UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Spring 2013
Instructor: Dr. D. Lyle Dabney
Course #: THEO 4390/5390
Section: 101
Course Title: Studies in Systematic Theology
Variable Topic: Theology of Work

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 then morphed into an industrial social 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 third level course in Christian theology will examine the questions concerning our work that are 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 God or ‘spirituality’ play in the workplace?

This course on “A Theology of Work” will begin with a discussion of David Miller’s introductory text, available on-line, God at Work: The History and Promise of the Faith at Work Movement. Using that survey as a point of departure, the class will proceed to examine some of the most important developments in the history of the Christian tradition with regard to these questions and will then take up a conversation with some of the contemporary voices in the debates. In the light of that material, we will turn to a consideration of the Biblical witness and how these matters are depicted in its narrative in order to help the student to begin to articulate a faith that works.