

**CVC 406**

**Vocation, Calling and the Purpose of Work (Theology of Work)**

**Mission Statement**

To provide radically affordable Christian education to underserved communities via distance learning.

Instructor: Richard Nongard

Email: rnongard@cityvision.edu

Phone: 918-398-1845

**Course Description**

This course will help students to understand the purpose of work and a Christian understanding of vocation. Students will gain a better understanding of their unique identity and purpose in their vocation. They will also refine their understanding of calling or vocation might be and how it fits into God’s purposes and a Christian worldview. They will then create a synthesis of the above understandings into a reflective life plan.

**Course Objectives**

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

1. Understand a Christian worldview of vocation and communicate how that applies toward their own life and calling.
2. Utilize tools to be able to identify, reflect on and articulate what their calling or vocation might be and how it might be leveraged for God’s purposes.
3. Understand and be able to articulate their unique identity and vocation, and how to communicate that through their personal brand and life strategy.
4. Understand the unique issues facing Christians in their fields and how to manage their career in the current marketplace.
5. Create a synthesis of the above understandings into a reflective life plan that shows a mature reflection and vision of your life calling as well as a plan to grow and achieve that vision.

**NOTE: Grading in this course will reflect the student’s demonstration of their ability to achieve the above course objectives.**

**Required Reading**

* Keller, T. (2014). ***Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God’s Work*** (Reprint edition.). Riverhead Trade.
* Hoffman, R., & Casnocha, B. (2012). ***The Start-up of You: Adapt to the Future, Invest in Yourself, and Transform Your Career.*** New York: Crown Business. 272 pages. ISBN: 9780307888907
* Rath, T. (2007). ***StrengthsFinder 2.0*** (1 edition.). New York: Gallup Press. 183 pages ISBN: 9781595620156 Note: you must purchase a new book as only new books come with the code to complete the StrengthsFinder test. If you have already completed the Strength Finder Inventory, then you do not need to complete it again.

**Optional Reading**

* Stevens, R Paul. *The Other Six Days: Vocation Work and Ministry in Biblical Perspective.* Wm B Eerdmans. 2000. 289 pages. ISBN #978-080284800
* Tieger, P. D. (2014). *Do What You Are: Discover the Perfect Career for You Through the Secrets of Personality Type* (5 edition.). New York: Little, Brown and Company.
* Rees, E., & Warren, R. (2008). *S.H.A.P.E.: Finding and Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life.* Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan. 256 pages. ISBN: 9780310292487
* Guinness, O. (2003). *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life.* Nashville, Tenn: Thomas Nelson.
* Warren, R. (2004). *What on Earth Am I Here For? Purpose Driven Life.* Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan.
* Peabody, L. (2010). *Job-Shadowing Daniel: Walking the Talk at Work.* Denver, Colo.: Outskirts Press.

**Course Outline**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Period** | **Assessments** | **Due** **Date** | **Est hrs** | **Weight** | **Objective #’s** |
| **1**  **Weeks 1-3** | **Understanding the Purpose of Work**  Read Every Good Endeavor |  | 12 | -- | 1 |
|  | Listen/View. ToW Presentations 1-8 |  | 6 | -- |  |
|  | Forum 1a. Reflection on Integration of Faith and Work |  | 2 | 3% |  |
|  | Forum 1b. Final Project Proposal Draft |  | 2 | 3% |  |
|  | Forum 2a. Influencing Systems |  | 2 | 3% |  |
|  | Forum 2b. Redeeming our Failures |  | 2 | 3% |  |
|  | Forum 3a. Ethical challenges |  | 2 | 3% |  |
|  | Forum 3b. Positive impact. |  | 2 | 3% |  |
| **2**  **Weeks 4-5** | **Tools for Identity and Calling**  Read. Strength Finder 2.0 |  | 8 | - | 2 |
|  | Listen/View: SHAPE |  | 1 |  |  |
|  | Forum 4a. Life Line |  | 2 | 3% |  |
|  | Forum 4b. SHAPE Profile |  | 3 | 3% |  |
|  | Forum 5a. Strengthfinders |  | 1 | 3% |  |
|  | Forum 5b. Discussion |  | 1 | 3% |  |
| **Week 6** | **Calling in the New Economy**  Read: The Startup of You |  | 11 | -- | 3, 4 |
|  | 6a. Personal SWOT |  | 1 | 3% |  |
|  | 6b. Personal Branding & LinkedIn |  | 4 | 3% |  |
| **Weeks 7-8** | **Personal Case Studies & Final Project**  Read |  | 2 | -- | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
|  | Listen/View |  | 4 | -- |  |
|  | Final Project. |  | 67 | 64% |  |
| Overall | Total estimated hours based upon 17 hours per week for 8 weeks |  | 135 | 100% |  |

**Estimated Activities and Times**

* Reading is measured at reading 25 textbook pages per hour and reading 20 journal pages per hour Total reading for this course is 33 hours.
* Listening to recorded audio/video elements or live sessions (in-class equivalent) - 12.00 hours
* Discussion (in-class equivalent) - 24 hours
* Final projects - 67.00 hours

**Forum Expectations**

For our Master's program, we expect that students will spend an estimated one-two hours to post one initial message, one hour to read posts from 5+ students (presumes that a student doesn't read every post), and an estimated 1 hour to post two reply messages. Forum grading will be based on the following items:

* Forum posts should be 400-600 words although these are not strict limits.
* Students must demonstrate comprehension of the material and achievement of the related learning objectives related to that forum. Be sure to read the the learning objectives.
* Students should demonstrate critical thinking and use outside material researched beyond the assigned readings.
* The goal of course forums is to have scholarly dialog among peers combining both the strengths of in-person class discussion and providing concise, professional quality writing (similar to a well thought-out academic or scholarly blog) and responding in a way that adds value to others writings
* Students are not required to use APA format for references in forum posts, but instead students are encouraged to hyperlink relevant information when possible.
* Grading rubric: forums use the same high level grading rubric as for the final project including
  + Content Knowledge (25%)
  + Critical Thinking (25%). Note that critical thinking is very different from criticism.
  + Communication (15%)
  + Application (35%)

**Final Project Instructions**

**Final Project Formatting**

The final project uses the final project template linked in the online course. Except for Class Forum posts, all written assignments should be double-spaced using 12-point font and 1-inch margins, and include a relevant heading (name, date, assignment title), and subheadings where appropriate, which can be viewed in a Navigation Pane. Please correct spelling and grammatical errors before submitting all assignments. Spelling, grammar, and writing style will be taken into consideration in evaluating written work. Assignments should be submitted to the Course Dropbox within Moodle. Every assignment should carry a filename that MUST include your name (Student Name) and the assignment number, e.g. Jan\_Smith\_Minor1.doc

Written work must be reflective, balanced, analysis and be well-supported by references. Deep familiarity with the biblical text will be appreciated as will the ability to showcase extensive theological reading and reflection and to critically examine an issue from many points of view.

Students should use APA format for references. It is recommended that students use a bibliography tool such as Endnote, Zotoro (free), Mendeley (free), etc.

**Chapter 1. Literature and Video Reviews** (6-8 pages)

Write a review of the literature and media presented in this course. You should plan on approximately 8 double-spaced pages to review the materials. For books, you should plan 1-2 pages. For videos plan 1 one paragraph. Your review should cover the following:

* What are the big ideas or takeaways from the material?
* How do you see those ideas being applied to 1) yourself and/or 2) your organization and/or 3) the Christian world in general?

**Chapter 2. Project** (10-15 pages)

Final Project

Your final project is intended to be a synthesis of this course. It should be a more polished and cohesive synthesis of your previous assignments as well as including the following elements.

1. Your personal theology of work as it applies to you personally in a tech field. How do you think God views your field and profession and is using it for His purposes?
2. Your story. In particular, try to identify themes from painful life experiences, patterns of success and personal passions in your story that will help you better understand your calling.
3. What you learned about who you are based on your personality type, Strengthsfinder strengths, SHAPE, other personality profile tools you have completed and other factors. How do you think that shapes your personal vocation and calling?
4. The core of the document should be to write your own personal business plan of the Startup of You. You can view the questions in the Startup of You Guide (Rachael Upload) for a list of helpful questions and ideas to include in your plan. Specifically, you should including the following elements:
   * Market research on people who are doing the type of work you want to do that might want to emulate. How did they get there? What is a plan for you follow a similar path?
   * Market research on your sector. What is the size of the market? How competitive is that market? What will be your competitive advantage in that market?
   * Networking plan: who are the people you need to meet and talk with to take the next steps in your calling? How can you find groups and mentors in the different areas you need to grow?
   * Write down where you want to be in your calling in 5 or 10 years. Write out a detailed plan of the steps of how you can get there.

Note on alternative media formats. If you prefer to do some portion of your project in an alternative media format (Web, Powerpoint), then the page requirements should be such that they take the same amount of time as producing the content in a paper format.

**Chapter 3. Self-Evaluation, Reflection and Suggestions** (2-3 pages)

This section is to provide room for self-evaluation, reflection and suggestions including the following elements:

1. Reflects what you learned during this course and whether it met what you anticipated based on the course’s desired learning outcomes (goals or objectives), as well as your personal goals for the course.
2. We view all our whole program as an “open source” project where we are looking for students to contribute to make it better for the next group of students. What resources, materials or people would you suggest that might be able to contribute to this course? Any other suggestions for improvement?

Use The Final Project Template

<http://www.cityvision.edu/courses/mod/url/view.php?id=34367>