**Portico to the world of work- A look back and a look forward**

1 credit pass/fail with your Portico instructor

Mondays 1:30-2:45 in Fulton 210

**Objective:** Portico was the first class in the Carroll School that examined ideas involving work, capitalism, globalization, leadership and integrity as you began your undergraduate business education. The world of work is where most people spend most of their living hours so thinking about it intentionally and its purpose is valuable. There can be tensions in the business world as the pursuit for profit can’t be ignored or else businesses will fail and close. However, when it is the only goal, people may be willfully blind to how business is conducted and people are treated.

This course hopes to re-examine purpose and work and ultimately encourage students to think intentionally about finding purpose in work, the role of faith and community in one’s life and the importance of family and relationships as you are about to embark on your full-time career. Underlying all of those characteristics is the fact that it is central to live a life of integrity while considering faith, family, work and community. The course concludes with an exercise that the students did in the first year to reflect upon any learnings or new ideas gathered over the college years.

**Format:** The course will meet for 11 weeks for 75 minutes and cover 5 main themes

* finding one’s self
* purpose and work
* faith and community
* family and relationships
* leading a life with integrity

Each topic will be covered in two weeks with the first class having a reading/video assignments and some written or reflective assignment to be done prior to class. The second class will have an active assignment that you must complete and we will discuss that activity in class. This class is based in reading, watching, reflection, discussion and assignments to push people out of their comfort zones and allow one another to be vulnerable in a trusting class environment.

**Class #1- 1/13**- get to know one another and class activities

***Topic 1: Finding one’s self***

**Week 1 (1/27)**: Discussion topic: What is next? Fears, Hopes, and Possibilities- finding yourself

Read: Luke Russert’s Look for Me There: Grieving my Father, Finding Myself

Show in class minute 31:50-34:50 of: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBWStmXMnUM>

**Week 2 (2/3):** Discussion topic : When you look forward, what do you imagine? What are your dreams?

Assignment: Write your envisioned story/narrative (like Luke) in 3-5 pages that takes us through your 20’s.

***Topic 2 (2/10): Purpose and Work***

**Week 3:** Discussion topic: How do you imagine the world of work and purpose and your 20’s?

Read Wes Moore chapter, and Meg Jay’s chapter 1 and <https://www.thecut.com/article/mini-retirement-adult-gap-year.html>) and <https://ofwaterandearth.wordpress.com/2018/05/21/even-artichokes-have-doubts-an-essay-by-marina-keegan/>

**Week 4 (2/17):** Discussion topic: How do you keep building identity capital while searching for meaning?

Assignment:Interview a CSOM and BC alum who is near or around 30 and learn about their vocational journey and type up a narrative that addresses several of the questions identified (handout).

***Topic 3: Faith and Community***

**Week 5 (2/24):** Discussion topic: What role (if any) has faith played in your life up until now and what role do you hope it plays? Giving to others is a key to one’s happiness- how will you be able to build community while working so much?

Watch minute 21:10-28:00 of <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEjYdrbYv0s> and

read: <https://yaledailynews.com/blog/2012/05/27/keegan-the-opposite-of-loneliness/>

**Off 3/3 for spring break**

**Week 6 (3/10):** Discussion topic: What was your perceptions of the service you attended and could you see yourself attending that? Why or why not? Do they have a young adult community?

**Assignment:** Attend a faith service in your tradition that is not at Boston College (to see what it might be like as a working adult) or attend a faith service in a different religion and write up a reflection (TBD).

***Topic 4: Family and Relationships***

**Week 7 (3/17):** Discussion topic: How has your family shaped who you are? What tole do you see it in the future?

Watch minute 20:40-end at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXQpM8hVJEY> and read: <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2020/03/the-nuclear-family-was-a-mistake/605536/> or <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/david-brooks-is-correct-both-the-quality-and-quantity-of-our-relationships-matter/>

**Week 8 (3/24):** Discussion topic: How will I have time for others when I am working so many hours?

Assignments: 1) write a thank you note and mail it to someone(s) in your family that have helped you get to where you are as you are about to graduate. 2) Ask a faculty member, staff or mentor out for a walk around the reservoir or for a coffee to thank them for helping you and to keep the “weak ties” (Meg Jay) alive.

***Topic 5: Leading a life with integrity***

**Week 9 (3/31):** Discussion topic: What can I do to make sure that I am making decisions that I will not regret or that compromise who I am?

Read: Clayton Christensen’s 2 chapters and Watch minute 4:00-9:45 of <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXQpM8hVJEY> and Read Meg Jay’s Epilogue

**Week 10 (4/7):** Discussion topic: How have my views and ethics changed over the past 3 and ½ years? Revisit the ethical case from freshman year.  Have the students answer it again and then compare how they answered it to how they answered it in their freshman year. A reflection on any differences and those events that shaped their thinking over the past 3 years.  HBR Case: “Is it Ever ok to break a promise?”

Final reflections and letter to oneself- due in the final 3 weeks and a walk around the reservoir or coffee (with me) is required at the time that you turn it in.

(4/8-5/2)