

**Northwest Baptist Seminary  
(Associated Canadian Theological Schools)  
PTH 606: Doing God's Business – Theology of Work at Work**

Three credit hours

Fall 2008 (September 10 to December 10 – Directed Study)

Faculty member of record: Dr. Perkins - [perkins@twu.ca](mailto:perkins@twu.ca)

*Course Description:* participants will develop a biblical theology of work that incorporates work into the Christian's vocation and enables a follower of Jesus to worship and minister within the occupational context. Work stories in Scripture, as well as consideration of the Creation and Redemption mandates will form the foundation for spirituality in the workplace. Case studies will assist students to discern the implications and applications of these principles within their occupational settings and an individualized plan for Kingdom influence in that setting will be an intended outcome.

*Course Outcomes*

By the end of this course each student should be able to:

- articulate a theology of Christian calling that includes every believer and gives value to vocation;
- explain how the Creation and Redemption mandates, as well as Christian eschatology, provide a dynamic framework and responsibility for being a Kingdom influence in the marketplace;
- practice specific spiritual disciplines appropriate to the workplace;
- inspire and challenge gospel-centred behaviour in the marketplace, creating a specific plan for the student's context;
- integrate the Sunday experience with the Monday reality.

*Course Resources:*

1. Required Texts:

Darell Cosden. *The Heavenly Good of Earthly Work*. Peabody MA., Hendrickson Publishers, 2006.

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

Richard Higginson. *Questions of Business Life; Exploring Workplace Issues from a Christian Perspective*. Spring Harvest, 2002

Paul Stevens. *Doing God's Business: Meaning and Motivation for the Marketplace*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2006.

2. Other resources:

<http://teachjoyatwork.com/resources.htm>

<http://www.faithandwork.org>  
[www.dennisbakke.com](http://www.dennisbakke.com)

3. Bibliography:  
Pete Hammond, R. Paul Stevens, and Todd Svanoe. *The Marketplace Annotated Bibliography*. InterVarsity Press, 2002.

## Course Content

1. September 10 – 26, 2008. Read Os Guinness, *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of your Life*. In a paper of 7 – 8 pages:
  - a. Define the essence of a Christian's calling according to Guinness and evaluate his definition based on biblical and theological data.
  - b. In several pages discuss how Guinness understands the relationship between a Christian's calling and a Christian's work in the marketplace. Do you agree with his explanation? Articulate your own sense of Christian calling and define how this relates to your current occupation.
  - c. Finally, evaluate how your own understanding has been changed by this exercise and how you now would explain to another believer how a Christian's calling relates to his or her occupation.
  - d. Post this paper to the PTH 606 mycourse online mailbox by September 26. Double-space the material and use an 11 point font. Use appropriate footnote format as necessary. The title page does not contribute to the page count. This assignment is worth 15% of the final grade. It should take about 22 hours to complete.
2. September 29 – October 20, 2008. Read the material on "Marketplace Ministry" published as #40 in the Occasional Papers of the Lausanne Congress, 2004. You will locate this document at the <http://mycourses.twu.ca> website under PTH 606 Fall 2008. Then read Paul Stevens, *Doing God's Business: Meaning and Motivation for the Marketplace*. In an eight page paper:
  - a. Evaluate the definitions of Marketplace Ministry that these respective publications propose. Are there any substantive differences? If so, what are they and why do these occur? Do you agree with the definition? Why?
  - b. Evaluate the definitions of 'work' that each publication provides. Do you agree with them? How would improve on these definitions?
  - c. Each publication also talks about the ways we should understand the relationship of "the clergy" to "the laity." Do you agree with their articulation? Why? What biblical principles underlie their discussion? If you take their definition and compare it to your current church experience, what is the same and what is different?
  - d. What is the relationship between the church and the marketplace? Where are the points of integration for the believer?
  - e. This paper should be in the range of eight pages, double-spaced, using 11 point font. Post your completed responses on the PTH 606 online forum by 5pm, Monday, October 20.
  - f. Read two other postings by students and interact with either their definition of marketplace ministry, or their definition of work, or how they define the relationship between church and marketplace. This response should be several paragraphs in length and posted by 5pm Friday, October 24, 2008. This

assignment is worth 20% of your final grade and should take about 30 hours to complete.

3. October 21 – 31 complete interviews of two Christians engaged in the marketplace. You will find a form at <http://mycourses.twu.ca> under assignment # 3 that you must (no exceptions, this is University policy) complete, sign and give to the interviewee before the interview begins. A copy of this must be provided to the faculty person with the completed assignment as well. Get a sense of what issues they face as a Christian in their employment. Discern how they see their employment in the context of God's calling. Do they see their work as having significance and purpose in and of itself? Explore how they see their family, church, recreation, and work in relationship to each other. Are they integrated? If so, what is the point of integration? How do they sustain balance in all of this?
  - a. You will prepare a written summary of each interview (probably about two pages each), indicating the substance of the person's response to your questions. Suggested questions are included in the form. You can add to these questions of course.
  - b. You will also evaluate and reflect upon how the interviewees understand the relationship between their Christian calling and their occupational lives. As well, consider how they understand the church's interest in and assistance for them to be missional in the context of their occupational setting. Identify three (3) key things the church might do to assist believers to function effectively as kingdom agents in the marketplace.
  - c. This assignment will be in the range of 5 – 6 pages. It will be submitted directly to the faculty person during the workshop, along with the signed permission form. The assignment contributes 15% to your final grade and should take about 20 hours to complete.
4. November 7 – 8 (Friday, 6:30 – 9:30pm; Saturday 8:30am to 4pm – lunch is not provided). The Workshop is held in the Fosmark Building at the TWU campus, rooms 130-131. You are required to attend all three sessions. This part of the course will take about 20 hours of your time. Read the first four chapters in Darell Cosden. *The Heavenly Good of Earthly Work* before you come to the workshop. We will try to meet as a group during the lunch break to meet one another and make sure everything is on schedule.
5. November 10 -15. Write one case study of an incident arising from your own experience that presented specific challenges for marketplace ministry. This should be two pages in length. Then write a response to the case, showing how a Kingdom transformation perspective could be applied for good to these issues defined. The response should be two to three pages in length. You will find guidelines on how to write up a case study and the response to it at the course website.

This will be submitted online by 5pm, November 15. It is worth 10% of the final grade and should take about 10 to 12 hours to complete.
6. November 15 – 21. Complete your reading of Cosden's book.
  - a. Evaluate Cosden's idea that our work on earth has value intrinsically because it will be transformed by God and integrated somehow into the New Heaven and New Earth. Do you think his use of texts from Romans 8 and Revelation 21-22 are sufficient to support this idea. If Cosden's proposal is not sustainable, then what is the value of the occupational work we do as believers? How does it

contribute to Kingdom advancement and possess eternal value? Or does it? Write a 5 – 6 page paper articulating your response to these issues.

- b. You will submit this online by 5pm November 21. It will be double-spaced and use 11 point font. By November 28 you will have read and responded to the submissions by two other students. This assignment will contribute 10% to your final grade and should take about 15 hours to complete.
7. November 21 – December 10. For your final assignment select one of the following requirements:
- a. If you are engaged directly in the marketplace: Based on readings, course interactions, and personal experience, create a gospel-centred marketplace ministry plan that will guide your personal spiritual development and transformational Kingdom influence within your current occupational setting. This plan should incorporate an initial section that defines your theological foundations for the plan. As well, it should contain a section in which you articulate a Christian worldview of your profession or industry. It should also demonstrate interaction with the text by Higginson.
  - b. If you (i.e. pastors or pastors in training) are engaged in ministry to people in the marketplace: Based on readings, course interactions, and personal experience, create a program of development and mentoring for people within your ministry setting that will equip them to engage in a gospel-centred marketplace ministry. This will include the training process, the content of that training, the mentoring process included, the spiritual formation components, etc. As well, it will contain a section in which you articulate a Christian worldview of a Christian's perspective on the relationship between work and calling.
  - c. The final document should be about fifteen (15) pages, appropriately formatted (11 point font, double-spaced), and with suitable footnoting and bibliography. An appendix should be attached that summarizes in a chronological sequence how you will implement the plan and what resources you may need to access in order to carry it forward.
  - d. This assignment is worth 30% of the final grade and should take about 40 hours to complete. It needs to be submitted online no later than 5pm, December 10, 2008.

**Grading Summary:**

Assignment # 1	15%
Assignment # 2	20%
Assignment # 3	15%
Workshop	
Assignment # 5	10%
Assignment # 6	10%
Assignment # 7	30%

***Journal – an encouragement***

While this is not a formal requirement for the course, we would encourage you during the course to be journaling your responses, questions, emerging issues, and other reflections you may experience. This practice will help you keep focused and motivated during the course.

*Grading Scale:*

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Point
A+	Superior	4.30
A	Excellent	4.00
A-	Very Good	3.70
B+	Proficient	3.30
B	Good	3.00
B-	Average	2.70
C+	Adequate	2.30
C	Acceptable	2.00
C-	Needs Work	1.70
F	Below Standard	0.00

Materials at the Course Online website:

1. Assignment # 2 – “Marketplace Ministry” – Occasional Paper from the Lausanne Congress, 2004.
2. Assignment # 3 – Interview permission form.
3. Assignment # 5 – Case Study guidelines

***Supplement: Important Academic Notes from ACTS***

**Web Support -- Student Portal <https://students.twu.ca>**

All ACTS courses are supported with web pages through the TWU MyCourses system.

I will use the course web page to post materials that I wish to distribute to the class. You will want to check the page periodically to watch for updates and announcements.

You should have received information on the TWU virtual campus and MyCourse system with your class registration materials. If you do not have an appropriate password, cannot figure out how to make the tools on the web page work, or find that the system is not functioning properly at a mechanical level, please do not come to me for assistance, as I am not equipped to help you with that kind of tech support. (*Do* email me to let me know if there are things I’m supposed to post which are not yet present on the website, or if you need a work-around to get or submit information while waiting for the tech people to resolve tech problems. These are faculty issues, and I can help you with them.) For basic information like passwords, you can get help from the Registrar’s office. For help with tech issues, contact the “esupport” people who are experts with such things. They can be reached at [esupport@twu.ca](mailto:esupport@twu.ca), or 604-513-2148 (toll free at 1-866-614-4652).

***Plan to use your TWU email account***—or at least, set it to forward automatically to your personal account. Your grades for this and other courses are always distributed through the TWU mail system at the end of the semester. Also, this is the email address that gets automatically loaded into my course administration tools. ***Any notices, mid-course grade information, etc., which I want to send you during the semester will go to your TWU email address.***

### **Campus Closure**

In the event of deteriorating weather conditions overnight or other emergency situations, every effort will be made to communicate information regarding the cancellation of classes to the radio stations CKNW (980 AM), CKWX (1130 AM), MAX (850 AM), PRAISE (106.5 FM) and KARI (550 AM) by 6:30 a.m., and an announcement will be placed on the University's switchboard as well as on the website <http://www.twu.ca/conditions/>. The first announcement regarding a closure will cover the period up to 1:00 p.m. only. If classes are to be cancelled beyond 1:00 p.m., this decision will be announced by the same means before 11:00 a.m. that day. Students and faculty should assume that all night classes will continue to operate. If the emergency continues into the evening, students and faculty may check for a closure notice on the University's switchboard and website after 3:00 p.m. that day.

### **Paper Formatting**

Students need to adhere to Turabian format except in counselling courses, for which APA format is used.

Students are encouraged strongly to use RefWorks (available through the library home page [www.twu.ca/library](http://www.twu.ca/library)) as their bibliographical manager and as a tool for formatting bibliographies. They will need to be aware of the need to “clean up” most bibliographies generated by this program. Students are encouraged to view the documents on the following websites for format samples: <http://faculty.ucc.edu/egh-damerow/turabian.htm> or [www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/](http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/).

Note that in RefWorks the available formatting styles are those of Turabian (Notes), 6th edition, and APA – American Psychological Association, 5th edition.

Counselling students are expected to purchase the APA Publications Manual. More information found at the following website. <http://www.apastyle.org/pubmanual.html>.

CANIL students can locate this on the CANIL intranet, under the “student” side. A hard copy is given to incoming students in the fall.

Please check with your professor to see which one he/she recommends you use!!

#### **Research Ethics**

Please note that all research projects involving human participants undertaken by members of the TWU university community (including projects done by ACTS students to satisfy course or degree requirements) MUST be approved by the Trinity Western University Research Ethics Board. Information and forms may be found at <http://www.twu.ca/academics/research/ethics/> Those needing additional clarification may contact Dr. Bruce Guenther. Please allow at least three (3) weeks from the date of submission for a review of the application.

### **Academic Integrity and Avoiding Plagiarism at TWU**

As Christian scholars pursuing higher education, academic integrity is a core value of the entire TWU community. Students are invited into this scholarly culture and required to abide by the principles of sound academic scholarship at TWU. This includes, but is not limited to, avoiding all forms of plagiarism and cheating in scholarly work. TWU has a strict policy on plagiarism (see academic calendar 2008-09, pp. 37-38). Further details on this subject are contained in the

ACTS Student Handbook in section 4.12. The handbook is available online on the ACTS webpage ([www.acts.twu.ca](http://www.acts.twu.ca)) at the following link: [www.acts.twu.ca/Handbook.html](http://www.acts.twu.ca/Handbook.html). Learning what constitutes plagiarism and avoiding it is the student's responsibility. An excellent resource describing plagiarism and how to avoid it has been prepared by TWU Librarian William Badke and is freely available for download (PPT file) or used as flash (self running) tutorials of varying lengths from:

<http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/plagiarism.ppt>

<http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/Plagiarism.swf> (14 minute flash tutorial)

[http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/Plagiarism\\_Short.swf](http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/Plagiarism_Short.swf) (8 minute flash tutorial)

### **Equity of Access**

It is the responsibility of a student with a learning disability to inform the ACTS Director of Student Life of that fact before the beginning of a course so that necessary arrangements may be made to facilitate the student's learning experience. We are unable to accommodate any student who informs the Director of Student Life of a disability after the beginning of class.