

Let Your Life Speak

Liberal Arts Vocation Symposium

ASCI 140, Spring 2007, 2 credits, Thursdays, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Location: Sobrato Hall

Instructor:

Elizabeth Thompson, Career Center, Benson

Office Hours: By appointment, 554-2359, ethompson@scu.edu

“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 each 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.

Liberal Arts

The speakers who are invited to share their life experiences for this symposium reflect a breadth of backgrounds in the liberal arts. While education, law, business, entertainment and social services are represented, the insights they share about the vocational journey are not limited to a particular major or industry. All speakers continue to explore how to pursue meaningful work and work/life balance, while responding to personal and/or family expectations and the desire to make a living. The speakers will provide insight into their lives' journeys and how they arrived at work that enlivens them. Do not expect to find your dream job in one of the eight speakers; however, be prepared to be inspired and challenged by their life stories. Speakers are SCU alumni and others whose academic backgrounds reflect the liberal arts.

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 liberal arts, 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 addresses careers related to liberal arts backgrounds, 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 along your vocational journey.

Readings and Materials

Required Readings

Schlatter, Rebecca & Elizabeth Thompson. "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 Pages by Instructor
Instructor: Thompson, Elizabeth
Let Your Life Speak, Spring 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

2 Journals

10

Strong Interest Inventory

5

Resume or Instructor Meeting

10

Wildcard Project

25

Informational Interview Email

5

Informational Interview Paper

20

Speaker Evaluation

5

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>
April 5	Intro to course Speaker & student reception	
April 12	Facilitation: Michael Colyer: DISCOVER & immersion trips Review student feedback, syllabus, & assignments Understanding vocation Networking	"Letting Your Life Speak" "Major Decisions"
April 19	Speaker: Janice Mirkítani	Strong Interest Inventory completed online
April 26	Facilitation: Strong Interest Inventory Interpretation Career Center resources	Journal 1
May 3	Speaker: Kevin Holmes	Informational Interview email
May 10	Roundtable: Ron Andre Jr. John Bianchi	Wildcard Project
May 17	Speaker: Megan Stone	Resume OR Instructor Meeting
May 24	Speaker: Michael Whalen	Journal 2
May 31	Speaker: Judy and Jerry Nadler	
June 7	Wrap up	Informational Interview
June 14	Finals NO CLASS	