

COURSE SYLLABUS

Exploring Vocation and Calling

STL 1102-N7

Fall 2017

Tuesday, 3:30-4:20 p.m.

SR 074

Office Hours: Mon-Wed 10am-12pm

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New Student Experience

Baylor cares about your transition into college, so all incoming students are required to take a New Student Experience (NSE) course. NSE courses provide the opportunity for first-semester students to form meaningful connections with each other and with faculty in an academic community. NSE courses also introduce students to the key values of a liberal education including critical thinking, the integration of faith and learning, and social responsibility. NSE courses are designed to support your success by engaging you academically, socially, and spiritually in the earliest stages of student development.

By the end of the first year, through your participation in the overall New Student Experience programming at Baylor including Orientation, Line Camp, Move-In, Welcome Week, Chapel, and this NSE course, we hope you will: Understand Baylor's mission and learning outcomes, connect to Baylor, engage in spiritual formation, develop personal and professional goals, succeed academically, and develop autonomy through caring community.

Course Overview

Exploring Vocation and Calling would be a course aimed at preparing students for success in their academic journey through the framework of examining the nature of vocation and calling. Students will be introduced to reading assignments that will challenge and encourage their understanding of what it means to be a faithful student presently, and what it will mean as a person of faith in the workplace. The students will engage in a group presentation for each reading with the intention to deepening peer to peer relationships and fostering a good personal work ethic in a group setting. In addition, students will utilize an assessment tool to assist in clarifying future goals in their major field and following career path. The integration of a more developed understanding of God's role and desire for the student will give perspective to the assessment results. Finally, students will be asked to reflect on their initial understanding of God's calling for their lives (or in general) and will write another analysis at the conclusion of study in order to measure the impact of readings and exercises. In doing so, the students will articulate their personal responsibilities in light of the work that God is doing in them and through them.

Materials/Text

No textbook is required for this course, but pen and paper are useful materials to bring to class. You are expected to arrive on time to EVERY session with a willingness to participate in class discussion. While readings will be presented by a specific group, each student is expected to read by every article. The following readings can be found on Canvas:

Reflections on the Right Use of School Studies – Simone Weil

Follow the Caller – Ryan J. Pemberton

Vocation Goes to the Movies – Jill Pelaez Baumgaertner

Called Out, Not Left Out – Todd L. Lake

Go with God – Stanley Hauerwas

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Attendance and Decorum

Attendance is expected to remain at no less than 75%, with the maximum number of excused absences at 4. If there is an illness or family emergency, contact me as soon as possible to make other arrangements for the missed class. Out of respect for your instructor and fellow classmates, please keep phones and tablets put away during class, and do not use class time to work on outside assignments. Late assignments will not be accepted in this class.

Assignments:

1. **Late Night Assignment-** Due August 28th (10 points) – Late Night is August 24th
Attend Late Night event. Be sure to ask representatives for a contact name and email address. Email instructor with a list of three organizations or programs that you are considering joining along with the contact information for each one.
2. **1st Reflection Paper-** Due August 28th (15 points)
Write a one-page (double—spaced, Times New Roman, size 12 font) reflection on your understanding of God’s call either in general or specifically how you understand God’s calling in your life. Submit assignment via Canvas. Document should be in Microsoft Word Format.
3. **Strong Interest Inventory®** - Due September 2nd (10 points)
4. **One-on-one Appointment-** Due the week of September 24th – September 28th (10 points)
Attend one-on-one appointment with instructor to discuss your career path, vocation and calling. One-on-one sessions will be held during the week of September 26th.
4. **Group Presentation on Weekly Article** (25 points)
Groups and corresponding articles will be assigned in class and graded upon these criteria:
 1. Cover content in assigned article (10 pts)
 2. Creativity of presentation (10 pts)
 3. Group collaboration (5 pts)
7. **Final Reflection Paper-** Due November 16th (20 points)
Review your first reflection paper and then write a two-page paper (double—spaced, Times New Roman, size 12 font) in response to it and how your understanding of the call of God has shifted or been informed through you study this fall. Submit assignment via Canvas. Document should be in Microsoft Word Format.
8. **Class discussion and participation** (10 points)
Students are expected to read all assignments and participate in the class conversations. Cell-phones and tablets are to remain out of sight. Use of cell-phones will result in a first warning, and then for every following instance, the student will be counted absent. Points are awarded for attendance, participation in class conversation, and interaction with the material.

Assignment	Due Date	Grade Points
Late Night Assignment	8/28/18	10
1 st Reflection Paper	8/28/18	15
Strong Inventory	9/2/18	10
One on One Appt	9/24/18-9/28/18	10
Group Presentation		25
Final Reflection Paper	11/16/18	20
Class Discussion and Participation		10
		Total: 100

Grades: 100-95/A+ 90-94/A 85-89/B+ 80-84/B 75-79/C+ 70-74/C
 65-69/D+ 60-64/D Below 60/F

COURSE CALENDAR

Session 1
August 21

Introduction and Expectations

Course purpose
Review syllabus
Self-reflection discussion

Assignments:

- **Late Night Assignment-** Due August 28th (10 points) – Late Night is August 24th
- Complete Strong Interest Inventory® by **September 2nd**
- Schedule a “Vocation and Calling” appointment with me (Jack Bodenhamer) for the week of September 25th.
 1. Go to www.baylor.edu/cpd.
 2. Scroll down slightly to find the Student and Alumni Login button under the HireABear heading on the right.
 3. Login to Handshake.
 4. Click “Career Center” at the top.
 5. Click “Appointments”.
 6. Click “Schedule an Appointment”.
 7. Select “University Undergraduate Appointments - Career and Professional Development”
 8. Select “Vocation and Calling”
 9. Make sure to choose an appointment between September 24th and September 28th.*Complete this by **August 30th**.

Session 2
August 28

Introduction to Calling – Redefining an Understanding

Assignment:

- Initial reflection on calling is due.
- Complete Strong Interest Inventory by Sept 2nd.

Session 3
September 4

Assessment Review

Review Strong Interest Inventory® results

Session 4
September 11

Here and Now – General Calling

How now shall I live?

Session 5
September 18

Distinctive Direction - Missional Calling

Baylor resources to help you succeed (Counseling Center, Academic Support Programs)
Baylor resources to help you explore careers (Student Organizations, Study Abroad)
Career and Professional Development services and resources
Handshake

Session 6
September 25

Confirming the Claim - Direct Calling

Assignments:

- **One on One Appointment**

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Session 7 October 2	Finding the Thread - Vocational Discernment
Session 8 October 9	Group Presentation <i>Reflections on the Right Use of School Studies – Simone Weil</i>
Session 9 October 16	Group Presentation <i>Follow the Caller – Ryan J. Pemberton</i>
Session 10 October 23	Group Presentation <i>Vocation Goes to the Movies – Jill Pelaez Baumgaertner</i>
Session 11 October 30	Group Presentation <i>Called Out, Not Left Out – Todd L. Lake</i>
Session 12 November 6	Group Presentation <i>Go with God – Stanley Hauerwas</i>
Session 13 November 13	Perils and Pitfalls
Session 14 November 20	Final Reflections
Session 15 November 27	Final Reflections

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Academic Success

We as faculty members have high academic expectations of you and believe every student who has been admitted to Baylor can be successful. I am a vigilant professor and will notice if you are struggling in my course. If your academic performance in this class is substandard, I will submit an Academic Progress Report to the Success Center during the sixth week of the semester. I will work to help you get the help you need to learn more fully, and I can assist you in finding the resources you need beyond my course. Familiarize yourself with the culture of success we have at Baylor by stopping by the Paul L. Foster Success Center in Sid Richardson or by going to:

<https://www.baylor.edu/successcenter/>. Even if you don't need help, you can get involved by tutoring other students in the future or by telling a hall mate how and where to get help.

Office Hours

One of the best ways to take full advantage of learning in my course is by coming to my office hours. I look forward to guiding you in your academic pursuits. Take advantage of the hours listed above or email me for an appointment.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism or any form of cheating involves a breach of student-teacher trust. This means that any work submitted under your name is expected to be your own, neither composed by anyone else as a whole or in part, nor handed over to another person for complete or partial revision. Be sure to document all ideas that are not your own. Instances of plagiarism or any other act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Honor Council and may result in failure of the course. Not understanding plagiarism is not an excuse. As a Baylor student, I expect you to be intimately familiar with the Honor Code at: <http://www.baylor.edu/honorcode/>

Students Needing Accommodations

Any student who needs academic accommodations related to a documented disability should inform me immediately at the beginning of the semester. You are required to obtain appropriate documentation and information regarding accommodations from the Office of Access and Learning Accommodation (OALA). Contact Information: (254) 710-3605 - Paul L. Foster Success Center, 1st floor on the East Wing of Sid Richardson.

Title IX Office- Title IX Coordinator

Baylor University does not discriminate on the basis of sex or gender in any of its education or employment programs and activities, and it does not tolerate discrimination or harassment on the basis of sex or gender. If you or someone you know would like help related to an experience involving sexual or gender-based harassment, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, intimate partner violence, or retaliation for reporting one of these type of prohibited conduct, please contact the Title IX Office at (254)710-8454 or report online at www.baylor.edu/titleix.

The Title IX office understands the sensitive nature of these situations and can provide information about available on- and off-campus resources, such as counseling and psychological services, medical treatment, academic support, university housing, and other forms of assistance that may be available. Staff members at the office can also explain your rights and procedural options if you contact the Title IX Office. You will not be required to share your experience. **If you or someone you know feels unsafe or may be in imminent danger, please call the Baylor Police Department (254-710-2222) or Waco Police Department (9-1-1) immediately.** For more information on the Title IX Office, the *Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Interpersonal Violence policy*, reporting, and resources available, please visit the website provided above.

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Military Student Advisory

Veterans and active duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, any special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the VETS Program Office with any questions at (254) 710-7264.