

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
**PTH 540 Military Chaplaincy**

Spring 2007  
T 6-8:45 pm

**Chaplain Scott McChrystal**

AG Military/Veterans Affairs Representative & Endorser

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will explore the United States military chaplaincy: its history, organization, role, and mission in support of the men and women who comprise our Armed Forces. Special focus will be given to understanding the context of ministry as military chaplains and the multiplicity of factors which impact providing religious support. The course will examine key issues which military chaplains must understand in order to minister effectively in the complex environments in which the military functions. A partial list of these issues will include separation of Church and State, religious pluralism within the military and society at large, and the relationship of religion to culture. Learning will occur through a combination of activities to include reading assignments, class lectures and discussions, individual research, and student briefings. Students will have opportunity to learn and grow through interaction with a variety of special guest lecturers.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

In the context of assisting each student to apply biblical principles as they prepare to do God's will as military chaplains, at the conclusion of this course every student should be able to:

1. Articulate their calling to military chaplaincy.
2. Identify the wide range of opportunities and challenges faced by current military chaplains.
3. Integrate their personal philosophy of ministry with the pluralistic setting of the military.
4. Understand the requirements to become a military chaplain and identify action steps to meet these requirements.
5. Access the needs and plan a total religious program for a military organization.
6. Develop a plan for continued spiritual fitness and growth throughout their military chaplaincy experience.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

(A list of additional references available in the AGTS library will be provided at the first class.)

Bergen, Doris L. *Sword of the Lord: Military Chaplaincies from the First to the Twenty-First Century (Critical Problems in History)*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2004.

Peterson, Eugene H. *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1987.

**COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>SPEAKER &amp; ROOM #</b>
January 9	Course Introduction Getting Acquainted Student Devotional Military Chaplaincy as Calling & Profession	TBA
January 16 <i>Chapel</i>	Overview: History Of The Military Chaplaincy	TBA
January 23	Student Devotional Balancing the Roles of the Military Chaplain: Spiritual Leader and Staff Officer	TBA
January 30	AG Commission on Chaplains Chaplain Relationships with Church Leaders	TBA
February 6	Student Devotional Legal Issues Impacting Chaplaincy Ministry Defining Success in Your Call to Military Ministry	TBA
February 13	Student Devotional A Commander's Perspective: Chaplain/Commander Relationships Advising The Commander Getting Command Support	TBA
February 20	Student Devotional AG Chaplaincy Department Topic (TBD)	TBA
February 27	No Class- Spring Break	
March 6	Student Devotional Military Chaplaincy and Religious Pluralism Chaplain as Administrator Women in Military Chaplaincy Ministry	TBA
March 13 <i>Chapel</i>	Student Devotional Developing a Total Religious Program	TBA
March 20	Student Devotional Ministering in a Pluralistic Setting	TBA
March 27	Student Devotional Understanding the Context of Ministry	TBA
April 3	Student Devotional Chaplain As A Communicator Topic (TBD)	TBA

April 10	Student Devotional Lessons Learned From the Field	TBA
April 17	Student Devotional Ministry During Deployment: At Home & Abroad	TBA
April 24	Student Devotional Chaplaincy in the Public Eye Wrap up of class	TBA

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Attendance and Participation: 30%**

Much of the value of this class will result from class discussions and oral presentations by fellow students and guest lecturers. Accordingly, regular attendance and participation will count heavily toward your final grade.

**2. Reading: 20%**

Minimum of 1200 pages from the recommended resources with written reading reports when work is completed.

**3. Oral Presentation (Student Devotional): 10%**

Each student will share one 10 minute devotional with the class during the semester. Presentation dates will be assigned during the first class meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Students will receive a scenario which places them as military chaplains in the service of their choice. The scenario will depict an opportunity to deliver a timely word from the Lord.

Students will be evaluated in the following areas:

- a) Demonstrated ability to understand the context of the ministry opportunity and to assess the needs of the group to which they will be speaking.
- b) Demonstrated ability to provide a message which is biblically based and relevant to the situation.
- c) Skill and effectiveness of delivery style.
- d) Overall impact upon the audience.

**4. Practice of Ministry Paper: (40%)**

Students will receive classroom guidance outlining how to write a ‘Practice of Ministry Paper’ (15-20 pages) which integrates theological reflection with the practical application of ministry principles you plan to use as military chaplains. While not strictly designed to be a research paper, students are expected to draw upon ministry resources which will assist you in shaping your practice of ministry as military chaplains.

This formal paper will include title page, footnotes, bibliography, and be completed in accordance with AGTS standards. The paper in its final form will be due in two copies not later than April 18 to allow time for grading and grade submission. **Late papers will receive lowered grades.**

Discussion should include (but not limited to) the following:

- a) Your calling to military chaplaincy ministry
- b) Ministry in a pluralistic environment
- c) Balancing the roles of minister and staff officer
- d) Free exercise of religion

- e) Ministry with chaplains of other faith groups
- f) Assessment of your strengths/weaknesses as they pertain to military ministry
- g) Plan to maintain your overall personal fitness (physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional) in the demanding environment of the military
- h) Your personal vision of ministry opportunities/challenges

Students will be evaluated in the following areas:

- a) Your personal, vocational, and denominational preparation for military ministry
- b) Thorough understanding of ministry in a pluralistic environment
- c) Ability to understand, integrate, and balance the multiplicity of issues unique to ministry as a military chaplain
- d) Ability to express ideas clearly in writing using effective organization, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

It is assumed that students at AGTS will endeavor to be honest and of high integrity in all matters pertaining to Seminary life. A lack of respect and integrity is evidenced by cheating, fabricating, plagiarizing, misusing facilities, removing books and other property not one's own, and disrupting class.

Cheating is "intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise." It is assumed that whatever is submitted by a student is the work of that student and is new work for that course. Fabrication is "intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise or form." Plagiarism is "intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise." One who facilitates any of the above is equally responsible with the primary violator.

Penalties may include restitution, an "F" on an individual paper, exam, or course; loss of campus employment; disciplinary probation; removal from extracurricular activities; and suspension.

—AGTS Student Handbook

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

Grades are recorded and averaged on the basis of the following grade scale:

A+ = Publishable (4.0)	B- = 83-80% (2.7)	D = 66-64% (1.0)
A = 100-94% (4.0)	C+ = 79-77% (2.3)	D- = 63-60% (0.7)
A- = 93-90% (3.7)	C = 76-74% (2.0)	F = 0-59% (0.0)
B+ = 89-87% (3.3)	C- = 73-70% (1.7)	
B = 86-84% (3.0)	D+ = 69-67% (1.3)	

All assigned work for the course must be submitted for the student to receive a passing grade for the course. The grade of I (Incomplete) may be granted only for extenuating circumstances upon the written request of the student; those with severe extenuating circumstances will have their course grade reduced by one letter.

### **RECOMMENDED RESOURCES**

Abercrombie, Clarence L. *The Military Chaplain*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage Publication, 1977.

Bergen, Doris L. *Sword of the Lord: Military Chaplaincies from the First to the Twenty-First Century (Critical Problems in History)*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2004.

- Boyle, Beth Ellen, ed. *Words of Conscience: Religious Statements on Conscientious Objection*. Washington, DC: National Inter-Religious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors, 1983.
- Brinsfield, John W., Jr. *Encouraging Faith, Serving Soldiers: A History of the U. S. Army Chaplaincy, 1975-1995*. Washington, DC: Office of the Chief of Chaplains, Department of the Army, 1997.
- Brinsfield, John W. Jr. *Faith in the Fight: Civil War Chaplains*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2003.
- Brinsfield, John W. Jr. *Developing a Ministry of Teaching at the US Military Academy*. West Point, NY: Drew University, 1983.
- Carnesale, Albert, et al. *Living With Nuclear Weapons*. New York; Bantam Books, Inc., 1983.
- Davidson, Donald L. *Nuclear Weapons and the American Churches: Ethical Positions on Modern Warfare*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1983.
- Elson, Edward L.R. *Wide Was His Parish*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1986.
- Gray, A. M., ed. *Warfighting*. NY, NY: Currency Doubleday Publishing Group, Inc., 1995.
- Groh, John E. *Air Force Chaplains, 1971-1980*. Washington, DC: Office of the Chief of Chaplains, Department of the Air Force, 1986.
- Gushwa, Robert L. *The Best and Worst of Times: The United States Army Chaplaincy, 1920-1945*, vol. 4. Honolulu, HI: University Press of the Pacific, 2004.
- \**History of the Chaplain Corps US Navy, 1939-49*, vol. 2. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Print Office, 1949.
- \**History of the Chaplain Corps, US Navy, 1950-54*, vol. 3. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Print Office, 1954.
- \* *History of the Chaplain Corps, US Navy, 1953-57*, vol. 5. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Print Office, 1957.
- \* *History of the Chaplain Corps, US Navy, 1957-72*, vol. 6. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Print Office, 1972.
- Honeywell, Roy. *Chaplains of the US Army*. Washington, DC: Office of the Chief of Chaplains, Department of the Army, 1958.
- Hourihan, William J. *A Brief History of the US Army Chaplain Corps*. Fort Jackson, SC: United States Army Chaplain Center and School, 2004. Article on-line. Available from <http://www.usachcs.army.mil/HISTORY/Brief/TitlePage.htm>.
- Hutcheson, Richard G., Jr. *The Churches and the Chaplaincy*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1975.
- Jorgensen, Daniel B. *The Service of Chaplains: To Army Air Units 1917-1946*, vol. 1. Washington, DC: Office of the Chief of Chaplains, Department of the Air Force, 1961.
- Jorgensen, Daniel B. *Air Force Chaplains, 1947-1960*. Washington DC: Office of the Chief of Chaplains, Department of the Air Force, 1963.

- Keith, Billy. *Days of Anguish, Days of Hope*, 2d ed. Fort Worth, TX: Scripta Publishing Inc., 1991.
- Martin, H. Lawrence, Commander, CHC, USN, ed. *Chaplains with U.S. Naval Units in Vietnam 1954-1975: Selected Experiences at Sea and Ashore*. Washington, DC: Office of the Chief of Chaplains, Department of the Navy, 1985.
- Martin, H. Lawrence, Commander, CHC, USN and LT William F.R. Gilroy, CHC, USNR. *The Uniforms of the Chaplain Corps United States Navy*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1985.
- National Catholic News Service. *The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response*. Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference, 1983.
- Norton, Herman A. *The United States Army Chaplaincy: 1790-1865: Struggling for Recognition*, vol. 2. Washington, DC: Office of the Chief of Chaplains: Department of the Army, 1977.
- Payne, Keith B. and Karl I. Payne. *A Just Defense*. Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1987.
- Scharlemann, Martin H. *Air Force Chaplains 1961-1970*, vol. 3. (). Washington, D.C.: Office of the Chief of Chaplains, Department of the Air Force, 1961.
- Shattuck, Gardiner H. *A Shield and Hiding Place: The Religious Life of the Civil War Armies*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1999.
- Spaeth, Robert L. *No Easy Answers: Christians Debate Nuclear Arms*. Minneapolis, MN: Winston Press, Inc., 1983.
- Stover, Earl F. *Up From Handymen: The United States Army Chaplaincy 1865-1920*, vol. 3. Washington, DC: Office of the Chief of Chaplains, Department of the Army, 2004.
- Thompson, Parker C. *The United States Army Chaplaincy: From Its Antecedents to 1971*, vol. 1. Washington, DC: Office of the Chief of Chaplains, Department of the Army, 1978.
- Venzke, Rodger R. *Confidence in Battle, Inspiration in Peace: United States Army Chaplaincy 1945-1975*, vol. 5. Washington, D.C.: Office of the Chief of Chaplains, Department of the Army, 2004.
- Walzer, Michael. *Just and Unjust Wars*. NY, NY: Basic books, Inc., 1977.
- Wardlaw, Charles D., Jr. *The Stranger of Galilee*. Chapel Hill, NC: Sparks Press, 1979.
- Weston, Burns H., ed. *Toward Nuclear Disarmament and Global Security: A Search for Alternatives*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1984.
- Wilson, John F. *Church and State in American History*, 3d ed. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2003.
- Zahn, Gordon C. *The Military Chaplaincy: A Study of Role Tension in the Royal Air Force*. Toronto, Canada: University of Toronto Press, 1969.
- \*Histories of Air Force and Navy Chaplaincies are available by interlibrary loan from the US Army Chaplain School Library, 10100 Lee Rd., Ft. Jackson, SC 29207.*

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*Syllabus prepared by Chaplain Scott McChrystal, November 28, 2006.*