

Prelude Syllabus 2009

Instructor:
Instructor's Email:

Prelude Assistant:
Prelude Assistant Email:

Required Texts

First-Year Prelude Course Pack 2009

Course Description

The First Year Prelude Program introduces students to the mission and community of Calvin College. This six-week course is a gateway and integral component of IDIS W50 (Developing a Christian Mind) and serves as a prerequisite to the Cross-Cultural Engagement (CCE) core requirement.

Prelude is a one-credit course that all first year students take during their first semester. Prelude provides students with a common intellectual experience and a rudimentary introduction to several important aspects of Calvin's community: responsible freedom, cultural discernment, justice, and vocation.

Course Objectives

In addition to the particular objectives of each class session, the course has the following over-arching goals. Prelude will:

1. Introduce students to the mission of Calvin College by:
 - Examining the Expanded Statement of Mission of Calvin College with emphasis on our response to Christ's redemptive work.
 - Highlighting some of the characteristics of the Calvin community which support students in this endeavor.
 - Exploring some of the hidden worldviews which may inhibit us from responding more fully to Christ and his creation.

2. Engage students in the Calvin academic community by:
 - Outlining the expectations for students regarding academic faithfulness.
 - Introducing a common vocabulary of valued concepts.
 - Encouraging active participation, reasoned reflection, and critical thinking skills regarding the course topics through written assignments, group discussions, and engagement in specified learning opportunities outside of the classroom.

3. Provide students with a community and peer connection by:
 - Facilitating deeper relationships with and among first year students who have experienced orientation together.
 - Serving as a point of involvement and connection to the broader Calvin community.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and Participation (30%)

Class attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be noted for plenary and discussion portion of class; you must attend both the in-class session and plenary to receive full attendance credit.

Your active participation in class discussions and group work is fundamental to your learning process. Full participation may include note taking, sharing your thoughts and reflections, turning in assignments, etc. It is essential that you participate fully in these activities for full attendance and participation credit.

About Absences: Students may be excused from class ONLY for approved Calvin-sponsored activities (e.g. sports or music department related travel). Please contact Janice Phaneuf (jphaneuf@calvin.edu) well in advance of your Calvin-sponsored activity to make arrangements to attend an alternate class section. Excused absences will also be granted in the event of family emergencies or illness with the appropriate documentation (i.e. note from Health Services or private physician or verification from your Resident Director).

2. Weekly Assessment (5 x 5% = 25%)

Complete all readings and assignments *before* class. These readings are the foundation of class discussions and group work. There will be a short quiz on the readings at the start of class (weeks 2-6) to test for reading completion and comprehension. Each quiz is worth 5% of the total grade.

During **Week Five** (October 12-14), class participation includes a *very short, informal presentation (1-2 minutes) by each student*. Please come to class with a current or historical example (picture, web site, collage, handout, newspaper article etc.) of one of the following.

- An area where you see injustice at work; or
- An area where you think justice is being done

Be ready to speak very briefly about why you chose the example you did.

3. 3-4-page Autobiography (10%) Due at class time, Week Three (September 28-30)

In 750-1000 words, reflect on your life to this point, including the people, events, and beliefs that have shaped you. Using one or two themes, tell your story. (Themes might be growth, change, forgiveness, love, suffering, etc.—or choose your own). Conclude your paper with a personal statement of faith.

As instructors evaluate your written work, they will be reading for evidence of thought and the development of a theme as you tell your story. In addition, they will be looking for good writing mechanics: a guiding statement/thesis that unites your chosen theme and your life, topic sentences, paragraph development. Papers should be prepared in Microsoft Word document format, 12-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins and double-spaced. Points will be deducted for late papers, spelling/grammatical errors, and deviating from the formatting guidelines.

Late Paper Policy:

Any papers turned in after class time on the due date are automatically deducted one point per day.

4. Three Part II Review Postings (20%):

Due: One Part II review is due by class time on weeks 2, 4, and 6. Part II reports must be posted within 24 hours of your attendance at the event.

Under the premise that learning occurs in all areas of campus, you are required to attend three specified campus events as outlined during the first class session. Two of your chosen events must appear among the Part II options listed on the Prelude website (<http://www.calvin.edu/student-life/prelude/>); the third event may be any on-campus, Calvin-sponsored event that you choose. Your instructor may assign a specific Part II opportunity for your section.

Write a Part II Review paragraph in response to the following questions and statements. Post your paragraph on the KnightVision discussion board within 24 hours of attending each of the three events.

- Imagine you are reviewing the event for a classmate who wasn't able to attend. Give details about the event (title, who presented, when, where), a summary of the content, and your reactions to what you experienced.
- Discuss how the event you attended connects with what you are learning in Prelude.
- Why do you think the event you attended is considered an important part of life at Calvin College?

While grading the postings, instructors will be looking for thorough responses to each of the points above. Although the posts are made online and the forum may seem informal, please extend courtesy to your readers (fellow students and your instructor): use the same good grammar and writing skills you would for other writing assignments.

Late Posting Policy:

Any Part II report posted more than twenty-four hours after the event end time will not be accepted.

5. Integrative Project (15%)

Due: 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 28

Our course addresses six topics: Community, Worldview, Cultural Discernment, Responsible Freedom, Justice, and Vocation. You may choose one of the following options to demonstrate your understanding of the course material and your application of that material to life outside the classroom. *This assignment should take you 6-8 hours to complete, whichever option you choose.*

For all written work, instructors will be reading for:

- a thesis statement (did you make a claim of some sort?);
- relevant use and appropriate citation of class readings and/or discussions; (MLA or APA format; ask whether your instructor has a preference. Note the KnightCite resource at <http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite>)
- thoughtful and clear integration of topics across class sessions; and
- applying your ideas to life outside the classroom.

Points will be deducted for spelling/grammatical errors and for late papers (1 point per day). As with the Autobiography, prepare your paper in Microsoft Word format, 12-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins. The papers may be submitted electronically or in hard copy.

- **Option 1: 5-page Integration Paper**

Write a paper (5 pages/~1000 words) that explores links between three or more topics covered in Prelude, and conclude your paper by applying your thoughts to your own life.

For example, you may make the claim that community and cultural discernment shape worldview (or vice versa...); or that seeking justice guides our exercise of responsible freedom and part of a Christian's vocation. (You may use one of these examples.) Conclude your paper by showing how some of your ideas may already be at work in your day-to-day life; or by stating a challenge to yourself to grow in one or more areas.

- **Option 2: Artwork**

Create a piece of artwork or creative writing (collage, painting, series of poems, short story, multimedia presentation) that engages three or more of the topics covered in Prelude and how they connect with you personally. Write 1-2 pages (250-500 words) of Artist's Notes explaining your piece, how it communicates about the topics you considered, and how the issues explored connect with you.

Your piece may explore the example connections outlined in Option 1 above, or others that you choose. Art communicates; what claim does your art make? Use the guidelines above for your written work but footnote your citations rather than including them in the main body of your Artist's Notes.

While grading your artwork, instructors will consider the following categories:

- *Choice and use of materials:* Are your materials appropriate, innovative, creative, thought-provoking?
- *Decision-making:* Is there evidence that you made intentional, careful creative decisions? Is it clear from your work that you thought carefully about the project and revised your ideas?
- *Craft:* Does your work show time and effort, and attention to detail?
- *Composition:* Do all of your artistic elements and ideas work together as a whole?

- **Option 3: Working for Justice**

Engage an issue of justice first-hand. Then write a short paper (2-3 pages, or 500-750 words), that explores connections between your service and two or more Prelude topics.

**Note: If you choose this as your integrative project option, you'll want to start early in the course!*

As you explore areas of justice/injustice for Week 5, consider ways in which you may become involved in the work of restoring justice in a particular area:

- Serve through your residence hall's community partnership or participate in academic-based service learning (may be assigned for one of your other classes).
- OR**
- If practical, you may continue service work you began in high school or job shadow someone you know who is involved in justice work of some sort.

For the assignment, you should serve or shadow someone for at least one hour, one time. Pay attention to how your experience affects the work of the organization you partner with, and how the work and presence of the organization impacts the Grand Rapids community.

Then, through the "lenses" of Prelude, write about your work and the people and issues you encountered. Conclude your paper with an insight or interaction that will remain influential for you as you seek to pursue justice in daily life.

Alternatively, you may reflect on your StreetFest experience. If you choose this option, write 4-5 pages (750-1000 words) about your StreetFest experience (project, people, issues of justice you encountered) and how it connects to two additional Prelude course topics. How might worldview/cultural discernment/responsible freedom/vocation come to bear on your particular service opportunity? How might they affect your approach to future opportunities to seek justice, in large and small ways?

Part II Calendar:

Note: Be sure to see <http://www.calvin.edu/student-life/prelude/> for the most up-to-date listing of Part II options.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sept 13 LOFT	Sept 14 (Chapel each weekday)	Sept 15	Sept 16	Sept 17	Sept 18 The Books + guest, 8:00 p.m. <i>Ladies' Literary Club</i>	Sept 19
Sept 20 LOFT	Sept 21	Sept 22	Sept 23	Sept 24	Sept 25	Sept 26
Sept 27 LOFT	Sept 28	Sept 29	Sept 30	Oct 1 Michael Leahy 7:00pm, Chapel	Oct 2	Oct 3
Oct 4 LOFT	Oct 5	Oct 6	Oct 7	Oct 8	Oct 9	Oct 10 Waterdeep + Justin McRoberts 8:00 p.m. <i>Ladies' Literary Club</i>
Oct 11 LOFT	Oct 12	Oct 13 Donald Miller, 9:00 p.m., Chapel	Oct 14	Oct 15	Oct 16	Oct 17
Oct 18 LOFT	Oct 19	Oct 20 Dr. Miriam Grossman 8:00 p.m., Chapel Undercroft	Oct 21	Oct 22	Oct 23	Oct 24

Part II Details

Career Development Testing

Various Times: Career Development Office 526-6485

During Prelude, we will talk about your uniqueness as a created individual. What gifts has God given you? What particular strengths and resources do you have? How can you apply those toward helping a hurting world? Would you like to find out? Career Development is offering personalized sessions with a career counselor to help you discover or reinforce your strengths.

Call Career Development to set up appointments for this particular Part II option. Note that you will need two appointments to complete this assignment, and both appointments need to be completed by the end of the Prelude course.

Gathering: Chapels

Every day at 10:00 am, M-F at the Chapel

Chapels with various themes are offered throughout the school year. To complete a Part II requirement, you may attend three Chapels (they must be on three different days of the week). When you complete your Part II post, also give feedback about your Chapel experience at <http://www.calvin.edu/student-life/prelude/>. You may use attending Chapel as only one of your three Part II requirements.

Gathering: L.O.F.T.: Living Our Faith Together

Every Sunday night at 8pm in the Chapel

L.O.F.T. (Living Our Faith Together) is a God-Centered, Christ-led, Spirit-empowered service bringing together the best of Christian worship through a variety of music, art, dance and drama. You may attend one L.O.F.T. service as a Part II requirement. When you complete your post, also give feedback about your LOFT experience at <http://www.calvin.edu/student-life/prelude/>.

Concert: The Books

Friday, September 18, 2009. Ladies' Literary Club, 8:00 p.m.

Juxtaposing live cello and guitar with sound bites and video, Paul de Jong and Nick Zamutto's music makes meaning in surprising ways. The Books started working together in 2000 while living as neighbors in Inwood, a small neighborhood at the very northern tip of Manhattan. Over the next few years they moved around a lot but always kept the music going through the mail, and occasional recording sessions. Since 2002 they've settled their working studio in the Berkshire Mountains of North Adams, Massachusetts. They do all of their own sample collecting, composing, writing, recording, mixing, and mastering in their home studios using PCs running cheap software and the ragtag equipment that they've pieced together over the years. What you hear on their records is exactly how it left their hands, with no producer, engineers, or sweetening in between. (Biographical information from: <http://www.thebooksmusic.com/news/>, accessed 7.20.09)

Speaker: Dr. Michael Leahy, "Porn University"

Thursday, October 1, 2009. Chapel, 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Leahy is a bestselling author and a recovering sex addict, the culmination of a 30 year relationship he had with pornography and countless women he sexualized along the way. His gripping personal story and willingness to speak openly and honestly about sensitive subjects that no one wants to talk about publicly has captured the attention of the national media. Featured on ABC's 20/20, The View, USA Today and numerous other major media sources, Michael is breaking the silence to create a public dialogue about the sexualization of our culture and the effect it's having on individuals and our society.

(Biographical information from: <http://bureau.espeakers.com/simp/viewspeaker5161>, accessed 7.20.09)

Concert: Waterdeep + Justin McRoberts

Saturday, October 10, 2009. Ladies' Literary Club, 8:00 p.m.

Waterdeep is an innovative, contemplative worship band from the Midwest. The band has been in existence for more than ten years and is led by husband-wife team Don and Lori Chaffer.

Waterdeep went on hiatus nearly three years ago and is now back on tour. Listen in at <http://www.waterdeep.com/music>.

Speaker: Donald Miller

Tuesday, October 13, 2009. Chapel, 9:00 p.m.

Perhaps best-known for his book *Blue Like Jazz*, Donald Miller has released several other titles as well, including *Prayer and the Art of Volkswagen Maintenance*, *Searching for God Knows What*, *Through Painted Deserts*, and *To Own a Dragon*. His next book, *A Million Miles in a Thousand Years*, will be released in the fall of 2009. Don grew up in Houston, Texas, and now lives in Portland, Oregon.

(Biographical information from: <http://www.donaldmillerwords.com/biography.php>, accessed 7.27.09)

Speaker: Dr. Miriam Grossman

Tuesday, October 20, 2009. Chapel Undercroft, 8:00 p.m.

Dr. Grossman is a psychiatrist at UCLA. She is the author of *Unprotected: A Campus Psychiatrist Reveals How Political Correctness in Her Profession Endangers Every Student*. Dr. Grossman is a passionate speaker to student audiences as well as the medical profession about casual sex from a medical and emotional perspective.

Calvin will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should notify the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities, located in the Student Academic Services Office in Hiemenga Hall. Student should notify their instructors during the first two weeks of class.

Calvin College regards acts of academic dishonesty as wholly improper for a Calvin student. Plagiarism, taking or receiving the efforts of another person on any test or paper, giving or selling to another student papers or assignments that are not authorized by the instructor, or using unauthorized resources on tests or examinations are strictly prohibited. Any student found responsible for academic dishonesty will be sanctioned according the Calvin College Student Handbook.

Reading and Assignment Schedule

Week	Date	Readings	Page #	Assignment Due	Meet
1	Sept. 14-16 Welcome	1. Bible. Today's New International Version, Colossians 1:1-23; Heidelberg Catechism 2. Optiz, D. and Melleby, D. Chapter 1, <i>The Outrageous Idea of Academic Faithfulness</i> . 3. White, J.E. <i>A Mind for God</i> .	11-23	Readings	Chapel
2	Sept. 21-23 Worldview	1. Bible. Today's New International Version, Genesis 1 and 3, Matthew 28 2. Wolters, A. Chapter 1, <i>Creation Regained</i> . 3. Optiz, D. and Melleby, D. Chapter 3, <i>The Outrageous Idea of Academic Faithfulness</i> . 4. Calvin College Statement of Identity & Mission	24-43	Readings + Part II Review	Classroom
3	Sept. 28-30 Cultural Discernment	1. Bible. Today's New International Version, 1 John 4, Matthew 13:24-30 2. "Three Approaches to Being Reformed," from <i>What it Means to Be Reformed: An Identity Statement</i> 2. VanderGiessen-Reitsma, K. "Discerning Difference" 3. Crouch, A. Chapter 12, <i>Culture Making</i>	44-52	Readings+ Autobiography	Chapel
4	Oct. 5-7 Responsible Freedom	1. Peterson, E. <i>The Message</i> . Romans 12:1-2, 1 Cor. 8:1-13 2. Hardy, L. "Memo to the President" 3. Lewis, C.S. Chapter 12, <i>The Screwtape Letters</i> . 4. Sittser, J. <i>The Will of God as a Way of Life</i>	53-64	Readings + Part II Review	Classroom
5	Oct. 12-14 Justice and Reconciliation	1. Bible. Today's New International Version, Micah 6:8, Isaiah 58 2. Belhar Confession 3. Calvin College. <i>From Every Nation</i>	65-81	Readings + Justice/Injustice in-class presentation	Chapel
6	Oct. 19-21 Vocation	1. Bible. Today's New International Version, Psalm 90 1-17, I Timothy 6:17-19 2. Reinstra, D. Chapter 10, <i>So Much More</i> . 3. Triezenberg, G. "Learn to be Still: Thoughts on Calling, Vocation, and Career" 4. Barnes, M. C. "Praying Your Confusion"	82-98	Readings + Part II Review	Chapel
7	Oct. 28 Integration	Optional reading: Wolterstorff, N. "You Need Two Eyes." Class does not meet this week. Your final integrative project is due to your instructor by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, October 28 th .	99- 102	Integrative Project	Do not meet