

Let Your Life Speak

Science Vocation Symposium

ASCI 140, Winter 2008, 2 units, Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Casa Commons

Instructor:

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“Listen to your life. All moments are key moments.”

Frederick Buechner

Vocation Symposium Overview

Most of us will spend a great deal of our waking hours at work. One of the important questions we often consider throughout our lives is how to find work that enriches us with a sense of purpose so that rather than have work consume us, we consume work to support a meaningful life.

This course will expose you to the career development process, which includes the interaction between growing self-awareness and the knowledge of work opportunities that fit your sense of self. You will have the opportunity to reflect on your interests, talents, and aspirations, while also hearing alumni and others share how they pursue meaningful work.

Self-knowledge provides you with the internal resources to make fulfilling decisions at every step of your life. As you face decisions around academic majors and areas of work, this course will allow you to synthesize your personal attributes with knowledge gained from major and career exploration resources and others' life stories. When a keen sense of self is combined with knowledge of where you would like to apply your interests and talents, you will have arrived at a working definition of your personal vocation.

Science

The speakers who are invited to share their life experiences for this symposium majored in Chemistry, Biology, Physics, or Combined Sciences and are working in a variety of professions and industries. All speakers continue to grapple with the desire for meaningful work, work/life balance, and financial security, while also often responding to family or societal expectations. The speakers will provide insight into their lives' journeys and how they arrived at work that they enjoy. Do not expect to find your dream job in one of the seven speakers; however, be prepared to be inspired and challenged by their life stories. Most speakers are SCU alumni.

Goals

- ❑ Develop greater self-awareness through engagement with readings, assignments, and speakers to aid you in making academic and work decisions
- ❑ Gain a deeper understanding of vocation and the applications to your life
- ❑ Identify majors and careers, including the many careers involving backgrounds in the sciences, through a variety of resources and methods

Expectations

- 1) In order for this course to be personally rewarding, it is essential that you be honest with yourself as you explore the questions on your mind. While this course explores careers in the sciences, it is important to allow yourself the space to grow into self-awareness that may or may not connect with the theme. As you personally connect with the material, you are expected to respect all students' realities and contribute to an atmosphere for safe exploration.
- 2) You will be expected to keep a folder of the Career Center resources provided throughout the quarter so that you can return to these at any point in your vocational journey.

Readings and Materials

Required Readings

Schlatter, Rebecca & Thompson, Elizabeth. "Letting Your Life Speak" (E-Res)

Burtchaell, James. *Major Decisions: How to Pick Your Major in College*. Notre Dame Magazine. Notre Dame, Indiana. Winter 1987. (hard copy will be provided)

**To access Reserve readings, follow the steps below:

<http://eres.scu.edu>

Electronic Reserves & Reserves Pages

Course Reserves Page by Instructor

Instructor: Thompson, Elizabeth

Let Your Life Speak, Winter 2007

Password: Vocation

Recommended readings

Bronson, Po. *What Should I Do With My Life?* New York: Random House, 2002.

Levoy, Gregg. *Callings: Finding and Following an Authentic Life*. New York: Random House, 1997.

Palmer, Parker. *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000.

Rilke, Rainer Marie. *Letters To A Young Poet*. New York: Random House, 1986.

The following will be provided for you:

Assessment: Strong Interest Inventory

Career Guides via Career Center Online, www.scu.edu/careercenter, or in printed version

Grading

This class will be graded on a Pass/No Pass basis

Your performance will be examined with the following criteria:

- 1) Attendance, preparation, and overall engagement with the course activities
- 2) Quality and depth of engagement in all assignments, indicating achievement of learning objectives
- 3) Promptness in completion of assignments**

**Late assignments will lose 2 points for each late day

Requirements

Attendance & Engagement

Point Values

20

You will not receive a passing grade if you miss more than 2 classes

Journals

10

Strong Interest Inventory

5

Resume or Instructor Meeting

10

Informational Interview Email

5

Wildcard Project

25

Informational Interview Paper

25

Total: 100 points

Grade Scale:

Although graded on a P/NP basis, assignment grades will correspond to the following grading criteria:

94 -100	A	74-75	C
90-93	A-	70-73	C-
86-89	B+	66-69	D+
84-85	B	64-65	D
80-83	B-	60-63	D-
76-79	C+	0-59	F

Agenda

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Assignment Due</u>
January 9	Intro to course Speaker & student reception	
January 16	Facilitation: DISCOVER overview Review student feedback, syllabus, & assignments Understanding vocation	“Letting Your Life Speak” “Major Decisions”
January 23	Arts & Sciences Career Celebration (Benson Center, California Mission Room)	Strong Interest Inventory completed online
January 30	Speaker: Randy Reyes 2nd hour topic: Networking	Journal 1
February 6	Speaker: Alan Gianotti 2nd hour topic: Transferable skills	Journal 2
February 13	Facilitation: Self-assessment review Interests and career opportunities Career Center resources	Informational Interview Email
February 20	Speaker Roundtable: Troy Obrero Michelle Fitch Tricia Mlnarik	Wildcard Project
February 27	Speaker: Kristin Love 2nd hour topic: Graduate School Year of Service Programs	Resume OR Instructor Meeting
March 6	Speaker: Terry Jackson-Rifenburg 2nd hour topic: Internships	
March 13	Facilitation: Evaluation Next Steps	Informational Interview
March 20	Finals Week NO CLASS	