

COURSE'S FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: YOU

Do you realize that the first order of business is not this course, but you, yes you! Your work, business or school are not your life, though it plays an important, major role in it.

Also you are in your grad program and taking this course for a reason, a purpose. It's not so much an end but a means; a ticket or passport to achieving your vision, mission, passion; maximizing your professional/personal development, and/or advancing your work, career.

BUT before you can determine the purpose and role of your education, and gain what you want the most out of your courses and grad program, you must have a clear grasp and command of who you are, what you have to offer; what your vision, mission and goals are. If you were asked exactly what that is, could you answer with clarity, confidence, conviction; without hesitation, pauses, or having to think of something, like giving a fine, rousing '30 second elevator speech'?

Why is knowing yourself, your vision, mission, passion, and having purpose, direction so important? Without directions or a roadmap, you could wind up driving around endlessly. As the Primary Aim puts it, *"with no clear picture of how you want your life to be, how could you begin to live it? How would you know what first step to take? How would you measure your progress or know where you were? How would you know how far you had gone or how much farther you had yet to go? Without your Primary Aim, you wouldn't. Indeed, you couldn't. It would be virtually impossible"*.

Furthermore, *"as with Mature companies, great people are those who know how they got where they are and how to get where they're going. Great people have a vision of their lives which they practice emulating each and every day. Their lives are spent living out the vision they have of their future in the present..... the difference between great people and everyone else is that great people create their lives actively, while everyone else is created by their lives, passively waiting to see where life takes them next"* (Gerber, 1986).

So the 22 Course's First Order Of Business: YOU questions are for fully knowing and understanding you, your vision, goals, interests; the work, career you want to advance; the professional development you want to maximize; and how to gain the most out of your grad program and courses. They are also an opportunity for introducing and getting to know, learn and benefit from each other in the course, your classmates. You may want to connect with those who share similar ideas, goals, interests or values.

Gerber, M. (1986). *The E-myth*. Cambridge, MA: Ballinger.

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Course's First Order of Business: You Questions

1. What is your passion, 'fire in the belly'? What interests, excites you the most?
2. What are your goals, interests and aspirations, and why?
3. What are your strongest, most important values, beliefs or principles?
4. What are your accomplishments that you are most proud of and why?
5. If you had a million dollars and could go, see, do or be whatever you wanted to, what would you do, see and/or be?
6. What do you like or appreciate about yourself and why?
7. What do you want to change, strengthen or improve about yourself and why?
8. What would you like to change, strengthen or improve in your work, workplace the most and why? What proposals or recommendations could you make?
9. What would you like to change, strengthen or improve in your community the most and why? What proposals or recommendations could you make?
10. How are your family and friends a reflection of you? How are you like and different from them?
11. How would your family and friends describe you? What do they say are your strengths, interests, values, beliefs, goals?
12. What is your favorite kind of book, movie or trip, and why?
13. What hobbies, interests or leisure time activities do you enjoy the most and why?
14. What are one or two social, political issues or causes you are most passionate about and why?
15. What are your top skills; how would you describe your "skill set"?
16. What are your greatest qualities or characteristics?
17. What is the work environment, workplace culture that you like and work best in?
18. What would be your "30 sec elevator speech"; how you would describe who you are and what you have to offer in under a minute?
19. What would be the summary of your qualifications that you would put at the top of a resume?
20. What is your ideal, dream job, position or work, and why?

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21. What case/argument would you make for having a pay raise or promotion at work?

22 Other questions to ask or topics to discuss for furthering, enriching or deepening your self-knowledge and understanding, and what you want the most out of your courses and grad program.