UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2011
Instructor: D. Lyle Dabney
Course #: THEO 4390/5390
Section: 101
Course Title: Studies in Systematic Theology
Course Sub-Title: A Theology of Work; Discovering a Faith that Works

Description:

At the beginning of the twenty-first century the United States is experiencing a profound socio-economic transformation. Having begun as an agrarian society, we developed an industrial economy in the nineteenth and twentieth century and are now in the midst of becoming an information society. Each of these eras in our economic history has witnessed cultural and social transitions that brought change to the way we live and work—and the way we understand our life and labor. This course in Christian theology will examine the questions concerning our work now being raised in business enterprises, as seen in the recent literature on the subject. What is the significance and meaning of our labor? Why is creativity such an integral part of contemporary work? Can the working life of an entrepreneur be more than just a career? What role does ‘spirituality’ play in the workplace?

As we examine these questions we will turn to a number of Catholic and Protestant texts that have addressed human work in recent years to investigate the history and contemporary discussion of work in Christian theology. Once we have done that, we will begin to explore the narrative of the Bible in order to help the student to begin to articulate a faith that works.