

**Theological and Practical Issues in Chaplaincy**  
PATH/THEO 5337

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**Seminary Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

**Core Value Focus**

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is ***doctrinal integrity***. We want everything we do to be characterized by offering the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, and Interpersonal Skills

**Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to expose students to issues in chaplaincy ministry, including theological and apologetic issues, as well as practical pastoral ministry and counseling. The course surveys various types of chaplaincy ministry, approaches to pastoral counseling, and apologetic issues. The course is taught with a view towards enabling the student to take advanced courses in theology and pastoral ministry and apply concepts specifically to a chaplaincy context.

**Recommended Prerequisites**

PATH 5331 Pastoral Ministry; THEO 5301 Systematic Theology 1 OR THEO 5302 Systematic Theology 2

**Student Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Define, biblically and practically, the role of the chaplain as an extension of pastoral ministry.
2. Identify how a biblical pastoral theology informs chaplaincy ministry.
3. Identify skills needed to be an effective chaplain in various contexts.
4. Know the various types of chaplaincy ministry and the unique contexts of each.

5. Identify and address with an elementary knowledge theological and apologetic issues that may arise and how to contextual those issues to the chaplaincy ministry.
6. Identify and address with an elementary knowledge pastoral ministry issues that may arise in specific contexts of chaplaincy ministry.
7. Identify and address political trends that may make chaplaincy ministry difficult from an evangelical perspective.

## Required Texts

Brooks, Page, and John Laing, *Don't Ask Don't Tell: Chaplaincy and the Modern Military*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2013.

Collins, Gary. *Christian Counseling*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007.

Corduan, Winifried *No Doubt About It: The Case for Christianity*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1997.

Paget, Naomi and McCormack, Janet. *The Work of the Chaplain*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2006.

## Course Methodology

This course will consist of group discussions, Power Point presentations (lecture), audio-visual presentations (movies and videos), and student presentations in a workshop format.

## Course Requirements

1. **Absences:** School policies concerning absences and tardiness will be strictly enforced. Due to the workshop format of this class, no student absences may be granted.
2. **Exam:** One examination will be given at the end of the workshop as a take-home exam. The test will cover both materials covered in class and in the readings. The test will consist of objective sections (matching, true/false, and multiple answer questions) and subjective sections (identification and essay questions). The take-home exam is due 1 week after the last day of the workshop.
3. **Book Review:** Each student will write a 10-page, double-spaced (Times Roman 12 point font) book review and analysis covering two books (5 pages per book). The first book must be theological or apologetic in nature. The second book must be practical in nature. Students may select from either the required books for the course, or ask the professor for approval of a certain book. The books should address the chaplaincy ministry or theological and apologetic issues involved in chaplaincy. The review will discuss the contents of the book as well as provide analysis of the arguments presented within the book. Half the paper should be a review of the contents of the book and the other half a personal critique and reflection of the contents of the book. The grade will be counted off five points for every day that the paper is late. The book review is due on the first day of class. Students may write the book review in either Turabian or APA format.

4. **Research paper:** Each student will write a 15-page position paper (in Turabian format) on the topics assigned. The topics for the paper will be discussed and assigned at the end of the workshop. Topics assigned will be to address the theological foundations of chaplaincy ministry and issues. The due date is 3 weeks after the last day of the workshop. Students may write the book review in either Turabian or APA format.

**5. Group Activity-“Chaplaincy in Context”:**

Groups will be assigned the first day of class. Each group will need to present a 30-minute presentation on a specific area of chaplaincy ministry (military, hospital, hospital, prison, police/fire, and marketplace). Students may use Powerpoint or handouts for the class and professor. Students will present an overview of what a chaplaincy ministry may look like in these various contexts in the following areas:

- A. What is the role of the chaplain in this context?
- B. What are some theological/apologetic issues that the chaplain would face?
- C. What are specific counseling issues that would be addressed?
- D. How can the chaplain maintain their convictions without compromising in the specific ministry context?

**6. Chaplaincy Reflection Paper**

Students are to “shadow” a chaplain for half a day of ministry and write a 5-page reflection paper on the experience. Students may choose a chaplain in any of the various forms of chaplaincy ministry, but the chaplain must have at least 5 years of experience and be endorsed by a chaplaincy or mission-sending agency. The paper is to be double-spaced and may be written in first person. The paper is due one month after the last day of the workshop.

7. **Participation:** All students are responsible for being in the classroom on time, reading the assigned materials, and participating in the class discussions. Therefore, each student will receive a class participation grade. This grade will be based upon three criteria; class attendance and tardiness, contribution to class discussions, and reading quiz grades.

**Grading**

The final grade for the course will consist of the following:

Final Exam	20%
Research Paper	20%
Book Review	20%
Reflection paper	20%
Group project	10%
Participation	10%
Final grade	100%

**Miscellaneous notes:**

- Cell phones must be turned off or to silent while in class. If a phone rings, the professor reserves the right to answer the phone or confiscate it until after class.
- No playing games or surfing the internet while taking notes on a computer.
- Do not do other class work while in class. Your attention should be focused on the professor, class material, and class discussion.

- Late work will be penalized at the rate of 10 points per day.

**ENROLLING ON BLACKBOARD:**

- **Find course marked with the class title, with Brooks as the instructor.**
- **Enroll in the course.**
- **The course IS NOT password protected. You should not have to enter in any code to enroll.**
- **Under the Blackboard course, you should find the syllabus and all relevant readings for the course.**
- **YOU MUST ENROLL ON BLACKBOARD. FAILURE TO ENROLL IN BLACKBOARD WILL KEEP YOU FROM SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THE COURSE.**

**Class Topics and Schedule**

Definitions and History of the Chaplaincy Ministry

Current Cultural and Political Issues in Chaplaincy

Pluralism

Political Correctness

Sexuality

Equal Opportunity

Proselytism and Evangelism

Postmodernity and Secular Worldviews

Current Theological and Apologetic Issues for Chaplaincy:

Religious Pluralism

Theology of Religions

World Religions

Inspiration of the Bible

Miracles

Problem of Evil

Integrating Counseling, Spirituality, and Chaplaincy (co-lecture with member of Psychology and Counseling Department):

A Brief Overview of Secular Psychotherapy

The Counseling Process - A Dialogue

Theological Underpinnings for Christian Counseling

Pursuing Spiritual Wholeness - Intimacy with God, Self, and Others

The Use of Prayer in the Counseling Setting

Current Pastoral Ministry Issues in the Chaplaincy Context (Co-lecture with member of Psychology and Counseling Department):

Pastoral Counseling Approaches

Interpersonal Issues

Identity and control Issues

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Depression

Marriage and Family

Loneliness and Death

Ethical Issues in Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care

Representatives of Chaplaincy Ministry:

Hospital

Hospice

Military

Police

Prison  
Group presentations

### Bibliography

#### Chaplaincy, Pastoral Ministry, and Counseling:

Ascol, Tom. *Dear Timothy: Letters on Pastoral Ministry*. Cape Coral, FL: Founders Press, 2004.

Adams, Jay. *Shepherding God's Flock: A Preacher's Handbook on Pastoral Ministry*. Phillipsburg, PA: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1980.

Backus, William and Marie Chapien. *Telling the Truth to Troubled People*. Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship, 1980.

Berkeley, James D., ed., *Leadership Handbooks of Practical Theology*, Volumes 1-3. Grand Rapids: Baker Book house, 1992.

Collins, Gary. *Christian Counseling*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007.

Cothen, Joe. *Equipped for Good Work*. 2d ed. Revised by Joe H. Cothen and Jerry N. Barlow. Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing, 2002.

Doriani, Daniel M. *Putting the Truth to Work: The Theory and Practice of Biblical Application*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P and R Publishing, 2001.

Grosoehme, Daniel. "Under Orders: A Spiritual Handbook for Military Personnel." *Chaplaincy Today* 24 Summer 2008: 52-53.

Holmes, Christopher. "A Police Chaplain's Reflection." *Chaplaincy Today* 24 Winter 2008: 30-3.

Jessup, Beverly. "Attentive to God: Thinking Theologically in Ministry." *Chaplaincy Today* 24 Winter 2008: 46-47.

Johnson, Eric L. ed. *Psychology and Christianity: Five Views*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity, 2010

Lutzer, Erwin. *Pastor to Pastor: Tackling the Problems of Ministry*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1995.

Marley, David John. "Serving Two Masters: The Development of American Military Chaplaincy: 1860-1920." *Church History* 73 no 4 D 2004: 884-5.

McMinn, Mark R. *Psychology, Theology, and Spirituality in Christian Counseling*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1996.

Millspaugh, Dick and Keith Goheen. "Standards of Practice for Professional Chaplaincy." *Chaplaincy Today* 24 Winter 2008: 28-9.

Powlison, D. *Power Encounters: Reclaiming Spiritual Warfare*: Hourglass Books, 1995.

Sardahely, William. "Questions to a Hospice Chaplain." *Chaplaincy Today* 23 Winter 2007: 32-5.

#### Theology/Ethics:

Crockett, William, ed. *Four Views on Hell*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.

Douma, J. *Christian Morals and Ethics*. Winnepeg: Premier Publishing, 1980.

Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.

Feinberg, John S. and Paul D. Feinberg. *Ethics in a Brave New World*. Wheaton: Crossway, 1993.

Frame, John. *Doctrine of the Christian Life*. Phillipsburg, PA: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 2008.

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Geisler, Norman. *Ethics: Alternatives and Issues*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1973.

Holmes, Arthur. *Ethics Approaching Moral Decisions*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1984.

Kuehne, Dale S. *Sex and the iWorld: Rethinking Relationships beyond the Age of Individualism*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009.

Rae, Scott. *Moral Choices: An Introduction to Ethics*, 3d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan 2009.

Stark, Rodney. *God's Battalion: The Case for the Crusades*. New York: Harper Collins, 2009.

Vandrunen, David. *Bioethics and the Christian Life: A Guide to Making Difficult Decisions*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2009.

#### Apologetics:

Carroll, Vincent and David Shiflett. *Christianity on Trial: Arguments Against Anti-Religious Bigotry*.

Copan, Paul. *True for You But Not For Me: Deflating the Slogans That Leave Christians Speechless*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.

Cowan, Steven, ed. *Five Views of Apologetics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.

Craig, William Lane, Francis Beckwith, and J.P. Moreland. *To Everyone an Answer: A Case for the Christian Worldview*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2004.

Geisler, Norman. *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*. Baker Books, 1999.

Kreeft, Peter and Ronald Tacelli. *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994.

Lewis, C.S. *Miracles*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.

Stackhouse, John. *Humble Apologetics: Defending the Faith Today*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.