

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

Spring 2010  
W 2-4:45 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 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 that affect providing religious support. The course will examine key issues that 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, and the relationship of religion to culture. Learning will occur through a combination of activities to include reading and writing 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 students 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**

Gary L. McIntosh & Samuel Rima, Sr. *Overcoming the Dark Side of Leadership*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1997. ISBN 0-8010-9047-4.

Peterson, Eugene H. *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1987. ISBN 0-8028-0265-6.

**COURSE SCHEDULE** (See Note at bottom of schedule.)

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>TOPIC</u></b>
January 6	Course Introduction & Requirements Overview of Chaplaincy Ministry Clergy Self Care (Part 1): Maintaining Your Spiritual Fitness
January 13	Clergy Self Care (Part 2): Managing Your Own Household
January 20	Military Chaplaincy as Calling & Profession Military Chaplain: Spiritual Leader and Staff Officer
January 27	Student Presentation Knowing Your Pastoral Identity (Part 1): Developing Your Leadership Style Chaplain Professional Development
February 3	AGTS Chapel Service (2-3:15pm) Clergy Self Care (Part 3): Maintaining Your Physical Fitness
February 10	Student Presentation Clergy Self Care (Part 4): The Chaplain and Ministry in Combat Overcoming the Trauma of War Experiences
February 17	Student Presentation Knowing Your Pastoral Identity- Part 2 Best Practices
February 24	No Class- Spring Break
March 3	Student Presentation Legal Issues Affecting Military Chaplaincy Self Care (Part 4) Loving God with All of Your Mind
March 10	Student Presentation Building Relationships Learning to Network
March 17	Student Presentation Ministry in a Pluralistic Environment
March 24	Student Presentation Engaging Culture: Understanding Your Ministry Environment Assessing Needs/Developing Ministry
March 31	Student Presentation Maintaining Relationship with Your District The Importance of Christian Community

April 7	AGTS Chapel Service (2-3:15pm) AG Chaplain Ministries
April 14	Student Presentation The Chaplain Spouse Military Families
April 21 Final Class	Student Presentation A Commander's Perspective: Chaplain/Commander Relationships

**Note:** Order of topics is subject to change based upon the availability of guest lecturers.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Attendance and Participation: 20%**

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 significantly toward determining your final grade.

**2. Reading: 10%**

Minimum of 1200 pages from the required reading list and recommended resources listing below. Students may request to read material not contained on recommended list, but permission should be requested in advance from Chaplain McChrystal. Students should submit a list of completed readings NLT 14 April that contains the following information: name of each book/publication and the number of pages read.

**3. Practice of Ministry: Oral Presentation/Handout: 20% (Oral Presentation-10%; Handout-10%)**

Each student will share one ten minute oral presentation with the class during the semester. Presentations will cover pastoral/chaplain functions routinely performed by military chaplains. Handouts should include an outline along with sufficient information to serve as a stand-alone document for future reference. Dates and topics will be selected/assigned during the first class meeting on January 6th. In doing research for presentation, student is required to contact at least one AG military chaplain (active or retired) for guidance/mentoring on the topic selected. Students may obtain contact information for AG chaplains by calling the AG Chaplaincy Department at 417-862-2681. Ask for Barb Jaffe or Megan Bernardy.

Topics for Presentations:

- a) Preparation and Conduct of Premarital Counseling
- b) Preparation and Conduct of a Military Wedding Service
- c) Preparation and Conduct of a Military Funeral Service
- d) Preparation and Conduct of a Military Memorial Service
- e) Preparation and Conduct of a Military Memorial Ceremony
- f) Preparation and Conduct of a Baptismal Service
- g) Preparation and Conduct of a Baby Dedication
- h) Preparation and Conduct of a Public Prayer
- i) Preparation and Conduct of Casualty/Death Notification
- j) Preparation and Conduct of a Military Prayer Breakfast
- k) Preparation and Conduct of a Hospital Visit
- l) Preparation and Presentation of Devotional at Military Staff Meeting
- m) Preparation and Conduct of a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing
- n) Preparation and Conduct of Counseling Session Involving a Soldier Experiencing PTS/PTSD

Students will be evaluated in the following areas:

- a) Handouts (10%):

- a. Demonstrated ability to research the topic within the context of the military setting
  - b. Demonstrated ability to provide a handout that supports the presentation and serves as an effective resource material for future use by candidates preparing for military chaplaincy ministry. Handouts should cite references/sources used to include the name of at least one AG military chaplain (active or retired)
- b) Oral Presentation (10%):
- a. Demonstrated ability to make an oral presentation to fellow students that is clear, concise, and covers the critical components related to the ministry topic/event
  - b. Skill and effectiveness of delivery style
  - c. Ability to cover material within prescribed time limits

#### **4. Practice of Ministry Paper: 50%**

Students will receive classroom guidance outlining how to write a 'Practice of Ministry Paper' (12-15 pages) that 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 that will assist you in shaping your practice of ministry as military chaplains.

Ministry resources may include any material that the students believe has been/will be useful for shaping their philosophy of ministry as a military chaplain. Students should provide proper documentation for all sources used.

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 14 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 (not an auto-biographical summary of your life)
- 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** ( This list represents only a sampling of reading that can prove helpful in preparation for ministry as a military chaplain. Should you want to use material not contained in this list, please get prior approval from Chaplain McChrystal.)

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.

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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.

Houriham, 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.

Michael, Christopher P. and Howell, Terry. *The Military Advantage*, 2009 ed. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2009.

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.

Self, Nate E. *Two Wars: One Hero's Fight on Two Fronts- Abroad and Within*. Colorado Springs, CO: Alive Communications, Inc., 2008.

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.

Wardle, Terry. *Healing Care Healing Prayer: Helping the Broken Find Wholeness in Christ*. Abilene, TX: Leafwood Publishers, 2001.

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.*

*Syllabus prepared by Chaplain Scott McChrystal, October 19, 2009.*