

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PTH 540 Military Chaplaincy

Chaplain Charles Marvin

Spring 2002

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study will be made of the United States military chaplaincy: its history, organization, requirements, and religious programs, along with selected issues relating to separation of Church and State, nuclear weapons, "Just War theory," religious pluralism within the chaplaincies, and related Constitutional issues.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is to stimulate interest in and develop pastoral skills for public community and congregational services and ceremonies, with major focus on the military chaplaincy. Issues pertaining to Church-State relationships, religious pluralism, and Christian approach to military ministry will be examined in light of biblical principles.

TEXTBOOKS: (Other than the required text, these books are either in the AGTS Library or provided on a reserved reading shelf.)

****Required:*** Richard G. Hutcheson, The Churches and The Chaplaincies, (Revised edition, 1997)
(This book is currently out of print and copies will be provided by instructor.)

Gray, Al (GEN, USMC), Warfighting; 1997

Hartle, Anthony E., Moral Issues in Military Decision Making, 1989. University Press, Kansas

Keith B. and Karl I. Payne, A Just Defense, c. 1987

Donald L. Davidson, Nuclear Weapons and the American Churches, c. 1983.

Roy J. Honeywell, Chaplains of the United States Army, c. 1958.

Donald W. Hadley and Gerald T. Richards, Ministry with the Military, c. 1992.

Daniel B. Jorgenson and John D. Barringer, The History of the Air Force Chaplaincy, c. 1958.

Billy Keith, Days of Anguish, Days of Hope, c. 1991.

Robert L. Spaeth, No Easy Answers, (Christians Debate Nuclear Arms), c. 1983.

BASIC OUTLINE

Jan. 8: Course Overview. Getting acquainted and discussion of goals. Reading and grading policy explained.

Jan. 15: Biblical examples of priests/prophets who went to war with their soldiers and early developments of the chaplaincy through the Colonial Period.

Jan. 22: Historical development of the military chaplaincy from the Colonial Period to the end of World War II.

- Jan. 29: Historical development and challenges of the military chaplaincy during the Post World War II period.
- Feb. 5: Trends and implications for future development of the military chaplaincy including new technology, distance learning, parish model changes, changes in battlefields/ministries, deployments, and joint duty.
- Feb. 12: The Assemblies of God Commission on Chaplains, the Chaplaincy Department, and how they have evolved to this date. Expectations of Chiefs of Chaplains for relationships of chaplains with their churches and Endorsing Agents; chaplains' relationships with the Commission on Chaplains and Chaplaincy Department.
- Feb. 19: Church and State relationships as envisioned by our founding fathers and how this impacts on today's military chaplaincy. Includes legal challenges and religious accommodation issues.
- Feb. 26: **ORAL BRIEF DUE**
Student Reports (Oral Brief presentations)
- Mar. 4-8: **SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS**
- Mar. 12: Conducting and participating in interfaith services/community services; Religious Pluralism; Collective Protestant Worship; Pentecostal/Charismatic/Gospel services; Public Ceremonies; Church-State issues affecting these activities.
- Mar. 19: Field trip to military post/base (time, date to be arranged).
- Mar. 26: Formulating a well-rounded and spiritual/religious program for area of student concentration (Navy, Army, Air Force). Discussion of traditional Protestant vs. contemporary worship services; use of Armed Forces Hymnal.
- Apr. 2: **Student Reports**
- Apr. 9: Command relationships; practical application of leadership skills for service as a chaplain in the military forces of the U.S. (Staff relationships with chaplains, commander, etc.).
- Apr. 16: **MAJOR PAPER DUE.** Late papers will receive a lowered grade.
Student Reports

The total Chaplains Program: (worship; pastoral functions; counseling; Christian education; humanitarian programs; cultural activities; ministry of presence, visitation).

Apr. 23: Wrap-up of course; family relationships and commitments; dealing with unresolved issues; possible future research and continuing education.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Regular attendance and participation in classes/field trip (35%).
2. Reading: minimum of 2,000 pages from the suggested bibliography with written reading reports when work is completed (25%).
3. Oral critique/brief (5 minutes) of video/audio cassette tape, or periodical (5%). (Focus on poise, delivery, critiquing skills)
4. One written paper and one oral presentation, as follows (35%):

Early in the semester the student should determine his/her topic and begin meaningful research. On selected dates students will orally deliver the gist of their papers (10-12 minutes) before the class, providing the instructor a copy in advance.

The student will then take the constructive criticisms offered by his/her peers, and/or instructor and develop this into the final draft of the 20-page paper with footnotes, bibliography, and in accordance with AGTS standards. The formal paper in its final form will be due in two copies not later than April 16. Late papers will receive lowered grades. The purpose of the research papers is to encourage students to wrestle with different historical, theological, organizational, moral, biblical, or ethical aspects of the military chaplaincy; to help the student gain new insights and information about this ministry; and to be aware of military traditions which may influence his/her future ministry.

The paper will be evaluated on the basis of the student's ability to analyze material, effectiveness of communication, his/her creativity, total content, logical conclusions, recommendations, and conformity with standards established by AGTS for research papers. **CHAPLAINS MUST KNOW HOW TO THINK AND WRITE WELL. THOUGHT DEVELOPMENT, COHESIVENESS OF CONTENT, SPELLING, SYNTAX, GRAMMAR, AND PUNCTUATION WILL BE EXAMINED CAREFULLY.**

Possible topics for Research Papers (Suggestions only):

- Chaplaincy Role Tensions
- The Air Force Chaplaincy (specific focus)
- The Army Chaplaincy (specific focus)
- The Navy Chaplaincy (specific focus)
- Challenges of the Veterans Administration Chaplaincy
- Nuclear Issues and the Chaplaincy
- Church and State Relationships as Pertains to the Chaplaincy

- Religious Pluralism and the Chaplaincy
- Theological Implications for/of the Military Chaplaincy
- Whom Do We Serve?
- Ministry to Military Personnel Overseas
- What Does It Mean to Be Protestant, and Is This a Valid Label for Chaplains?
- Parachurch Organizations and the Military Chaplaincy
- The History and Value of the Chaplain Candidate Program (either Army, Navy, or Air Force)
- Pacifism, Conscientious Objection, Nuclear Pacifism, or Just War Theory

GRADING PROCEDURE

Within each category, the grade will only count for the assigned percentage. All categories will be averaged to arrive at a final grade. Note that fulfilling all requirements does not automatically equal "A" quality. This element of quality will be objectively and subjectively evaluated by the instructor and will be reflected in the final grade.

BIBLIOGRAPHY ("Not all readers are leaders, but almost every leader is a reader.")

BOOKS: (Not all listed books can be found in the AGTS Library but may be borrowed from other libraries.)

Abercrombie, Clarence L., The Military Chaplain. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage Publication, 1977.
(191 pages) *AGTS Call Number: UH20.A23*

Boyle, Beth Ellen, ed., Words of Conscience. (Religious Statements on Conscientious Objection), Washington, D.C.: National Interreligious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors, 1983. (220 pages)

Brinsfield, John W., Jr., Encouraging Faith, Serving Soldiers. (A history of the U. S. Army Chaplaincy, 1975-1995) U. S. Army, 1997

Carnesale, Albert, and others, Living With Nuclear Weapons. New York; Bantam Books, Inc., 1983. (268 pages)

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, Washington, DC, 1997. U. S. Government Printing Office.
(Nature, theory, and conduct of war)

- Gushwa, The Best and Worst of Times: The United States Army Chaplaincy, 1920-1945. Vol. 4 of 5. (Office of the Chief of Chaplains: Department of the Army). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1978. (227 pages) *AGTS Call Number: UH23.G8X*
- Hutcheson, Richard G., Jr. The Churches and the Chaplaincy. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1975. (223 pages) *AGTS Call Number: UH23.H87*
- Jorgensen, Daniel B. The Service of Chaplains: To Army Air Units 1917-1946. Vol. 1 (Office, Chief of Air Force Chaplains). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1961. (344 pages) *AGTS Call Number: UG 633.A59*
- Keith, Billy, Days of Anguish, Days of Hope. Scripta Publishing Inc., F. Worth, TX, 1991. (214 pages) *AGTS Call Number: D805.P6K44*
- Martin, H. Lawrence, Commander, CHC, USN, ed. Chaplains with U.S. Naval Units in Vietnam 1954-1975. (Selected Experiences at Sea and Ashore), Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1985. (118 pages)
- Martin, H. Lawrence, Commander, CHC, USN, and LT William F.R. Gilroy, CHC, USNR, The Uniforms of the Chaplain Corps United States Navy. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1985. (44 pages)
- Moody, William B. The Good Soldiers. Waco, TX: Good Soldiers Publishing, n.d.
- National Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response. Washington, D.C.: United States Catholic Conference, 1983. (103 pages)
- Norton, Herman A., The United States Army Chaplaincy: 1790-1865 Struggling for Recognition. Vol. 2. (Office of the Chief of Chaplains: Department of the Army). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Parenting Office, 1977. (192 pages) *AGTS Call Number: UH23.N66*
- 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. (Office of the Chief of Chaplains). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1961. (246 pages) *AGTS Call Number: UG633.A59*
- Shattuck, Gardiner H. A Shield and Hiding Place. (The religious life of Civil War armies); Mercer, University Press, 1987
- Spaeth, Robert L., No Easy Answers. (Christians Debate Nuclear Arms), Minneapolis, Minnesota: Winston Press, Inc., 1983. (128 pages)

Stover, Earl F. Up From Handymen: The United States Army Chaplaincy 1865-1920. Vol. 3 (Office of the Chief of Chaplains: Department of the Army). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. (302 pages) *AGTS Call Number: UH23.576*

Thompson, Parker C., The United States Army Chaplaincy: From Its Antecedents to 1971. Vol. 1. (Office of the Chief of Chaplains: Department of the Army). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1978. (327 pages) *AGTS Call Number: UH23.T5X*

Venzke, Rodger R., Confidence in Battle, Inspiration in Peace: United States Army Chaplaincy 1945-1975. Vol. 5. (Office of the Chief of Chaplains: Department of the Army). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. (211 pages) *AGTS Call Number: UH23.V46*

Walzer, Michael, Just and Unjust Wars, 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, Colorado: Westview Press, 1984.

Wilson, John F., Church and State in American History, Boston, 1965

Zahn, Gordon C. The Military Chaplaincy: A Study of Role Tension in the Royal Air Force. Toronto, CA: University of Toronto Press, 1969. (310 pages) *AGTS Call Number: UH25.G7.23*

Periodicals:

Military Chaplains' Review (DA Pam 165-143), Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall 1984 - Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall 1998 (Not all copies are available at AGTS).

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Chaplain Charles Marvin, January 2002.