I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Christians often find their lives characterized by work, responsibility, busyness and stress with little experience of rest, recreation and leisure. This course will examine Christian understandings of leisure and related concepts throughout history. Biblical themes, principles and concepts will also be studied, especially the notions of Sabbath and rest, to develop a biblical understanding of leisure and lifestyle. The historical Christian understandings and biblical sources will be applied to the contemporary world. Finally, the relationship between work and lifestyle as well as the role of recreation and holy leisure in spiritual growth will be explored.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students should be able to:
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the major concepts of leisure
- Demonstrate an understanding of how leisure has been understood throughout Christian history
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of biblical themes and principles relevant to leisure
- Develop a personal understanding of leisure from a Christian perspective
- Foster a positive attitude towards the biblical notions of Sabbath and rest
- Foster an attitude of contemplative leisure
- Integrate leisure into one’s life in a way that facilitates spiritual growth and formation

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS


ISBN 978 1586 172565


B. ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READING (available electronically on course page)


This book is out of print; a scanned copy will be provided by permission of author.

(The following papers will be available on reserve in the Tyndale library and/or on MyTyndale):


C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Critical Book Review: 25% of final grade
There are different Christian perspectives on leisure. In this book review, briefly
summarize the similarities and differences between Crittenden’s, Doohan’s, Hoffman’s (in Heintzman, Van Andel & Visker), Johnston’s, Neville’s, Pieper’s, and Ryken’s views of leisure (play). Whose view of leisure do you find more persuasive and why? The paper should be four to six pages in length, double-spaced.

Due: (Postmarked by) August 10, 2012

2. Reflective Essay: 25% of final grade
In this paper develop your own understanding of leisure, and its relationship with spirituality, from a Christian perspective. While the paper should reflect your own understanding, your ideas should be developed in response to biblical, historical and contemporary ideas about leisure and spirituality that were presented in the lectures, discussions and readings. This paper should be four to six pages in length, double-spaced.

Due: (Postmarked by) August 10, 2012

3. Research Paper: 50% of final grade
Students will select a topic related to Christian spirituality and leisure that is of interest to them, and will then research and write a paper on the topic. The paper may be an analysis and critique from a Christian perspective of a specific concept of leisure and its relation to spiritual growth, it may be an exploration of a particular historical understanding of leisure and how this understanding influenced spirituality, it may be an examination of an issue related to leisure and spirituality in contemporary society, or it may be a study of biblical concepts, passages or themes relevant to leisure and spirituality. The paper must go beyond purely description to include a critical analysis of the chosen topic. The paper should be in the range of 15-20 pages (3,000 words) in length, double-spaced. This paper is expected to follow all the requirements for a research paper as set out in the student handbook.

Due: (Postmarked by) August 10, 2012

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

For proper citation style, consult the Chicago-Style Quick Guide (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the Chicago Manual of Style Online, especially ch. 14. For citing scripture texts, refer to sections 10.46 to 10.51 and 14.253 to 14.254.

Students should consult the current Academic Calendar for academic polices on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at http://tyndale.ca/registrar. An excerpt is attached with this syllabus for easy reference.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Book Review</td>
<td>25 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflective Essay</td>
<td>25 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Mon., June 25

Introduction to the course.

An overview of historical understandings of leisure: classical state of being view, leisure as activity.

An overview of modern views of leisure: leisure as time, leisure as a function of social class.

Reading for Tuesday:

Tues., June 26

An overview of contemporary views of leisure: state of mind view, feminist view, holistic view.

A review of how Christians and the church have viewed leisure over the centuries, especially the views of Augustine, Aquinas, medieval monasticism, the reformers and the Puritans.

Reading for Wednesday:

Weds. June 27

An exploration of biblical passages relevant to leisure with a particular focus on the principle of Sabbath and the concept of rest.

An exploration of other biblical passages relevant to leisure such as Psalm 46:10, and biblical themes of hospitality, friendship and eating.

Reading for Thursday:
Heintzman, P. (2006). Implications for leisure from a review of the biblical concepts


**Thurs. June 28**

Christian perspectives on leisure for today’s society will be derived from a synthesis of biblical passages relevant to leisure and historical Christian understandings of leisure.

An exploration of the relationships between leisure and work.

An exploration of the role of leisure in spiritual formation. Social scientific studies on the relationship between leisure and spiritual well-being.

Reading for Friday:

**Fri. June 29**

An exploration of the role of leisure in spiritual formation. Social scientific studies on the relationship between leisure and spiritual well-being (cont’d).

Issues related to Christianity and leisure in contemporary society such as recreation and the environment, and the ethics of leisure.

**V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**


