

**The Theology of Work...Living the Christian Life in Secular Culture:
6PT514 (2 Credits)
Spring 2009
Reformed Theological Seminary, Washington D.C.**

Instructor: Art Lindsley
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McLean, Virginia Campus

Class meets three times during the semester, the first meeting will be the night of February 18 at 7:30pm. This will be a short informational meeting to review the class assignments and schedule two additional meetings during the semester to discuss the readings and recorded lectures.

I. Course Description & Objective

Dorothy L. Sayers once wrote, "Christians must revive a centuries-old view of humankind as made in the image of God, the eternal Craftsman, and of work as a source of fulfillment and blessing not as a necessary drudgery to be undergone for the purpose of making money, but as a way of life in which the nature of man should find its proper exercise and delight and so fulfill itself to the glory of God. That it should, in fact, be thought of as a creative activity undertaken for the love of the work itself; and that man, made in God's image, should make things, as God makes them, for the sake of doing well a thing that is well worth doing."

This class assists the student in understanding the "Theology of Work" and how their vocational calling from God works itself out in today's secular culture. There will be a number of recorded lectures from people of different disciplines giving their insight on how we should learn to integrate our faith and our work.

This class can count toward the 6PT513 Christian Life requirement OR the 6HT506 Church and the World requirement. Please contact the registrar if you wish to make a substitution.

II. Texts

Required Texts:

Guinness, Os. *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life*, Nashville:Word, 1998.

And one of the following books:

Bakke, Dennis, *Joy at Work: A Revolutionary Approach to Fun on the Job*, Seattle: PVG, 2005

Sherman, Doug, *Your Work Matters to God*, Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1987

And both of the following articles (Posted on IQ Web)

Sayers, Dorothy, *Why Work*

Henry, Carl, *Christian Personal Ethics* – Chapter on work

III. Recorded Lectures

You must listen to all the following lectures (download lectures here: TBA)

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Title</u>
Dennis Bakke:	Gospel Based Leadership
Tim Keller:	Work
	Work and Rest
	Cultural Renewal
	Vocation - Three parts to discerning a call
Page Benton Brown	Kingdom Matters
Art Lindsey	various lectures
Os Guinness	The Call: Finding and Fulfilling Your Purpose in Life

IV. Evaluation

1. Reading Reports - 30%

Reading Reports - All students are to write a book report on the two required texts and one of the assigned articles. Each report is to be approximately 1-2 pages. Students should choose one issue in each book/article and write a critical interaction with that deals with that issue.

Due Date: March 30

Mail or email papers to the RTS Washington DC office

Mail: RTS Washington DC

1028 Balls Hill Road

McLean, VA 22101

Email: send to Jenny McGahey at jmcgahey@rts.edu

2. Final Paper - 70%

Write a 10-15 page research paper (exclusive of cover page and bibliography) on an issue covered in the lectures or in the assigned reading regarding the integration of faith and work.

You must submit your paper both in hard copy and electronically. You may direct your electronic copy to the following e-mail address: art.lindsley@gmail.com. The subject line of your e-mail should read: "6PT514 Final Paper." Send your paper as a Microsoft Word attachment only. Send the hard copy to Art Lindsley at the following address: Reformed Theological Seminary, 1028 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA, 22101.

The paper should have the following elements and meet the following guidelines:

- A concise introduction that reflects your awareness of the pertinent issues
- A strong, incisive, clearly-stated thesis in the opening of the paper
- A cogent argument that is integrally tied to and flows from your thesis
- Organization that is both inherent to the paper and evident to your reader
- A conclusion that properly concludes the argument of your paper, concisely reflecting on the implications of your thesis for our understanding of biblical teaching (generally) and for the life of the church today.
- Fair and decisive engagement of the primary and secondary literature.
- Engagement of the following kinds of sources:

- Academic commentaries (not collections of sermons, lay commentaries, or devotional expositions)
- Academic monographs
- Articles published in scholarly journals
- Literature published both before and after 1900
- Reformed & evangelical sources as well as non-Reformed sources
- Footnotes (not endnotes or parenthetical references!). Footnotes should be single spaced, 10 pt font. The first line of each footnote should be indented.
- Pagination – each page should be clearly numbered
- Consistent, readable margins – ½ to 1 inch margins on each side of the text
- Text set in left justification, Times New Roman font; 12 pt. Set your indentation at ½ inch.
- Double or 1.5 spacing only.
- Documentation according to format and standards prescribed in the SBL Handbook of Style – this applies both to the body of the paper and the bibliography. Please take special note of the abbreviations.
- Absence of typographical, grammatical, syntactical, or spelling errors. Such errors will result in a lower grade on your paper. Proofread!
- A staple in the upper left hand corner – no folders, etc., please.

Due Date: May 29

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IV. Course Schedule

February 18 – Organizational meeting

April 1 – Discussion on reading and lectures

May 20 – Discussion on reading and lectures

Reading Reports due: March 30

Research Paper due: May 29