

**PSS 296B Senior Colloquium
Spring 2009**

Instructor: Deborah Neher, Hills 6, Phone: 6-0474, email: deborah.neher@uvm.edu

Class is held every Monday: Rowell 102, 12:50-1:20 pm, 1 credit

Office Hours: MWF 10:30-11:30 or by appointment

Textbooks:

Boldt, L. G. 1999. Zen and the Art of Making a Living: A Practical Guide to Creative Career Design. Second Edition. Penguin Putnam, New York.

Blackboard class site: used for announcements, supplemental readings, web links

Course Objectives:

- Develop and articulate a career philosophy
- Articulate and refine your own thoughts and goals about the future
- Improve skills in career development such as writing a cover letter, preparing a resume, prepare for an interview, and negotiate effectively
- Gain a deeper understanding of your strengths and challenges
- Recognize your leadership style and appreciate effective leadership
- Learn about group process, organization function and conflict resolution

Throughout the semester you will assess your style and skills through exercises we complete and develop and understanding of the topics we cover.

Grading

Final grades are based on attendance, participation in discussions, peer review, completing periodic writing assignments, and a career project. Attendance is expected. Grades will be based on a scale of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F.

Attendance and Preparation	20%
Participation	25%
Career Project (with intermittent assignments)	55%

You are expected to complete the reading assignments before the class period to provide you background for participation in class discussion. Assignments must be turned in by the date due to earn credit.

Career Project – include Table of Contents, all writing projects in an organized format

Throughout the semester, you will be asked to complete some reflective and/or written assignments that are intended to help you progress toward identifying your career and taking the next steps to achieve that goal.

1. Farm – contact a banker about acquiring land, present a business plan, marketing strategy, define your customers and the market, test out the daily regiment, shadow a farmer, etc.
2. Academia – identify your area(s) of focus, identify target schools, write potential mentors on availability, write application essay, complete application, etc.
3. Industry or non-profit – conduct job search, prepare resume and cover letter, participate in an interview, shadow a professional, etc.

By April 24, submit a professional portfolio that highlights the activities you planned and completed, representative documents prepared, and a reflective evaluation on the strengths and weaknesses of your approach and relative success. Documents may include cover letters, resumes, essays, business plans, etc. Activities can include interviews, shadowing, blogs, etc.

Evaluating the Instructor: At the end of the semester you will have an opportunity to evaluate the course and the instructor. However, you may also send me an e-mail with constructive criticism at any time.

Course Schedule

Wk	2008 Date	Assigned reading	Topic	Guest	Task assigned
1	1/16		Introduction	Deb Neher	Kersey test, personal philosophy
2	1/23	1-125	I. Quest for Life's Work: Who am I?	Deb Neher	Who Am I
3	1/30	413-428	NGOs and consultants, international	Ernesto Méndez, Agroecologist	3 Interviews
4	2/6	435-436	Jobs in governmental agencies	VT Agency of Natural Resources– Julie Foley, District Wetlands Ecologist (Essex office)	
5	2/13		Graduate School	Victor Izzo (PhD student), Scott Lewins (MS)	
6	2/20	250-271, 287-308, 439-444, 450-459, 477-481	II. The Game of Life's Work: job search, resume, cover letter	Career Services, Holly Wilkinson-Ray	Job Search Resume
7	2/27	328-345, 351-366, 373-374, 401-403, 476, 487-490	marketing, retail and mail order	Kathy LaLiberte, Director of Gardening, Gardener's Supply	Career Shadowing
8	3/6		Interpersonal conflict skills; People management	University Training & Development, Barbara Johnson, Gary Margolis	Final Reflection
	3/13		NO CLASS: Spring Break		
9	3/20	328-346 508-534	III. Battle for Life's Work; IV. School of Life's Work: Learning to Change	Deb Neher	
10	3/27	367- 394	Self-employment and securing capital	Ed Antczak, CEDO	
11	4/3	Articles on BB	Professional certification tests / Extension jobs	Ann Hazelrigg, Leonard Perry, UVM Extension	
12	4/10	Grants: 399, 475, 491-494 Nonprofits: 413-428 Freelance: 395-412	Working for Non-profits Grants	Food to Schools: Abbie Nelson (VT-FEED), Jenn McGowan (Healthy City), Robert Young (Burlington Schools)	
13	4/17		HONORS DAY – no class		
14	4/24	460-467, 495-498	Interview & negotiation Marketing yourself	Human Resources, Barbara Johnson	Career Project due

WWW: internet URLs