

Forming Disciples for Faith and Work
Reformed Theological Seminary
January 9-13, 2023
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

I. Course Description

This course explores the process of forming disciples for faith and work integration. We will explore the foundations of faith and work theology as it relates to disciple-making and pastoral practices that cultivate a discipleship culture of faith and work integration.

II. Course Objectives

- To articulate a biblical theology of work and its importance in discipleship.
- To identify key theological concepts for faith and work discipleship.
- To identify challenges to whole-life discipleship.
- To explore principles for cultivating a congregational culture of faith and work discipleship.
- To identify pastoral obstacles and fears to faith and work discipleship in their congregations.
- To cultivate a deep, personal conviction concerning the biblical vision of vocation, wherein God gifts and calls His people into other-centered service.
- To cultivate an ongoing commitment to the comprehensive scope of God's mission.
- To explore pastoral practices that encourage congregants in their vocational vision.

III. Method of Instruction

This course is a highly interactive workshop consisting of lectures, discussions, and small group activities. It's expected that participants will teach and learn from other participants as part of their learning experience and class participation.

IV. Course Reading

- Albert Wolters, **Creation Regained** (Eerdmans, 2nd ed, 2005) ISBN: 978-0802829696
- Tim Keller, **Every Good Endeavor** (Penguin Books, 2014) ISBN: 978-1594632822
- Matthew Kaemingk and Cory B. Wilson, **Work and Worship** (Baker Academic, 2020) ISBN: 978-1540961983
- Herman Bavinck, **Common Grace** PDF:
<https://bavinckinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Herman-Bavinck-Common-Grace.pdf>

V. Course Requirements

A. Participation (30% of Grade)

Please attend all classes. Class lectures, discussions, and exercises are based on the assumption that you have completed all assigned readings by the start of our intensive class. The class will begin every day promptly at 1:00 pm. Please ensure that you arrive

on time and participate fully. Our time together will be greatly enriched by all of us teaching and learning from one another based on our varied experiences.

- **In-class Presentation**

On the first day of class, every student will give an introductory presentation. The presentation will include: (1) A personal Introduction (including family, interests, etc.) (2) A description of your current ministry. (3) A summary of the findings from your church member interviews (see below). (4) A description of what you hope to take away from the class.

- **In-class Participation**

All students must engage in class discussions and group activities.

B. Reading Log and Reflection Papers

- **Reading Log (Due First Day of Class)**

For every assigned text above, keep a reading log with three key take-aways from each chapter. You will need to upload a single document on Canvas by the first day of class, including your take-aways from every book. Organize the paper by the book and then by chapter. Takeaways can be direct quotes from the chapter, or you can briefly summarize a concept from the chapter that was meaningful.

C. Church Member Interviews (Complete Before First Day of Class)

You will conduct three interviews with people from your current congregation or ministry prior to the class. The purpose of the interview is to explore their experience of faith and work integration. The interview should last around 30 minutes. Think of it as a conversation guided by the questions below. In other words, be engaged, listen to what they say, be curious, ask follow-up questions, and take notes. You will present your findings and reflections on these interviews in your class presentation (see above).

When you ask these folks for an interview, make sure to inform them that this is for a class assignment and that in any interview report, you will keep their names completely anonymous. This step is important.

Interview Questions:

1. Tell me about what you do in a typical day in your work.
2. On a scale of 1-10 how would you rate your current understanding of how your work matters to God?
3. How has the local church equipped you for being on mission with God in your work?
4. How can I pray for you and your work?

D. Final Paper (8-10 pages) DUE April 7, 2023

Discipleship Faith and Work Integration Plan The purpose of this assignment is to assess and strengthen your congregation or ministry's (1) Theological Vision for faith and work discipleship (2) Culture of discipleship for faith and work (3) Pastoral practices for discipleship in faith and work (4) Ministry initiatives for discipleship in faith and work. The completed assignment will provide you with a written plan for implementing faith and work discipleship in your ministry.

OR

Redemptive Vocation Paper This paper is meant to be a researched and creative reflection in which the student examines a vocation from several perspectives, including the three categories of creation, fall, and redemption. The goal is for the student to ascertain a biblically informed vision of that vocation and be able to communicate that vision to others.

More specific information and guidelines will be given on the first day of class.

VI. Grading

In Class Participation	30%
Reading and Reflection Papers	30%
Final Assignment	40%

VII. Schedule

Our schedule for the week will be uploaded on Canvas one week before class.

VIII. Professor's Contact Information

Dr. Damein Schitter, PhD | Email: dschitter@newcityorlando.com



Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 02PT6501 - Forming Disciples for Faith and Work

Professor: Dr. Damein Schitter, PhD

Campus: Orlando

Date: January 10-14, 2022

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes		Rubric	Mini-Justification
<i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		Strong Moderate Minimal None	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Moderate	Students will reflect theologically on theological foundations of faith and work and express themselves in written and oral forms.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Moderate	Students will root their theological reflection in Scripture and are required to express the application of scripture to their current context.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	The Westminster Standards are a small part of this class.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Students will cultivate their desire to follow Jesus in every area of life.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	The Lordship of Jesus and his comprehensive gospel are the foundation of this class.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Moderate	The doctrines of this class are historically rooted in a Reformed theological vision. At the same time, we will explore how to engage other traditions in a loving attitude.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Minimal	Students will be give an in class presentation.

Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	Students will practice building faithful liturgy that honors faith and work integration.
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Moderate	Students will practice shepherding local congregation in faith and work discipleship.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	Faith and work ministry is core to following Jesus in the world.