

PTHM 655 Religious Pluralism and the Ministry of the Chaplain
October 22-26, 8:00 a. m.-12:00/1:00-5:00 p. m. (M-F)

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Fall 2007

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Chaplains provide pastoral care and opportunity for religious expression for persons of their own faith tradition and provide opportunity for persons to practice and or receive pastoral care in their own religious context and customs. Ministry today is being done in a multi-culture, multi-religious arena. Those paid by appropriated government funds must uphold the First Amendment Clause of the constitution by ensuring freedom of religion. This course assists pastors, chaplains, counselors and other helping professionals develop a practical practice of ministry in a pluralistic setting. It teaches the students how to assist people of various faith traditions practice their religion without compromising their own believes. It helps the student understand religious accommodation and best operational practices. It provides practical techniques and strategies for ministry in a pluralistic setting.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The objectives of this course are stated behaviorally in terms of learning outcomes. Thus, upon the completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Define religious pluralism and the role of the chaplain in this context.
2. Explain legal issues regarding ministry in a pluralistic setting.
3. Identify religious celebrations, holy days, accoutrements, diets and practices of a variety of faith traditions.
4. Understand the significance of religious freedom.
5. Discuss techniques and processes of delivery of pastoral care to those of other faith traditions in their cultural and religious context.
6. Properly articulate the basic faith tenants of the major religions.
7. Articulate ethical guidelines for ministry in a pluralistic setting.
8. Identify resources available in the local community to assist with religious accommodations in a pluralistic setting.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Downs, Tim (1999). Finding Common Ground, Chicago: Moody Publishers.

Esposito, John L. (2002). What Everyone Needs to Know About Islam. Oxford Press

Netland, Harold (2001). Encountering Religious Pluralism: The Challenge to Christian Faith & Mission. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press.

Newbigin, Lesslie (1990). The Gospel in a Pluralist Society, Grand Rapids: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

Students may be requested to participate in purchase of additional photocopied and bound materials distributed during the course of the class.

In addition to the purchase of the required textbook, all students will be expected to read two additional books about religions other than their own.

METHODOLOGY: The course will consist of class lecture and discussion led by the professor, student participation in discussion and exercises, guest speakers, and the use of the chalkboard, computer projectors, films and role play. During the class students will be expected to go on a field trip as part of their class training, such as a field trip to a Mosque, Jewish Temple, Orthodox or Catholic Church and or Buddhist Temple. All participants are expected to welcome guest lecturers, who will be talking about their own faith journeys. Students will be given a Pre and Post test that will measure knowledge attained during the course of the class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading of the textbooks assigned by the instructor. A written statement acknowledging completion of this reading is due the first day of class. Book reviews (2 to 3 pages) are also due on each book read for class.
2. Students will read two additional books on religions other than their own. A written statement acknowledging completion of this reading is due December 15, 2007. Book reviews (2 to 3 pages) are also due on each book read for class.
2. Group participation is a primary requirement for the class, so attendance is expected for all sessions. More than one absence during the class will reduce the student's grade. Three tardies count as one absence.
3. Students will be expected to pass the final test with a minimum grade of 70%.
4. Students will be expected to prepare a research of a religious faith assigned by the professor and report on its history, theology and practices. The report will be due January 10, 2008.
5. Each student is required to participate in a group research assignment for presentation in class. Students will discuss a recent religious freedom court case and its implications on religious accommodations.

GRADING PROCEDURE: The course grade will be determined by evaluating class attendance and participation, assignments and papers. Failure to complete assigned reading or handing assignments in late will result in a grade reduction. Tardiness and repeated unexcused absences will also be calculated in to the total overall grade.

Class attendance and participation	20%
Final Exam	30%
Class presentation of legal issue	10%
Reading assignments	10%
Research report	30%

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Manuel A. Cordero, D-Min, July 3, 2007

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Bausani, Alessandro, Religion in Iran: From Zoroaster to Baha'u'llah, Bibliotheca Persica, 2000, ISBN: 0-933273266

Bhaskarananda, Swami, The Essentials of Hinduism, Viveka Press, 1994. ISBN 1-884852-02-5

Bhattacharyya, N. N. History of the Tantric Religion, Manohar Publications, Second Revised Edition, 1999. ISBN 81-7304-025-7

Bowes, Pratima, The Hindu Religious Tradition: A Philosophical Approach, Allied Pub., 1976. ISBN 0710086687

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Buckland, Raymond, Buckland's Complete Book of Witchcraft, Llewellyn Publications, 1986

Buswell, Jr., Robert E. The Zen Monastic Experience: Buddhist Practice in Contemporary Korea, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1992

Chevannes, B., Rastafari and Other African-Caribbean Worldviews. New Jersey: Rutgers University Press. 1998.

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- Cunningham, Scott, Earth, Air, Fire & Water: More Techniques of Natural Magic, Llewellyn Publications, 1991
- Deloria, Vine; Marmon Silko, Lesley; Tinker, George. (2003) God is Red: A Native View of Religion, Fulcrum Publishing. **ISBN-10:** 1555914985
- _____, Wicca: A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner, Llewellyn Publications, 1993 ISBN-10: 0875421180.
- Farrar, Janet, A Witches' Bible: The Complete Witches Handbook, Phoenix Publishing, 1996, ISBN-10: 0919345921
- Fox, Selena, Planetary Healing Rituals, Circle Publications, 1991
- Hatcher, William S. J. and Douglas Martin, The Baha'i Faith: The Emerging Global Religion, Wilmette, Ill, Baha'i Publishing Trust, 2003, ISBN: 1931847061
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- Pauling, Chris, Introducing Buddhism, Glasgow: Windhorse Publications, 1990
- Rahula, Walpola, What the Buddha Taught, New York: Grove Press, 1974
- Renault, Dennis and Freke, Timothy, Native American Spirituality, Thorsons, 1996

Ringenberg, R. Rastafarianism, an Expanding Jamaican Cult. Jamaica: Jamaica Theological Seminary. 1978.

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Shetler, Greg, Living Asatru, Imprint Books, 2003, ISBN-10: 1591099110

Stettenkamp, Michael, The Sacred Vision: Native American Religion and its Practice Today, Paulist Press, 1982

Walker, James R., Lakota Belief and Ritual. Ed. Raymond J. DeMallie and Elaine A. Jahner. Lincoln: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1980.

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