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office hours T 2-4  
 and by appointment

**English 189: Literature and Religion**  
**Finding Your Calling: The Renaissance Within**

**Course Description, Goals, and Objectives:**

*Vocation*, or calling, is a vital theme in theology and literary history, developed over five centuries ago in Early Modern Europe when Renaissance theologians moved beyond the Medieval belief that only a few were “called” by God to celibate religious lives as priests, monks, and nuns. Renaissance reformers claimed that *all* men and women were called to use their talents (or “gifts”) as part of the divine plan. Vocation, for Martin Luther, John Calvin and their contemporaries, included everyone from kings to commoners: artists, artisans, diplomats, doctors, domestic servants, farmers, lawyers, merchants, ministers, students, teachers, and people like you and me. As English theologian William Perkins explained, “every person of every degree, state, sex, or condition, without exception must have some personal and particular calling.”<sup>11</sup> Because Renaissance men and women expected to discover their callings, in remarkable ways, they found them. Their vocations illuminated their lives as they combined ideals and action into unprecedented creative contributions to science, religion, politics, and the arts.

This course will study the relationships between vocation and Early Modern history, culture, faith, and identity, examining how Renaissance men and women developed their vocations and drawing parallels to our lives today. Reading and reflecting on Renaissance literature, we will explore the creative awakenings that occur when people balance action with contemplation, discover their gifts, detach from impediments, and discern their deepest values, then chart new directions in life. You will read about vocation in the lives of St. Ignatius as well as Renaissance writers and artists, do an in-depth study of the quest for vocation in one Renaissance life, then report on your findings in an oral presentation and course paper. You will also have the chance to practice contemplation and Ignatian discernment, reflecting on the quest for calling in your life.

**Course Requirements and Percentage of Final Grade:**

- Regular attendance and participation: 10%.
- Two short papers, 5-6 pp.: 10% each (20% of final grade).
- Midterm Exam: 20%.
- Ongoing contemplative practice and weekly journal entries: 10%.
- Oral report on selected Renaissance life: 10%.
- Final paper on a selected Renaissance life: 30%.

**Course Texts:**

One Renaissance biography or autobiography of your choice from the course list.

Easwaran, Eknath. *Meditation*. Tomales, CA: Nilgiri Press, 1991.

Hardy, Lee. *The Fabric of This World: Inquiries into Calling, Career Choice, and the Design of*

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<sup>1</sup> Perkins, William. *A Treatise of the Vocations or Callings of Men (1603)*. In *The Work of William Perkins* (pp. 441-476). Ed. Ian Breward. Abington, Berkshire, England: Sutton Courtenay Press, 1970, p. 455.

- Human Work*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1990.
- Ignatius Loyola, St. *The Autobiography of St. Ignatius Loyola*. Ed. John C. Olin. Trans. Joseph F. O'Callaghan. New York: Fordham Univ. Press, 1992.
- Perkins, William. *A Treatise of the Vocations or Callings of Men (1603)*. In *The Work of William Perkins* (pp. 441-476). Ed. Ian Breward. Abington, Berkshire, England: Sutton Courtenay Press, 1970. (Eres/Reserve reading)
- Vasari, Giorgio. *The Lives of the Artists*. Trans. Julia Conaway Bondanella and Peter Bondanella. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1998.
- Walton, Isaac. *Lives of Doctor John Donne and George Herbert*. New York: Bartleby.Com, 2001. <http://www.bartleby.com/15/2/>. (Read on-line)
- Selections from: Buonarroti, Sonnets; Donne, *Holy Sonnets*; Herbert, *The Temple*; Marvell, "The Garden;" Milton, Sonnets 7, 19, 23; Traherne, *Centuries of Meditation*.

### Course Policies:

- 1 **Reading assignments** are to be completed for class on the dates cited on the schedule.
- 2 **Course papers** are to be printed in hard copy, double-spaced on white paper with appropriate margins and documentation. Papers may *not be submitted by fax or e-mail*. Deadlines for writing assignments are marked in **bold type** on the course schedule. These are equivalent to *press deadlines*. Late assignments will not be accepted (except in rare cases involving medical emergencies).
- 3 **Journals**. Please bring your journal to class to be checked periodically during the class period. All journal assignments are due at the beginning of class on the designated dates.
- 4 **Class Attendance and Participation**. This is not a correspondence course. Regular class participation is required. If you miss a class, you are responsible for all material covered, should get notes from another student and submit your work on time. If you miss more than 20% of the classes *for any reason* (including illness, family emergencies, or personal problems), you cannot receive a passing grade and should withdraw from the course.
- 5 **Cell phones**. Out of respect for the other students and the process of shared inquiry, *please turn off your cell phone before coming to class*.
- 6 **Academic Integrity**: Plagiarism--using another person's words or ideas without appropriate documentation--will result in not only a failing grade but also a formal report, to be filed with the Office of Student Life, which becomes part of your permanent record and may endanger your academic status or result in expulsion from the university. Consult your Undergraduate Handbook on details of Santa Clara's policy and review the latest *MLA Handbook* or *APA Manual* for proper documentation protocol. Please ask me if you have any questions or concerns about documentation. It never hurts to ask if you are unsure, but plagiarism can hurt you and others: *when in doubt, check it out*
- 7 **Santa Clara's Disability Accomodation Policy**: To request academic accommodations for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources located in the Drahmman Center, Benson 214 ([408] 554-4111; TTY [408] 554-5445). Students must provide documentation of a disability to Disability Resources prior to receiving accommodations.
- 8 **Questions**. This course will probably raise all kinds of questions for you. Questions are a natural part of learning. Please feel free to ask me *any* questions that come up either in class, during office hours, or by contacting me at (408) 554-4954 or [ddreher@scu.edu](mailto:ddreher@scu.edu).

**Course Schedule:**

- T Sept 19 Welcome, introductions, and course business. Background lecture on vocation in the Renaissance and today. Assignment and practice of passage meditation. Class exercise on discovery of gifts. Selection of Renaissance life for your individual report and course paper. After class, this week read Hardy, *The Fabric of This World*, Chapter 1 and Perkins, *A Treatise of Vocations* (on Eres).
- T Sept 26 Reading: Hardy, *The Fabric of This World*, Chapter 1; Vasari, *The Lives of the Artists*: Cimabue, Giotto, and Botticelli; meditation handout.  
Exercise: take signature strengths survey on line: [www.authentichappiness.org](http://www.authentichappiness.org), print out your results and bring them to class; ongoing contemplative practice.  
Journal: 1 paragraph on your contemplative practice; 1 paragraph on what you learned from the signature strengths survey; 1 paragraph on discovery in one life from today's reading.  
In class: lecture and discussion on vocation, adulthood, and changing concepts of work; discuss Hardy, Perkins and lives in today's reading; contemplative practice. Paper 1 assignment (compare/contrast discovery process in one Renaissance life with one contemporary example) due Oct 10.
- T Oct 3 Reading: Hardy, *The Fabric of This World*, Chapter 2; Vasari, *The Lives of the Artists*: Leonardo, Raphael, and Properzia de Rossi.  
Exercise: ask three people you know to list five of your talents or strengths; ongoing contemplative practice.  
Journal: 1 paragraph on last week's contemplative practice; 1 paragraph on what you learned from others about your gifts; 1 paragraph on discovery in the Renaissance life you're researching.  
In class: discussion of vocation in Renaissance culture and this week's Renaissance lives. Contemplative practice. Guest speaker. Sign up for oral reports.
- T Oct 10 Reading: Thomas Traherne, selections from *Centuries of Meditation*; Andrew Marvell, "The Garden;" articles on contemplative practice and consumerism.  
Exercise: ongoing contemplative practice.  
Writing: **PAPER 1 DUE.** (Remember to document your sources)  
Journal: 1 paragraph on last week's speaker or your contemplative practice.  
In class: lecture and discussion on contemplative practice in Traherne and Marvell; discussion of causes and effects of consumerism on American values and daily choices; contemplative practice and introduction of a mantram. Midterm Review. Guest speaker.
- T Oct 17 **MIDTERM EXAM** (1<sup>st</sup> hour). Reading: St. Ignatius, *Autobiography*; handouts on discernment process. Exercise: ongoing contemplative practice and mantram.  
Journal: 1 paragraph on last week's speaker or your contemplative practice.  
In class: Discuss handout on St. Ignatius's gifts and discernment process.
- T Oct 24 Reading: Walton's *Life of Dr. John Donne*. Selections from Donne's *Holy Sonnets*; Handouts: Hope psychology, Dreher's brief life of Donne and discernment questions.

Exercise: ongoing contemplative practice and mantram.

Journal: 1 paragraph on use of the mantram; 1 paragraph on the connection between faith and vocation for Donne.

In class: Return midterms. Discuss hope psychology. Guest speaker(s). Review format for oral reports.

T Oct 31     Reading: Vasari, life of Michelangelo. Selected sonnets from Michelangelo.  
Exercise: ongoing contemplative practice and mantram.  
Journal: 1 paragraph on last week's speaker or your contemplative practice; take hope assessment on last week's handout and write a paragraph on what you learned about yourself; 1 paragraph on Michelangelo's discernment process.  
In class: Continue hope psychology discussion; discuss Michelangelo's discernment journey, faith, and vocation. Assign Paper 2 and review format for Final Paper. Guest speaker.

T Nov 7     Reading: Walton, *Life of George Herbert*. Herbert's "Employment (1)," and "The Windows" from *The Temple*.  
Exercise: ongoing contemplative practice and mantram.  
Journal: 1 paragraph on last week's speaker or your contemplative practice. 2 entries on your individual Renaissance life.  
In class: Discuss Herbert's faith, vocation, and art. ORAL REPORTS.

T Nov 14     Reading: Dreher, Brief lives of Magdalen Herbert and John Milton; Milton's Sonnet 7, 19, and 23.  
Exercise: ongoing contemplative practice and mantram.  
Journal: 1 paragraph on last week's contemplative practice; 1 entry on your individual Renaissance life; fill out Magdalen Herbert handout.  
In class: Discuss Magdalen Herbert's and John Milton's discernment process, related to what you've learned about hope psychology. ORAL REPORTS.  
**PAPER 2: PERSONAL VOCATION NARRATIVE DUE.** Sign up for conferences next week.

Nov 27-30     **JOURNAL DUE;** Conferences re: final work on your course paper.  
Reading: Ongoing research for your course paper.  
Exercise: ongoing contemplative practice and mantram.

Dec 5     **4:00 p.m. SJ 324. FINAL PAPER DUE ON VOCATION IN ONE RENAISSANCE LIFE.**

**Texts (literary, cultural, psychological, theological) recommended for further study:**

- Barry, William A. *Finding God in All Things: A Companion to the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius*. Notre Dame: Indiana Univ. Press, 1991.
- Bellah, Robert N. et al. *Habits of the Heart*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1985.
- Beaudoin, Tom. *Consuming Faith*. New York: Sheed and Ward, 2003.
- Bloch, Deborah P. and Lee J. Richmond, *Soul Work: Finding the Work You Love, Loving the Work You Have*. Palo Alto: Davies-Black, 1998.
- Buonarotti, Michelangelo. *The Sonnets of Michelangelo*. Ed. & Trans. John Addington Symonds. London: Vision, 1989.
- Bronson, Po. *What Should I Do with My Life?* New York: Random House, 2002.
- Buckingham, Marcus and Donald O. Clifton, *Now Discover Your Strengths*. New York: Free Press, 2001.
- Cochran, Larry. *The Sense of Vocation*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1990.
- Csikszentmihalyi, Mihaly. *Creativity*. New York: HarperCollins, 1996.
- Daloz, Laurent A. Parks et al. *Common Fire: Leading Lives of Commitment in a Complex World*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1996.
- Donne, John. *Devotions upon Emergent Occasions*. Ann Arbor: Univ. Michigan Press, 1959.
- Donne, John. *The Divine Poems*. Ed. Helen Gardner. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1978.
- Donne, John. *The Variorum Edition of the Poetry of John Donne*. Ed. Gary A. Stringer. Bloomington: Indiana U. P., 1994.
- Easwaren, Eknath. *The Mantram Handbook*. Tomales, CA: Nilgiri Press, 1998.
- Flinders, Carol. *Enduring Grace*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1993.
- Flinders, Carol. *Enduring Lives*. New York: Tarcher, 2006.
- Fowler, James W. *Stages of Faith*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1981.
- Fox, Matthew. *The Reinvention of Work*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1994.
- Haughey, John C., S.J. Ed. *Revisiting the Idea of Vocation*. Washington, D. C.: Catholic Univ. of America Press, 2004.
- Herbert, George. *The Works of George Herbert*. Ed. F. E. Hutchinson. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1941.
- John Paul II. *Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Christifideles Laici of His Holiness John Paul II on the Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World*. Washington, D.C.: United States Catholic Conference, 1988.
- James, William. *The Varieties of Religious Experience*. New York: Penguin, 1982.
- Levinson, Daniel J. *The Seasons of a Man's Life*. New York: Knopf, 1978.
- Levinson, Daniel J. and Judy D. Levinson. *The Seasons of a Woman's Life*. New York: Knopf, 1996.
- Loyola, St. Ignatius. *The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius*. Ed. Louis J. Puhl. Chicago: Loyola Press, 1951.
- Martz, Louis. *The Poetry of Meditation*. New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1962.
- Maslow, Abraham. *Toward a Psychology of Being*. New York: Van Nostrand, 1962.
- Milton, John. *John Milton: Complete Poetry and Major Prose*. Ed. Merritt Y. Hughes. New York: Odyssey, 1957.
- Seligman, Martin E. P. *Authentic Happiness*. New York: Free Press, 2002.
- Silf, Margaret. *Inner Compass: An Invitation to Ignatian Spirituality*. Chicago: Loyola Press, 1999.
- Snyder, C. R. *The Psychology of Hope*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994.
- Traherne, Thomas. *Centuries, Poems, and Thanksgivings*. Ed. H. M. Margoliouth. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1972.