



MM101A Vocation, Work and Ministry: Seeing Vocation Seamlessly for all of life

Mr Michael Low | 1.5 CR

About the Course

This course aims to help students answer some key questions:

1. What is God doing in the world?

2. How do we, as the people of God, fit into His plan, and how does our daily work matter to the Kingdom?

3. How am I to steward all of who I am, and how can I live it out practically in every area of my life?

Credits

1.5CR

Class Format

Online

Fees*

S\$225(Credit)

S\$120 (Audit)

* Alumni are entitled to 10% discount on audit course(s)

Through lectures and interviews, small group interaction and personal reflection, this course will help the participant better understand the context of God's design for us, the Bible's teaching on work and vocation, so that they can learn to see seamlessly between our daily work and the other areas of our lives.

About the Lecturer

Mr Michael Low, a recent graduate of Regent College (MA Theo Studies '18), started his professional life as a litigation lawyer. He then moved on to banking where he spent over 10 years with several international private banks, his last role being the Asia Head of Fiduciary Services for a boutique Swiss private bank. Michael now works in fund-raising for reSource Leadership International, a Christian not-for-profit, as the Advancement Consultant based in Singapore. He is also exploring ways to connect with the marketplace, where his passion lies.



Course Objectives

1. To help students understand what vocation means in the context of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation.
2. To help students aspire to a biblical understanding of the mission God has for the people of God, and to discover their part in that mission.
3. To help students come to an understanding of how they are can live faithfully as stewards of all they have and are.
4. To attempt to help students learn to see seamlessly between their faith, work and all of life.

Course Outline

Session	Lectures	Pre-class Reading
1	<p>An Introduction to Vocation, Work and Creation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your story? • What does it mean to "know"? • The relationship between "knowing" and "theology" • God, creation and work <p>Can you know the world and still love it?</p>	<p>Steven Garber, <i>Visions of Vocation</i>, Introduction and Chapter 1 "To Know the World and Still Love it?" (p. 13 - 35).</p>
2	<p>Seeing, Knowing and the Kingdom of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeing is knowing..or is it? • Knowing in the world today • How knowing implicates us • The theology of work and the Kingdom of God <p>Theology and the whole people of God</p>	<p>Paul Stevens, <i>The Other Six Days</i>, Chapter 1 "Doing People Theology" (p. 4-22).</p>
3	<p>Responsible and responsive work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship, revelation, responsibility • The multiple facets of <i>yada</i> ("to know") • The relationship of meaning, purpose, responsibility, accountability <p>How do we reconcile our work with the brokenness of the world?</p>	<p>Steven Garber, <i>Visions of Vocation</i>, Chapter 4, "Knowing is Doing" (p. 82 - 111).</p>

4	<p>Reclaiming Vocation – God’s design for our work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God the worker • The goodness of our work • The dignity of our work • Our call to cultivation and creativity <p>Does God care about my work?</p>	Paul Stevens, <i>The Other Six Days</i> , Chapter 5 “Doing the Lord’s Work” (p. 106-126).
5	<p>Vocation, Mission and the church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission, evangelism and vocation • Social action and the Gospel • What is the relationship between my work, the church and mission? <p>Work, Church and the <i>Missio Dei</i></p>	John Stott, <i>Mission: Rethinking Vocation</i> (pg 1-30)*
6	<p>A Rhythm of Work and the Sabbath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean to keep the Sabbath? • The mutuality of work and the Sabbath • Does God care about play? <p>How does God care for the worker?</p>	Ben Nelson, <i>The Tripartite Relationship of Work, Play and the Sabbath</i> (10 pgs)*

*denotes readings that will be provided; for other readings, please make every effort to obtain them yourselves.

Course Requirements

1. Class attendance (15%)

Class interaction is a key part of this course. We want to learn from the instructor, the various guest speakers, and from each other. Class interaction also provides a way of putting into practice some of the things we learn in the course.

2. Reading logs (35%)

Read and reflect on the weekly readings given, and write a 150-word summary of each reading

3. Major book review (50%)

A 2000-word book review of *either* of these two books:

1. Stevens, R. Paul, *The Other Six Days*, Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999; or
2. Garber, Steven. *Visions of Vocation: Common Grace for the Common Good*, Downer’s Grove IL, IVP, 2014.

The review should cover key themes of the book, lessons learnt, and a short reflection on how these lessons learnt might be applied in your daily life and work.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT POLICIES

1. For **style and formatting** of assignments, please refer to the document "General Formatting for all Assignments" available on your course Moodle page.
2. ALL assignments are to be submitted by uploading via Moodle. Alternatively, assignments can be sent via email to assignments@bgst.edu.sg without the need to cc. the lecturer (unless requested by the lecturer).
3. Students must submit all their assignments **6 months** after the course registration date

Students are advised that BGST **strongly discourages plagiarism.**

For more information on this point (what plagiarism is, how BGST penalises it), please consult the BGST 'Guidelines for Academic Papers'.

Course Bibliography

REQUIRED READINGS

(1) Garber, Steven. *Visions of Vocation: Common Grace for the Common Good*, Downer's Grove IL, IVP, 2014.

(2) Stevens, R. Paul, *The Other Six Days*, Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999.

A short select bibliography of recommended texts

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

Smith, Gordon T. *Courage & Calling*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011.

Veith, Jr., Gene Edward. *God At Work*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2002.

Keller, Timothy. *Every Good Endeavor*, New York, NY: Dutton, 2012.