

**Augustine and Culture Villanova Seminar
(ACS 1001-35280 [043] and 35289 [051])
Modernity and Its Discontents: The Idea of Work**

#1. REVIEW—CONCEPTUAL OUTLINE AND MAJOR IDEA

- I. Work as the “Wages of Sin”
The Book of Genesis

Major Idea:

- II. Work as “Making a Meaningful Contribution”
Frederich Tönnies: *Community and Society* (originally published in 1887)

Major Idea:

- III. Work as “Salvific Love of God”
Max Weber: *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (originally published in 1904)

Major Idea:

- IV. Work as “Consciousness of the Absurd”
Albert Camus: *The Myth of Sisyphus* (originally published in 1942)

Major Idea:

- V. Work as the “Action of Self-Expression”
Hanna Arendt: *The Human Condition* (originally published in 1958)

Major Idea:

- VI. Work as “Meaningful”
Frederick Herzberg: *The Motivation to Work* (originally published in 1959)

Major Idea:

VII. Work as a "Personal Vocation"

Pope John Paul II: *On Human Labor (Laborem exercens)* (promulgated in 1981)

Major Idea:

#2. IN LIGHT OF THESE READINGS, WHAT SHOULD PEOPLE TODAY THINK WHEN THEY CONSIDER THE IDEA OF WORK? (THIS WILL BE THE CONCLUSION OF THE ESSAY)