

DRAFT
Subject to change. Full syllabus available in Canvas the week of May 20th.

**Loyola Institute for Ministry
Loyola University New Orleans**

Spirituality and the Theology of Work

24M-LIM G819-Y1G0E

Summer 2024

Important! You will be notified by email to your Loyola email address when your course web site is available (normally the week before class begins). Please reply to the instructor's email when you receive it to confirm that you are ready to begin the course

Course Description

Oriented to those students who understand their ministry as primarily taking place outside of a parish, congregation, or other explicit ecclesial community, this course investigates work and profession from the standpoints of vocation and community. The course offers a variety of theological and historical perspectives related to a spirituality of work in the world. Creativity, redemption, and collaboration are explored in light of workplace systems and the difference that Christians can make in the world.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, students should be able to

- articulate some of the key theological foundations that underpin a sense of the sacred in everyday life and work.
- identify some of the historical strands in the Christian tradition that have led to a dualistic view of “sacred” set apart from “secular” realms and some of the theologians that have developed a more integrated vision of the sacred in the secular.
- explain some of the ways that the theological perspectives of St. Ignatius of Loyola and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin overcome dualistic views that separate the sacred from the secular.
- speak about a spirituality of the laity and how it may differ and yet draw from earlier monastic spiritualities.
- explain how Catholic social teaching provides guidance and direction for ministry in public life and work.
- articulate their own theology and spirituality of everyday life and work.

Required Texts

Please order the required texts as soon as possible from the bookstore of your choice.

King, Ursula. *Christ in All Things*. Orbis Books, 2016. ISBN-13 978-1-6269-8190-4. (You may access an electronic copy of this book in Canvas courtesy of Loyola’s Monroe Library. You may print/email/download up to 100 pages at a time. If you need more than 100 pages, close the tab and reopen the ebook from the link and send 100.)

Ray, Kathleen Darby. *Working*. Fortress Press, 2011. ISBN-978-0-8006-9810-2. This text is available to read online at the [Internet Archive Library](#) once you create a free account.

Additional readings and media as included in the Canvas course.

Evaluation and Course Requirements

Sequence of Topics/Calendar of Assignments

Session	Topic	Assignments
Week 1 May 28– June 3	Getting Started	Introduce self; complete readings
Week 2 June 4–10	A Spirituality of the Laity	Complete readings, media, discussion questions
Week 3 June 11–17	Perspectives on Work: A Historical Overview	Complete readings, media, discussion questions; attend synchronous class meeting (optional)
Week 4 June 18–24	Work as Christian Vocation (June 19, Juneteenth holiday)	Complete readings, media, discussion question; attend small group meeting (required)
Week 5 June 25–July 1	A Theological Foundation for Marketplace Ministries	Complete readings, media, discussion questions; Mid-term Assignment due 7/1 by 11:59 pm CDT
Week 6 July 2–8	Catholic Social Teaching: Vision for Ministries in the Marketplace (July 4, Independence Day holiday)	Complete readings, media, discussion questions
Week 7 July 9–15	Contemplation in Action	Complete readings, media, discussion questions; attend synchronous class meeting (optional)

Week 8 July 16–22	Spirituality for Life and Work	Complete readings, media, discussion questions; attend optional synchronous class meeting; attend small group meeting (required)
Week 9 July 23–29 August 1	Ministry in the Marketplace	Complete readings, media, discussion questions
Week 10 July 30–5	Final Assignments and Course Evaluation	Final Assignments due 8/1 by 11:59 pm CDT

Wednesday, August 7: deadline for posting final grades

Week One Assignments

- 1) Read overview and other documents in Canvas
- 2) Participate in a Discussion on Canvas by introducing yourself and greeting your fellow students
- 3) Indicate your preferences for synchronous class meetings (attendance is optional).
- 4) Review the syllabus and learning agreement

Assessment

Each student’s final grade will include the following parts:

		Percentage of Grade	
		Graduate	CEU
1	Substantive participation in weekly discussion via online postings	50%	95%
2	Spiritual Development	5%	5%
3	Final Assignment (10-12 page reflective essay)	45%	–

1) Substantive participation in weekly discussion via online postings (50% graduate / 95% CEU)

The modules of this course include assignments for reading, video segments, and discussion questions. These are provided in the weekly modules in our Canvas course. In addition to reading all the materials assigned and watching assigned videos, all students will also be expected to participate in the class discussions online.

You will also be asked to participate in two virtual small group sessions that you will initiate and assess. That is included as part of this participation grading.

Specific details regarding the schedule for posting, length requirements, discussion leaders, and small group meetings will be included in the final syllabus posted in Canvas the week of May 20th.

2) Spiritual Development (5% graduate / 5% CEU)

Students are asked to upload a 300-500 essay on their practice of the Ignatian Examen. The essay should include what you found of value (or not), what effect it seemed to have on your life and ministry, and any other considerations. If you chose to follow a different spiritual practice during this course, please discuss your experience of that practice. (5 points).

2) Final Assignment (50% graduate / not required for CEU)

In a 10-12 page reflective essay, review the readings, videos, audio recordings, as well as your own supplemental research, and develop a Christian theology and spirituality of work (due at the end of the course). Be sure to reference your readings and theological research, as well as your own experience. Full details in Canvas.

Be sure to format your paper according to the LIM *Guide to Written Theological Reflection*, accessible in Canvas from the Home page by clicking on Resources » Writing Assistance.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	B-	80-82.9
A-	90-92.9	C+	77-79.9
B+	87-89.9	C	70-76.9
B	83-86.9	F	0-69.9

Overall Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Quality Points	Characteristics of Student Work
A	4.0	Work done with distinction. An outstanding use of all four evaluation criteria as a catalyst for critical reflection.
A-	3.7	Work done with distinction, with a few minor corrections needed.
B+	3.3	Work of very good quality. The assignment is addressed in an exceptional manner with a good balance of personal insight and academic documentation.
B	3.0	The standard for the master's degree. The assignment is adequately addressed in a clear and concise manner with appropriate documentation. If subsequent work meets this standard of quality, the degree will be awarded.
B-	2.7	The work is slightly below the standard for master's level work. The assignment is addressed, but a number of corrections is needed to address the assignment in a clear and concise manner. If subsequent work continues at this level, the student may not continue in the degree program.
C+	2.3	Substandard graduate work. Evaluation criteria are not adequately met in the assignment. Moderate improvement is needed. If subsequent work continues at this level, the student may not continue in the degree program.
C	2	Less than graduate-level work. Evaluation criteria are not met. If subsequent work continues at this level, the student may not continue in the degree program.
F	0	Assignment not addressed at all, incomplete assignment, or not submitted on time.

Please note that the LIM grading scale uses B as the standard for graduate-quality work. A and B+ indicate graduate work done with distinction, with B- and below signifying levels below graduate standards.

Course Policies

Incomplete Grade Policy

Students are subject to the university policy regarding incomplete grades with the following additions to university policy. Grades of Incomplete are given at the instructor's discretion. Students must complete LIM's Incomplete Grade Request Form found in the Resources » Policies, Forms, & Services section of their Canvas course. Students should first inquire of their instructor whether or not they are eligible for an incomplete; this must occur with sufficient time to complete the process explained here. To be eligible, students may not have received an Incomplete in the previous semester, must have completed at least 75% of the course work to date, and must have at least a C or above in the course. After the instructor makes an initial assessment of eligibility, including checking with the LIM Office to ensure there was no Incomplete in the previous semester and finds the student eligible, by the due date of the course's final assignment, a student must complete and obtain all signatures for LIM's Incomplete Grade Request Form found in the Resources section of their Canvas course and submit it to their instructor, who will forward a copy to the LIM Director. LIM graduate students may not receive Incompletes in LIM courses in consecutive semesters.

Attendance & Participation

Students are subject to the university policy regarding attendance found online in the Bulletin. Students in online courses communicate their presence by active participation in weekly discussions. Each course's instructor sets requirements for how many times students must post on the Discussion Board in Canvas. Failing to post during the first week of class may result in removal from the course. If you foresee that you will be unable to post in a given week, please contact the instructor ahead of time. Extensions for posting are given at the instructor's discretion and for a valid reason may be granted if arranged ahead of time. In extraordinary circumstances, students may arrange with their instructor to post up to two weeks after a deadline, though this may entail a grade reduction. Posts and other assignments submitted more than two weeks late may be subject to a grade of zero. If students do not post in a given week, they are considered absent. Absence for more than one week without contacting the instructor may result in removal from and failure of the course.

University Policies

Please read Part 2 of the syllabus (located in Canvas) for university policies on plagiarism,

accessible education, and more