

Let Your Life Speak

Social Justice Vocation Symposium

ASCI 140, Fall 2007, 2 credits, Thursdays, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Sobrato Den

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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 how you would like to apply your interests and talents, you will have arrived at a working definition of your personal vocation.

Social Justice

The speakers who are invited to share their life experiences for this symposium are motivated by a desire for social change. Simply stated, they are passionate about “making a difference” and this passion is applied to a variety of industries where they affect the common good. 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 five speakers; however, be prepared to be inspired and challenged by their life stories. Speakers are SCU alumni and others whose academic backgrounds reflect a range of studies.

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 social justice and the applications to your life.
- ❑ Identify majors and careers, including the many careers connected to social justice, through a variety of resources and methods.
- ❑ Develop the ability to articulate your own “story” for purposes of interviewing, networking, and public speaking.

Expectations

- 1) In order for this course to be rewarding, it is essential that you be honest with yourself as you explore the questions on your mind. While this course explores social justice careers, it is important to allow yourself the space to grow into self-awareness that may or may not connect with the theme. As you connect with the material, you are expected to respect all students' realities and contribute to an atmosphere for safe exploration.
- 2) You are expected to keep a folder to collect the Career Center resources and returned assignments provided throughout the quarter so that you can revisit these at any point in your vocational journey.
- 3) In order to meet you where you are in your exploration, you have a variety of assignments to choose from. You are expected to intentionally choose the assignments which best respond to what you are hoping to gain from the class.

Readings and Materials

Required Readings

Novak, Michael. "Defining Social Justice." *First Things* December 2000: 11-13.
Schlatter, Rebecca & Elizabeth Thompson. "Letting Your Life Speak" (E-Res).

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

<http://eres.scu.edu/>

Electronic Reserves & Course Pages
Course Reserves Pages by Instructor
Instructor: Thompson, Elizabeth
Let Your Life Speak
Password: Vocation

Recommended Readings

Bronson, Po. What Should I Do With My Life? New York: Random House, 2002.
Coelho, Paul. The Alchemist. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1998.
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 and Engagement
Journal, Resume, Instructor Meeting (choice of 2)
Strong Interest Inventory
Interview Preparation Worksheet
Informational Interview Email
Wildcard Project
Informational Interview Paper

Point Values

20
20 (10 points each)
5
5
5
25
20

Total: 100 points

You will not pass the class if you miss more than two classes.

You will not pass the class if you do not complete the Wildcard Project and the Informational Interview.

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>
September 20	Intro to course Speaker & student reception	
September 27	Facilitation: DISCOVER & immersion trips (Valerie Sarma) Review student feedback, syllabus, & assignments Understanding vocation Networking	"Letting Your Life Speak" "Defining Social Justice" Assignment Checklist
October 4	Speaker: Yvette Yambao	
October 11	Speaker: Alicia Gallegos	Journal 1 OR Resume OR Instructor Meeting Strong Interest Inventory completed online BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 22
October 18	Facilitation: Review self-assessment Interests & career opportunities Career Center resources	Informational Interview email
October 25	Speaker: Scott Morgan	Journal 2 OR Resume OR Instructor Meeting
November 1	Speaker: Ron Andre Jr. Facilitation: Practice Interviews	Wildcard Project
November 8	Speaker: Michael Collopy	
November 15	Interviewers: Anthony Ramos Elizabeth Valeski Aaron Uchikura	Interview Preparation Worksheet
November 22	Thanksgiving NO CLASS	
November 29	Wrap up	Informational Interview
December 6	Finals NO CLASS	