



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus Spring & Summer 2013

Work, Vocation and Ministry LEAD 0611

April 22, 27 May 13, June 10, 17
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

INSTRUCTOR: BRYAN KARNEY, PHD

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Office Hours: appointments can be arranged upon request (usually best by email); I will try to come to Tyndale at least 30 minutes early each day we run the class so I can be available for interaction.

To access your course materials, please go to www.mytyndale.ca. Note that all official Tyndale correspondence will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account. For information how to access and forward Tyndale emails to your personal account, see www.tyndale.ca/it/live-at-edu.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Many believers live with a gulf between Sunday and Monday, not being equipped to serve God through their daily work in society. Develops a practical theology of the laity, emphasizing the laity's calling to engage the missionary frontier of the marketplace. It will explore the concept of "ministry in everyday life," examine the strategic role for Christians as leaders in non-ecclesial settings, and develop models for equipping the laity for ministry in the public arena.

Prerequisites: None

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Overall, this course seeks to transform Christian service from a relatively isolated activity into one encompassing all of life including the "regular" work week. Thus, we seek to reconnect

Monday and Sunday by equipping Christians for God's service through their daily work in society. The course develops a practical theology of the laity, emphasizing issues of calling, service, worship and discipleship in the marketplace. The course also explores the concept of "ministry in everyday life," examines the strategic role of Christians as leaders in non-ecclesial settings, and develops models of Church-based equipping ministries for the laity engaged in the public arena.

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Articulate a biblical-theological understanding of the laity, lay ministry, work, Sabbath, and vocation or "calling."
2. Demonstrate awareness and understanding of the challenges and opportunities of Christian leadership in secular organizations or non-Christian contexts.
3. Deepen and clarify, and be able to better articulate, their own personal sense of calling and vocation.
4. Begin to develop congregationally-based leadership development strategies for Christian service and witness in the workplace.
5. Critically assess research methods suited to ministry and leadership studies.
6. Strengthen their communication skills involving oral presentations of research findings to their peers.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

Banks, Robert J. *Faith Goes to Work: Reflections from the Market Place*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 1999, Pp. 189, ISBN 1-57910-329-4.

Guinness, Os. *The Call. Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2003, Pp. 304, ISBN 0849944376.

Wright, N.T. *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*. New York, NY: Harper Collins, 2008, Pp. 332, ISBN 978-0-06-155182-6.

Stevens, Paul. *Doing God's Business: Meaning and Motivation for the Marketplace*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2006, Pp. 251. ISBN 0802833985.

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING:

See Tyndale's [Work, Vocation and Ministry Virtual Reading Room](#)

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

All the assignments are targeted to a critical, personal, engaged and creative reflection on what it means to be called by God, and what implications this has for the way we live our life, and particularly our working life. Several options are presented for some of the assignments so that the student will have the choice to pursue issues of particular importance to their current interests and questions. The assignments involve personal reflection, reading, exploration with the possibility of critical engagement with local congregations. The standard Tyndale grading system in the Academic Calendar will be followed: see <http://www.tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar>.

1. ***In-class participation and personal identity (15%)***

- Attendance is extremely important and I will take attendance (5%)
- Students are not allowed to be accessing internet via wireless during the class, unless directed to do so; cell-phones, pagers and blackberry should be off.
- We will use discussion format extensively. Your engagement with classmates is essential; be prepared to listen and to speak.
- You need to prepare a brief (**one page**) **bio (for 5%)** with a small (but recognizable) photograph, and short answers to the following topics: (i) to understand me you need to know (ii) My personal sense of call is most strongly experienced or confirmed when (iii) My ideal job has the following characteristics **DUE APRIL 22nd**.
- Prepare a name tag to have on your desk during class time so we can quickly get to know each other.
- You will prepare and deliver during the 2nd week a **5 minute devotional** (worth 5%) on your personal journey with respect to call and vocation: what is God saying to you about your life, skills and area of service? What can others learn? **APRIL 29th**
- You are expected to come to class prepared. Primarily this means being ready to interact critically, respectfully and creatively with the assigned readings; determine not to attempt to dominate the class discussion.

2. ***5-page personal testimony based on Stevens (15%). May 13th***

- The purpose of the testimony is to articulate a personal sense of marketplace ministry through reflection on your readings of Stevens, *Doing God's Business*. At the top left corner of the page, put your name, course number, student number and mailbox number. No title page or cover sheet is needed.
- The paper should not exceed 5-page, one-and-a-half-spaced.
- Papers should be submitted to me at the beginning of class on the assigned date.

3. ***Three 3-page book report on Banks (5%; Due June 10) Guinness (5%; Due June 17) and Wright (5%; also due by email June 17) – your choice of the best of these review will be double weighted (i.e., 10%)***

- The purpose of the book reflection is to stimulate your engagement with the ideas presented in the required text.
- A standard outline would include:
 - Key points in the book – what is the take away message?
 - Several examples of the author’s principle points
 - Personal evaluation of the book, including possible action points.
 - What is the weakness or least critical part of the book?

4. ***Final Assignment. (50%; June 30th) You must choose between one of the two following options:***

Option A: 10-15 page congregational analysis examining the issues faced by members of your congregation in their workplaces and a strategy for equipping members of the church for workplace ministry.

- The purpose of this assignment is to enable you to become familiar with grassroots perspectives, struggles and opportunities being experienced by men and women in your congregation about how they live out their Christian faith in the context of the workplace and enable you to integrate your learning in this course by developing a congregational strategy for equipping the saints for workplace ministry.
- You should ... (1) seek to identify the issues that people in your church are facing in the workplace; (2) describe the approach to workplace issues that characterizes your congregation; and (3) describe what is being done by the church, its staff and programs, to address the needs of Christians in the workplace dimension of their lives.
- You can gather information by (1) using a written survey¹ of approximately 10-20 people to identify issues people are facing in the workplace and what role they feel

¹ Some examples of the type of questions your paper should address:

- a) Do people in your church seem interested in relating their faith to their work? How interested—highly, somewhat, slightly, not at all? Do they see faith and work as connected or disconnected?
- b) To what extent do people in your church feel that the expression of their faith is constrained or compromised by the demands of their work?
- c) What kinds of family issues arise because of work requirements? Is anyone making decisions to sacrifice income or advancement for the sake of family, or sanity?
- d) Is work an important part of a person’s identity in your congregation?
- e) What do “the ordinary people in the pew” see as the church’s role in addressing the workplace? What needs do people express?
- f) Does the preaching or teaching or praying in your congregation make connections to issues of faith in the workplace? Is the work of the laity in the marketplace or workplace ever discussed in terms of being a place for “ministry”?
- g) Does the preaching or teaching in your congregation address issues of sabbath, rest or leisure in a recognizable way?
- h) Does the pastoral leadership ever visit anyone at his or her workplace?
- i) Are the church’s leaders (e.g., deacons, elders, vestry) drawn from a range of socio-economic backgrounds and occupations?
- j) Does your congregation have any ministries that are actually in the workplace or are addressing the needs of people in the workplace?

the church might have in helping them live out their faith in daily life; and (2) doing some interviews with 3 mature Christian people in the congregation about how they see their daily work relating to their faith; and, if possible, (3) interviewing the congregation's senior pastor or Christian Ed' Pastor or Director about issues they see people facing and how the church seeks to equip its members for their roles and responsibilities in the workplace.

- Your essay should clearly describe the need for training and the specific goals you would establish for the process.
- Your essay should operate with a clear, specific model of training or development, and should explain why your chosen approach is well-suited to the congregation. Make sure your model is culturally relevant, financially affordable, theologically appropriate, and practically useful.
- Your essay should be as specific as possible about the curriculum being used.
- Your essay should include a means of assessment or evaluation of the training provided—when will the learners' growth or transformation be assessed? How? By whom?
- Have fun and be creative.
- The paper needs to be a well-written, well-organized essay rather than a series of impressions or fragments in response to a list of questions

Option B: Personal philosophy of ministry for your workplace context: (special reference to N.T. Wright's and Os Guinness texts desirable)

- The purpose of this assignment is to encourage you to reflect on the integration of all the previous work in the course and bring it together into a personal statement of your approach to integrating Christian faith with your work, or being a Christian in your workplace, with reference to the writing of N.T. Wright
- The paper should be a reflective essay – not a research paper – that draws upon readings, lectures, classroom interaction and small group discussions.
- The paper should show you have a good grasp of the major themes and issues of the course, without “rehashing” or summarizing someone's book or my lectures.
- Concentrate your energy upon answering the following question in your paper. “In light of the challenges and opportunities you experience in living out your Christian faith in your workplace, what is your understanding of your ministry at work?”
- Be sure to integrate a solid Biblical framework for your personal philosophy of the workplace.
- You should consider incorporating reflection on your sense of spiritual gifts and personal calling, along with your “passion” in life; your cultural or missiological analysis of your workplace; your own theology of work and vocation, spirituality, mission, etc.
- You should discuss some areas in which you need to grow or develop in order to “minister” at work—this essay should help you identify areas of needed growth rather than being an attempt to make yourself look perfect!

- The book by Banks offers a variety of examples for your consideration. These are meant to stimulate your thinking and suggest possible avenues of approach, especially if you are feeling a bit “stuck” and wondering how you will get started. My suggestion is that you should look at them to find some elements that are useful or applicable to your way of approaching things, and read them to get some inspiration.
- Have fun and be creative.

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

1. Your work should demonstrate the following characteristics:

It should be thoughtful, personal, honest, respectful and well-articulated.

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](#).

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

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>.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments [*Sample*]

Class Participation and Preparation	15 %
Three book reflections (5 + 5 + 10)	20 %
Testimony (based on Stevens)	15 %
Major Course Assignment	50 %
Total Grade	100 %

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Date	Class content	Submission
April 22	(i) What is ministry? (ii) Faith at work part 1 (iii) Church, laity and ministry (iv) Personal choice part 1: balance	One page bio due
April 29	(i) Faith at work part 2 (ii) Truth and Misconceptions of work and leisure (iii) Nature and abuse of work (iv) Personal choice complexity part 2: paradox	Devotional to be ready to be shared in class
May 13	(i) Faith at work part 3 (ii) A Theology of work and leisure (iii) Personal Choice Part 3: rhythm	Personal testimony on Stevens due
June 10	(i) Making it personal – devotional 1 (ii) Doctrine of vocation; issues of guidance (iii) Personal Part 4: irresolvable tensions	Book report on Banks due
June 17	(i) Making it personal – devotional 2 (ii) Doctrine of vocation; issues of guidance (iii) Personal Choice Part 5: ultimate values	Book reports on Guinness and Wright due
June 30		Final Assignment Due
July 15th	Final Marks assigned and completed	

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- *In addition to the reading list above, a general reference bibliography in the subject area is a normal expectation. Please model correct bibliographic style (e.g., either Chicago, Turabian, SBL, APA etc.) in all citations.*
 - *Please consider inserting hyperlinks in bibliography for books and articles a) available as e-resources through the Tyndale Library; and b) available online (e.g., through [GoogleBooks](#), www.archive.org, etc.)*
 - *For instructions on the creation of hyperlinks to Tyndale Library e-resources, please see: <http://www.tyndale.ca/library/persistent-links>*

Banks, Robert. *Redeeming the Routines: Bringing Theology to Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001, Pp. 187, ISBN 0-8010-2116-2

Greenman, Jeffrey P., and George Kalantzis, ed. *Life in the Spirit: Spiritual Formation in Theological Perspective*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010, Pp. 270, ISBN 0830838791.

Hardy, Lee. *The Fabric of this World: Inquiries in Calling, Career Choice, and the Design of Human Work*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1990, Pp. 213, ISBN 0-8028-0298-2.

Novak, Michael. *Business as a Calling: Work and the Examined Life*. New York, NY: The Free Press, 1996, Pp. 246, ISBN 0-684-82748-4.

Ogden, Greg. *Unfinished Business: Returning the ministry to the People of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003, Pp. 282, ISBN 0-310-24619-9.

Sittler, Joseph. *The Structure of Christian Ethics*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998, Pp. 90, ISBN 0-644-25763-1.

Sherman, Doug, and Hendricks, William. *Your Work Matters to God*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1987, Pp. 286, ISBN 10: 08910-93729.

Stevens, R. Paul. *The Other Six Days: Vocation, Work, and Ministry in Biblical Perspective*. Vancouver: Regent College Publishing, 1999, Pp. 289, ISBN 1-57383-175-1.

Several of the titles from Baylor University in *Christian Reflections: A Series in Faith and Ethics* are particularly relevant to this course: In particular, the three documents on *Sabbath* (2002) *Vocation* (2004) and *Consumerism* (2003).