monday January 30, each student will submit daily 250 word (1 page) reflection responses on several texts (see course schedule) as well as prepared selections from Nash and McLennon’s book *Church on Sunday, Work on Monday*. The paper should summarize the thesis of the book and include a short reaction response on the part of the student. (CO 1, 3; CP 1)
5. **Post class**, each student will propose a four-part sermon series and write/present at least one of the sermons focused on a Christian theology of the workplace. The sermon will be submitted in written and video format via a YouTube venue (students will receive additional directions in class). **The sermon is due by March 12, 2012.** (CO 2, CP 22, CP 23)

### ***Distribution of Student Learning Hours***

	pre-module hours	module hours	post-module hours
Face-to-face Class Sessions		36	
Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.	4		3
Reading	30	22	0
Writing	9	4	20
Other Assignments and Learning Activities	0	6	2
Exams & Quizzes	0	0	0
TOTAL	43	68	35

### ***Method for Submitting Assignments***

Students will submit all assignments via the online Moodle Course Management System

### ***Form and Style Expectations***

All writing projects should meet the Form and Style expectations of Turabian

### ***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.

## ***Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams***

All assignments are due the date assigned. In light of module expectations all late work will receive an automatic 30% reduction and no work may be submitted three days (72 hours) past the original due date unless approved by the faculty based on extraordinary circumstances.

## ***Additional Costs***

Students will be expected to visit a local congregation as a part of their course assignments. Some travel cost may incur; however, travel grants will be provided for students requiring travel over longer distances to help defray some of the cost. Grants provided courtesy the Kern Family Foundation and will be distributed on a need basis. More information will be available during class.

## ***Course Grading (1000 total)***

100 - God as Worker Reflection

100 - Theology of Workplace Review

100 - Exegesis

100 – Pre/Post-Module postings and Daily Reading Reaction Forms (cumulative)

300 - Class participation (includes congregational visit/reflection)

300 - Sermon Series/Sermon

1000-901: A    900-801: B    800-701: C    700-600:D    599 or Below: F

### **Grade Descriptions**

“A”-EXCEPTIONAL WORK (surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives)

“B”-GOOD WORK (strong, significant achievement of course objectives)

“C”-ACCEPTABLE WORK (basic, essential achievement of course objectives)

“D”-MARGINAL WORK (inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives)

“F”-UNACCEPTABLE WORK (failure to achieve course objectives)

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.

## ***Class Attendance***

Attendance at classes is essential for realizing the maximum benefit of your education. Since the professor in each course is best acquainted with the importance of consistent attendance, he or she will determine the rules for attendance.

If you must be absent because of extenuating circumstances, contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

**NOTE: If a student is absent 9 hrs of a two week module or is absent four or more weeks of the pre/post module, the professor may automatically fail the student.**

## ***Representative Bibliography***

- Benefiel, Margaret. 2005. *Soul at Work: Spiritual Leadership in Organizations*. Seabury Books, August 1.
- Cavanaugh, William T. 2008. *Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, March 17.
- Claar, Victor V., and Robin J. Klay. 2007. *Economics in Christian Perspective: Theory, Policy and Life Choices*. IVP Academic, July 31.
- Connolly, William E. 2008. *Capitalism and Christianity, American Style*. Duke University Press Books, March 19.
- Csikszentmihalyi, Mihaly, and Barbara Schneider. 2000. *Becoming Adult: How Teenagers Prepare for the World of Work*. 1st ed. Basic Books, May.
- DeKoster, Lester. 2010. *Work: The Meaning of Your Life: A Christian Perspective*. 2nd ed. Acton Institute, July 25.
- Duzer, Jeff Van. 2010. *Why Business Matters to God*: IVP Academic, October 4.
- Eldred, Ken. 2009. *God Is at Work: Transforming People and Nations Through Business*. Manna Ventures, July 8.
- Gibbons, Dave, Dennis Bakke, Ken Eldred, Blake Mycoskie, Scott Harrison, David W. Miller, Steve Reinemund, Mo Anderson, and Mark L. Russell. 2010. *Our Souls At Work: How Great Leaders Live Their Faith in the Global Marketplace*. First. Russell Media, January 1.
- Grudem, Wayne. 2003. *Business for the Glory of God: The Bible's Teaching on the Moral Goodness of Business*. Crossway Books, November 6.
- Hayek, F. A. 2007. *The Road to Serfdom: Text and Documents--The Definitive Edition*. University Of Chicago Press, March 30.
- Institute, Action. 2007. *Environmental Stewardship in the Judeo-Christian Tradition: Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant Wisdom on the Environment*. 1st ed. Acton Institute.
- Long, D. Stephen. 2000. *Divine Economy: Theology and the Market*. 1st ed. Routledge, June 6.
- Medaille, John C. 2010. *Toward a Truly Free Market: A Distributist Perspective on the Role of Government, Taxes, Health Care, Deficits, and More*. 1st ed. Intercollegiate Studies Institute, August 9.
- Meeks, M. Douglas. 2000. *God the Economist: The Doctrine of God and Political Economy*. Simon Pulse. Fortress Publishers, September 5.

- Miller, David W. 2006. *God at Work: The History and Promise of the Faith at Work Movement*. First Edition. Oxford University Press, USA, December 14.
- Mueller, John D. 2010a. *Redeeming Economics: Rediscovering the Missing Element*. 1st ed. Intercollegiate Studies Institute, October 18.
- . 2010b. *Redeeming Economics: Rediscovering the Missing Element*. 1st ed. Intercollegiate Studies Institute, October 18.
- Nash, Laura L. 1994. *Believers in Business*. Thomas Nelson Inc, November.
- Nash, Laura, Ken Blanchard, and Scotty McLennan. 2001. *Church on Sunday, Work on Monday: The Challenge of Fusing Christian Values with Business Life*. 1st ed. Jossey-Bass, September 10.
- Novak, Michael. 1990. *The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism*. Revised. Madison Books, December 29.
- . 1996. *Business as a Calling: Work and the Examined Life*. Free Press, June 11.
- Palmer, Parker J. 1999a. *The Active Life: A Spirituality of Work, Creativity, and Caring*. 1st ed. Jossey-Bass, July 21.
- . 1999b. *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*. 1st ed. Jossey-Bass, September 10.
- Richards, Jay W. 2010. *Money, Greed, and God: Why Capitalism Is the Solution and Not the Problem*. 1st ed. HarperOne, May 1.
- Sherman, Doug, and William D Hendricks. 1990. *Your Work Matters to God*. NavPress, July 1.
- Stackhouse, Max L., Dennis P. McCann, Shirley J. Roels, and Prest Williams. 1995. *On Moral Business: Classical and Contemporary Resources for Ethics in Economic Life*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, August.
- Stevens, R. Paul. 2000. *The Other Six Days: Vocation, Work, and Ministry in Biblical Perspective*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, July 5.
- Veith, Gene Edward, Jr. 2002. *God at Work: Your Christian Vocation in All of Life*. Crossway Books, March 22.
- Volf, Miroslav. 2001. *Work in the Spirit: Toward a Theology of Work*. Wipf & Stock Publishers, April.
- Witherington, Ben. 2010. *Jesus and Money: A Guide for Times of Financial Crisis*. 1st ed. Brazos Press, January 1.
- Witherington, Ben. 2011. *Work: A Kingdom Perspective on Labor*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, January 15.
- Zondervan. 2009. *NIV Stewardship Study Bible: Discover God's Design for Life, the Environment, Finances, Generosity, and Eternity*. Zondervan, October 13.

## Course Calendar

Date	Week	Assignment	
12/15	1	Pre-Module Begins Post Preliminary Introductions Online at Moodle Site	
12/22	2	Time for reading	
12/29	3	DeKoster online reflection (students will post a 150 word Moodle reflection on two insights or themes from the reading in the assigned text. The posting should not reflect a summary of the book but merely highlight one insight or theme that arises from the reading) Due Thursday 11:55 pm CT	
1/3	4	Wolf online reflection (see guidelines above)	
1/10	5	Witherington online reflection (see guidelines above)	
1/17	6	Pre-course writing assignments on due Jan 20 (God as Worker, Theology Workplace) Due Jan 20th	
1/24	7 Module Class sessions Begin	Jan 24	Introduction to the Course, review of Biblical theologies that serve as a starting point for the development of a theology of work
		1/25	Exploration of Biblical texts: Gen. 1-2, Isaiah 2:2-5 and 65:20-25, Exodus 31:1-11, Ecclesiastes on toil/work, Proverbs on the sluggard/sloth, Mt. 24-25 parables, I Cor. 3, Ephesians 2:10f., Thessalonians issue regarding work, Rev. 21-22
		1/26	Exploration of Biblical texts cont. Workplace Faith Luncheon scheduled this date
		1/27	Preaching from these texts, panel discussion by area pastors who have preached on a theology of work, sample sermons
1/29	8	1/29 (Sun)	Workplace Faith church visits
		1/30	Nash and McLennan Chpts 1-2 Reading Review: Novak, <i>Business as Calling</i>
		1/31	Nash and McLennan Chpts 3-4 Reading Review: Hardy, <i>The Fabric of this World</i>
		2/1	Nash and McLennan Chpts 5-6 Reading Review: John Paul II, <i>Laborem Exercens</i>
		2/2	Nash and McLennan Chpts 7-8 Reading Review: Sayers, <i>Why Work?</i> Pastor Panel (TBD)
		2/3	Nash and McLennan Chpts 9-10 Sermon Series Discussion
2/6	9	Reading & Research work on Sermon Series	
2/13	10	Sermon development discussion online	
2/20	11	Sermon development discussion online	
2/27	12	Congregations that foster Workplace faith Moodle online discussion (may be done prior this date)	
3/5	13	Sermon Prep <b>Course Evaluations (approximate release time by the Dean's Office)</b>	
3/12	14	Sermon Series/YouTube uploads due	

**Preaching Faith at Work (week 2 assignments)**

Student Reading Reaction Report No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title and Author: \_\_\_\_\_ N T S (Circle one)

(N = took notes/captured information; T = read thoroughly; S = scanned)

Because I read this . . .

Because of this reading, I have this question:

\_\_\_\_\_  
My signature indicates that I completed this assignment and that what is presented here is  
entirely my own work.