

REGENT COLLEGE
Distance Education

APPL/INDS 573: VOCATION WORK & MINISTRY

Professor Emeritus: R. Paul Stevens
Course Grader: R. Paul Stevens
3 graduate credit hours
Prerequisites: none

Your due date: _____

(See the last page of your Student Handbook for setting your due date)

A course may be dropped within two weeks of the course start date for a 100% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between two and four weeks of the course start date for a 75% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between four and eight weeks of the course start date for no refund; after this time the student is committed to receiving a grade for the course. All course materials must be returned in original condition before a drop or refund will be approved.

Course Description

This course aims to help students answer three fundamental questions about themselves:

1. Who am I?
2. What should I do with my life?
3. How am I to go about discerning my calling?

Combining biblical exposition, theology, cultural analysis, self assessment tools, counseling, and discussion groups, the course is a reflective experience in discernment concerning the way you have been made and the path to which the Creator and Shepherd of your life is leading. While some of the application will concern finding or remaining in suitable employed work, the emphasis will be larger and deeper than finding the right job. In today's world most people are in fairly continuous vocational transition. But the approach of the course will be to take the largest understanding of calling or vocation: the invitation of God to live and work wholeheartedly and fruitfully before Him. There will be a balance of teaching, small group interaction and guided reflection. Handouts, inventories and work sheets will be provided.

The participant will gain a deeper self-knowledge, practical steps in discerning appropriate vocational expressions, a theological basis for life whether one enters a Christian service career or chooses a societal career, and spiritual foundations for vocational decision-making. It is ideal for people in vocational transition and those considering a church vocation. Married couples are encouraged to take this course together.

Of all the benefits of experiencing and living out a sense of vocation James Fowler lists seven: no jealousy of others, freedom from anxiety, we can be ourselves, grace towards others, balance, freedom from the urgency of time, and a medium of growth in our lives. And there are two more, personal contentment and pleasing God.

Class Outline

- (1) Listening to and watching a vcd of Paul Stevens lecturing and facilitating, originally recorded in Singapore at the Biblical Graduate School of Theology in 2008. The vcd form is usable on all computers and integrates the video (sight and sound) with the power points projected on to the screen.
- (2) Engaging in collaborative learning through interviewing and being interviewed by at least one other person through which you will unpack a life experience and gain perspective on your interests, passions, abilities and values.
- (3) Undertaking a number of hands-on exercises through which you will gain insight on your life patterns, values and virtues, and vulnerabilities.
- (4) Reading critical texts both to gain a theological and biblical grasp of vocation, work and ministry, but also to understand how we discover the will of our creator and leading God.
- (5) Interviewing people not engaged in the course but undertaking a life work that might be of interest to you.
- (6) Undertaking a short prayer retreat (5 hours) or a discernment group that meets at least four times (5 hours in total)
- (7) Writing reflective papers both in the form of a journal and a formal theological paper.

Lecture Outline

- What Am I going to Do When I Grow Up? Towards a theology and Spirituality of Vocational Guidance
- What Does It Mean to Be Called?
- Does God Really Have a Wonderful Plan for My Life?
- Work: So Whose Work Really Matters to God?
- Work As a Spiritual Discipline
- Ministry: The Universal Priesthood of the People of God
- Gifts and Talents
- Being Resident Aliens: God's Mission and Our Mission
- The Larger Vocation: Called to Social Transformation
- Discovering Your God-Given Personality
- Values and Virtues
- Kingdom Ministry and Kingdom Resistance
- God's Providence: Why Your Life Is Not a Bundle of Accidents
- The Soul of Work and Ministry: Dealing with Ourselves
- Listening to the Voice of God
- Work-Life Balance: Myth or Gift?
- Vocational Holiness
- The Lord's Prayer as a Pattern for Vocational Discernment

Academic Requirements & Time Investment

	<u>3 cr. hrs</u>	
Lectures	40 hrs	
Readings & Book Review	45 hrs	
Theology Paper	20 hrs	(1500 wds)
Collaborative Learning	5 hrs	
Interviews	5 hrs	
Prayer Retreat or Discernment Group	5 hrs	
Reflection Paper	<u>15 hrs</u>	(1500 wds)
TOTAL	135 hrs	

Assignments

1. Readings and Book Reviews

Four books required, with two from (1) The Required Texts – Stevens and Miller, and two more with one from Section (2) and one from Section (3). A formal book review (one only) will be written on one of these books from (2) or (3) (750-1000 words) other than Mattson, Miller and Stevens. A list of books read should accompany the submission of the final paper. Indication of your interaction with the other three books will be given in one or both of the papers. These should not be books you have read for another course.

2. Theology Paper

Students will select a single theme in the theology of the people of God from either the lecture topics or topics provided by the instructor and will write a formal 1500 word theological paper with not less than 5 citations from books (including any read for the reading requirement) and 2 journal articles showing reflection, integration with the course and lectures, and independent judgement. Allusions and quotations will be indicated by following proper scholarly reporting (see Turabian). The paper should include a bibliography.

3. Collaborative Learning

Interviews and discussions with at least one other person either also taking the course or not so. (reflection on this should be made in the journal paper)

4. Interviews

Each student will undertake three interviews with people concerning their discernment of calling in their lives. Students are free to choose anyone outside of the class but are encouraged to select people that are involved in a life path that is of interest to them, which may be professional Christian service, tentmaking or being a Christian in a profession. A brief report of these interviews must be incorporated into the reflection paper either in the body of the text or at the end.

5. Prayer Retreat or Discernment Group

As part of the course each participant will undertake a short **prayer retreat** of five hours (possibly in two sections) using the Lord's Prayer notes at the end of the Listening and Viewing Guide as a pattern. Some reflection on this should be included in the Reflection Paper. An alternative is to gather not less than three people to meet four times during the course as a **discernment group**. The student participant will share learnings, his or her journals, the development of his discernment model. The group will then undertake silent prayer for 20-30 minutes and each person will share what they have gained by listening to God.

6. Reflection Paper

Students will gather up their learning and experiences in the course in a single 1500 word paper. This paper may take the form of a written prayer, an extended first-person reflection, a journal of learning, or an extended devotional commentary on a portion of Scripture as it applies to the process of vocational discovery. It should incorporate the following:

- (a) Experience of the lectures
- (b) Reading above
- (c) Interviews with at least three people outside of the course participants, preferably people who are already serving God in an occupation or service you are considering
- (d) Reflections on the psychological assessments and interviews as it pertains to vocational decision making
- (e) The Prayer Retreat, or discernment group including reflection on your experience

Allusions and quotations should be indicated through the use of proper scholarly reporting style.

Evaluation

Book Reviews 33%

Theology Paper 33%

Reflection Paper 33%

Late Policy and Extensions (please read carefully!)

For every week that your course requirements are submitted late, there will be a deduction of a third of a letter grade per assignment accordingly. Only under circumstances that are both *unavoidable and unforeseeable* are extensions considered (please refer to your student handbook for specific details <http://www.regent-college.edu/academics/cstudies/documents/StudentHandbook.pdf>). Weddings and births do not count as *unavoidable and unforeseeable*. If you need to go beyond the six-month time limit, you must contact the Coordinator *first* for an extension. Contact information is provided in your **Student Handbook**. Please note that extensions are not automatically granted, and must be applied for before your original due date.

ACADEMIC HONOUR Regent College upholds the highest standards of academic responsibility as part of our commitment to Christ in all of life. Students are required to familiarize themselves especially with the discussion of "Academic Integrity" in the College Catalogue.

Bibliography

Section 1 - Required Texts:

Stevens, R. Paul, *The Other Six Days* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999, available in Korean translation) – to be read during the course but no book review. Also published in the UK under the title *The Abolition of the Laity*.

And either:

Mattson, Ralph and Miller, Arthur, *Finding a Job You Can Really Love* (Nashville: Nelson, 1983/reprinted).

- outlines their basic philosophy that we have a central motivational thrust which should find expression in our daily work--with helpful outline on how to write a biography of our lives to discover what we enjoyed doing and did successfully.

Note: This book is out of print but has been reprinted by P&R Publishing Co., Box 817, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865-0817 website orders through sales@prbooks.com. Amazon has used copies for sale at an extreme price.

OR

Miller, Arthur F, with Hendricks, Arthur, *Why You Can't Be Anything You Want to Be* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999).

- an updated version of the above with a deeper focus on personal/spiritual giftedness

In either case students are expected to do the inventories at the end of the book in advance of the course and not later than the second class. (Mattson and Miller, 177-192; Miller and Hendricks, 223-247). No book review will be undertaken.

Recommended Texts:

Section 2 - In Vocational Decision Making;

Banks, Robert, and Stevens, R. Paul, eds. *The Complete Book of Everyday Christianity* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1997). Reading any 15 articles from this book is equivalent to one full-length book. Recommended articles are: Ambition, Calling/Vocation, Career, Drivenness, Failure, Financial Support, Guidance, Homemaking, Integrity,, Leadership, Ministry, Mission, Money, Power-workplace, Principalities and Powers, Professions and Professionalism, Protestant Work Ethic, Retirement, Service-Workplace, Spiritual Gifts, Stewardship, Success, Talents, Tentmaking, Unemployment, Vocational Guidance, Volunteer Work, Wealth, Work, Workplace. Note: Half of *The Complete Book* is available free on the internet at IVMDL website. The entire book can be purchased on soft copy for the price of an ordinary book: Word Search. IF YOU ELECT TO WRITE A BOOK REVIEW ON THIS, YOU MAY SELECT TWO ARTICLES AND WRITE 250-325 WORDS ON EACH. Note: Some of these articles are found in the **Readings**.

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

- a classic reflective work crafted in the form of daily meditative readings and drawing on a rich tradition of Christian literature. The book focuses on the purpose of God rather than on a plan.

Jones, Gordon and Rosemary. *Naturally Gifted: A Self-Discovery Workbook* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1991/93).

- considers interests, values, aptitudes and personality with tests, inventories and worksheets-
- a Christian perspective on the use of "secular" tests

Bolles, Richard. *The Three Boxes of Life* (Berkeley: Ten Speed Press).

- looks at the balance of work, leisure and rest and considers how we can live a more balanced life

Fowler, James W. *Becoming Adult, Becoming Christian* (San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1984).

Friesen, Garry. *Decision Making and the Will of God: A Biblical Alternative to the Traditional View* (Portland: Multnomah Press, 1980).

- argues persuasively that there is not "centre of God's will"--but weak on the guidance of the Spirit.

Levoy, Gregg, *Callings: Finding and Following an Authentic Life* (New York: Three Rivers Press, 1997).

Peterson, Eugene. *Under the Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration in Vocational Holiness* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992).

- a brilliant exposition of the story of Jonah as it relates primarily to pastoral ministry

_____. *Leap Over a Wall: Earthy Spirituality for Everyday Christians* (San Francisco: Harper, 1997), a brilliant exposition of the life of David with many evocative passages that explain an ordinary, everyday spirituality.

Poehnell, Gray, Amundson, Norm and McCormick, Rod, *Guiding Circles: An Aboriginal Guide to Finding Career Paths* (Saskatoon, Canada: Aboriginal Human Resource Development Council of Canada, 2006).

Reccord, Bob, and Singer, Randy, *Made to Count: Discovering What To Do with Your Life* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2004).

Smith, Gordon T. *Listening to God in Times of Choice: The Art of Discerning God's Will* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1997). -The former Dean of Regent College explores a spirituality of discernment and decision-making.

Waltke, Bruce. *Finding the Will of God: A Pagan Notion?* (Gresham, Oregon: Vision House, 1995)--offers a six step of guidance, a rare combination of biblical interpretation and common sense.

Young, Michael and Schuller, Tom, *Life After Work: The Arrival of the Ageless Society* (London: HarperCollins, 1991)

Section 3 - Theology of the Whole People of God;

Babcock, Gary D. *The Way of Life: A Theology of Christian Vocation* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998)--a rich theological essay ranging through Scripture and modern theology on the subject of vocation.

Banks, Robert. *God the Worker: Journeys into the Mind, Heart and Imagination of God* (Sutherland, Australia: Albatross Books, 1992).

Banks, Robert. *All the Business of Life: Bringing Theology Down-to-Earth* (Tring, Eng.: Lion Publishing, 1987), republished under the title, *Redeeming the Routines* (Victor).

Bernbaum, John A. and Steer, Simon M. *Why Work? Careers and Employment from a Biblical Perspective* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1986).

Gibbs, Mark and Morton, Ralph. *God's Frozen People* (London: Fontana, 1964)

Kraemer, Hendrik. *A Theology of the Laity* (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1958)

Martin, Gilbert and Richards, Lawrence. *Lay Ministry: Empowering the People of God* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981)

Mouw, Richard J. *Called to Holy Worldliness* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1980).

Neill, Stephen, and Hans-Ruedi, eds. *The Layman in Christian History* (London: SCM Press, 1963).

Ogden, Greg. *The New Reformation: Returning the Ministry to the People of God* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990).

Peck, George and Hoffmann, John S., *The Laity in Ministry: The Whole People of God for the Whole World* (Valley Forge: Judson, 1984).

Rademacher, William J. *Lay Ministry: A Theological, Spiritual and Pastoral Handbook* (New York: Crossroad, 1991).

Schuurman, Douglas J. *Vocation: Discerning Our Callings in Life* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004).

Stevens, R. Paul. *Liberating the Laity: Equipping All the Saints for Ministry* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1985/reprinted Regent Publishing).

_____. *The Other Six Days: Vocation, Work and Ministry in Biblical Perspective* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999).

Readings Available in soft or hard copy

Note: most but not all of the readings are from Robert Banks and R. Paul Stevens, The Complete Book of Everyday Christianity (InterVarsity Press), available in soft copy through Word Search and partially free on the IVMDL website.

All Are Called: The Universal Vocation of the People of God (RPS)	3
Calling (RPS)	13
Christianity and the Foundation and Future of Western Medicine (Eugene Cameron)	19
Clergy (RPS)	29
Financial Support (RPS)	34
Laity (RPS)	37
Ministry (RPS)	43
Perkins, William: A Summary of Perkins' "Treatise on Callings" (RPS)	49
Spiritual Gifts (Gordon Fee and Stevens)	56
Talents (RPS)	62
Tentmaking (RPS)	65
Values (Iain Benson)	71
Virtues (Iain Benson)	73
Vocational Conversion (RPS)	77
Vocational Guidance (RPS)	85
Women and Vocational Discernment (Angela Hwang)	93
Women in Ministry and Leadership: A Biblical Reflection (RPS)	104
Work (Gordon Preece)	105

Articles Available for Research in CD Rom form

- “The Academic Life” (Matthew Anstey)
Advanced Techniques for Work Search (Alberta Human Resources and Employment)
- “All Are Called: The Universal Vocation of the People of God” (Stevens)
- “An Approach to Workplace Ministry for Christian Physicians” (Jeff Greenman)
- “Anyone for Ordination? A Contribution to the Debate on Ordination” (Paul Beasley-Murray)
- “Banking as Ministry: A Christian Review and Theological Consideration” (Michael Baird)
- “Beyond Vocation: New Theologies of Work” (Christopher White) *Zadok Papers*
- “Both Sides of the Technological Coin: Informational Technology both from a Theoretical and Every-Day Perspective (Audrey Williams)
- “A Business Owner’s Mission: Working as a Christian in a Car Sales Firm” (Don Flow)
- “Business: Is There a Christian Perspective?” (Richard Chewning)
- “Call to Ministry” (Roy Fairchild)
- “Call to the Ministry: A Discussion Document” (Paul Stevens)
- “The Calling to the Marketplace: The Challenge of Vocation, Identity and Work in the World of Business” (Gordon Smith)
- “The Career Circle”(Gray Poehnell)
- “Christian Editing: Integration of Faith and Profession” (Ginimi Chan)
- “A Christian Minister” (William Carey)
- “The Concept of Vocation” (G. Wingren)
- “Conductor or Virtuoso? A Historical and Theological Look at the Presbyterian Ministry of the Word and Sacrament with a View to its Implications for Lay Ministry” (David Montgomery)
- “Confessions of a Christian Professional” (J.V.Larsen)
- “Creation, Covenant and Work” (William Dumbrell)
- “Dilemmas of a Christian Professional Performer,” (Keith Binns)
- “Discerning Your Call and Your Gifts for Ministry” (United Presbyterian Church)
- “Discover Your Design: A Step-by-Step Guide (Miller)
- “The Distorted Mirror: Reflections on the Unintended Consequences of Advertising” (Richard Pollay)
- “The Doctors and Ministers of the Church: Their Election and Office” (John Calvin, *Institutes*)
- “Equipping Equippers Cross-Culturally: An Experiment in the Appropriate Globalization of Theological Education” (Paul Stevens & Brian Stelck)
- “Equipping’ Ministry in Ephesians 4?” (David Gordon)
- “Examining For Skills” (Richard Bolles)
- Finding Your Spiritual Gifts* (Wagner Modified Houts)
- “Function or Office? A Survey of the New Testament Evidence” (Ronald Fung)
- “Gifts of the Spirit or Spiritual Gifts: Discussion Guide” (Paul Stevens)
- “The History of the Word Vocation” (Karl Holl)
- “Householding: The Creation of a Home within the Chaos of Society” (Mary Ruth Wilkinson)
- “Is There a Secret Call?” (Philip Collins)
- Inventory of Spiritual Gifts* (Richard Houts)
- “The Keirsey Temperament Sorter”
- “The Kingdom of the Therapeutic and the Kingdom of God” (Judith McBride)
- Laborem Exercens*, Encyclical letter of Pope John Paul II
- “The Laity in Biblical Perspective” (Thomas Gillespie)
- “Laos and Leadership Under the New Covenant” (Gordon Fee)
- Lasting Gifts: Parents, Teens and the Career Journey* (Canadian Career Development Foundation)
- “Leadership Motivational Needs Survey” (Carey Hall)
- “Luther on Vocation” (Marc Kolden)
- “Marketing the Faith: A Reflection on the Importing and Exporting of Western Theological Education” (Paul Stevens)
- “The Marketplace: Mission Field or Mission?” (Paul Stevens)

- “The Meaning and Place of the Voluntary Clergy” (Roland Allen)
The Ministry in Historical Perspectives (Richard Niebuhr and Daniel Williams)
- “Ministry, Profits, and the Schizophrenic Tentmaker” (Steven Rundle)
- “Models of the Pastor in the History of the Church” (James Houston)
- “Normal Process of Vocational Decision Making” (Paddy Ducklow)
- “Personal Reflections on the Contemporary Practice of Law” (Peter Mogan)
- “Personality & Emotional Factors in Christian Ministry” (Paddy Ducklow)
- “Politics as a Means of Service” (Paul Marshall)
- “Principalities and Powers: An Examination of the Twentieth Century Discussion of the Supernatural Powers Mentioned by Paul”(Gerry Schoberg)
- “Principles of Biblical Decision Making” (Paddy Ducklow)
- “The Projectionist: A Brief Spiritual Memoir” (Ivan Kovaks)
- “The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism” (Max Weber)
- “Quotables on ‘Career Decision-Making’” (Marketplace Resource)
- “Reawakening Your Passion for Work” (Richard Boyatzis, Annie McKee and Daniel Goleman)
- “Recovering Vocation Today” (Klaus Bockmuehl)
- Self-Employment: Is It for Me?* (Alberta Human Resources and Employment)
- “The Role of Christianity on the Development and Prospect of Western Medicine”(Dr. E. C. Cameron)
- “Sima: Biographical Form”
Sima: The System for Identifying Motivated Abilities: Theory and Research Handbook
- “Skills Inventory”
Skills Plus Handbook: Discovering Your Personal Career Assets (Alberta Human Resources and Employment)
- “Some Personality and Emotional Factors in Vocational Decision-Making” (Paddy Ducklow)
- “Spiritual Gifts” (Gordon Fee)
- “A Strategic Career Worksheet” (Norm Amundson and Gray Poehnell)
- “The Struggles and Challenges of Tentmaking” (Danny Martin)
- “Tension in Mission: The Dilemma of Western Energy” (Al Bussard)
- “Tentmaking” (Paul Stevens)
- “Tentmaking: The Case for the Voluntary Christian Worker” (Paul Stevens)
- “A Theology of Ministry” (Roy Bell)
- “Theology of Work: Some Preliminary Considerations” (Charles Ringma)
- “The Three Fold Call: A Trinitarian and Reformed Theology of Vocation” (Gordon Preece)
- “Tough Business: In Deep, Swift Waters,” (Steve Brinn)
- “Toward a Marketplace Missiology” (Neal Johnson)
- “A Treatise of the Vocations or Callings of Men” (William Perkins)
- “The Upbuilding and Upholding of the Church for Ministry” (Karl Barth)
- “Values Inventory”
- “Values Sort” (Jones and Jones)
- “The Viability of the Vocation Tradition in Trinitarian, Credal and Reformed Perspective” (Gordon Preece)
- “Vocation in a Post-Vocation Age” (Louis Almen)
- “Vocation in a Post-Vocational World: Re-Meaning Work in a Demeaning Society” (Gordon Preece)
- “What Makes a Job Christian: Five Myths” (HIS)
- “Women and Vocational Discernment” (Angela Hwang)
- “Work and Calling” (Jacques Ellul)
- “Work/Life Planning” (Peter Mogan)
- “Work in the Spirit: Toward a Theology of Work” (Miroslav Volf)
- “Your Place in the Body of Jesus Christ” (Sima, Miller)