ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
Evangel University

PTH 540 Military Chaplaincy (3 credits)  
Wednesday, 2-4:45 PM, Room 116

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Spring 2018  
Veterans Center  
By Appointment

COURSE SYLLABUS

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 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. Students will learn 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.

EVANGEL UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Evangel University is a comprehensive Christian university committed to excellence in educating and equipping students to become Spirit-empowered servants of God who impact the church and society globally.

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary is to equip servant leaders with knowledge, skill, and passion to revitalize the Church and evangelize the world in the power of the Holy Spirit.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After this course students should be able to:

1. Articulate their calling to military chaplaincy (EU20-I4).
2. Identify the wide range of opportunities and challenges faced by current military chaplains (M.Div 5).
3. Integrate their personal philosophy of ministry within the pluralistic setting of the military (M.Div 5).
4. Understand the requirements to become a military chaplain and identify action steps (EU20-I3) to meet these (M.Div 9) requirements.
5. Assess the needs and plan a total religious program for a military organization.
6. Develop a plan for continued all-around fitness and growth throughout their military chaplaincy (M.Div 9) experience (EU20-I3).

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 10</td>
<td>Course Introduction &amp; Requirements; Student Introductions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overview of Chaplaincy Ministry and Its Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 17</td>
<td>Knowing Your Pastoral Identity (Part 1):</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• God, Others, and You</td>
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<td>• Clergy Self Care (Part 1)</td>
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<td>• Maintaining Your Spiritual Fitness</td>
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<td>January 24</td>
<td>Military Chaplaincy as Calling &amp; Profession</td>
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<td>Lessons Learned: Years 1-5</td>
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<td>January 31</td>
<td>Military Chaplain: Spiritual Leader and Staff Officer</td>
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<td>Free Exercise of Religion</td>
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<td>Clergy Self Care (Part 2): Maintaining Your Physical Fitness</td>
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<td>February 7</td>
<td>Knowing Your Pastoral Identity (Part 2):</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Identifying Your Strengths and Weaknesses</td>
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<td>• Identifying/Developing Your Leadership Style</td>
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<td>• Requirements/Keys for Personal Development/Success in Ministry</td>
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<td>February 14</td>
<td>The Chaplain and Ministry in Combat</td>
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<td>Overcoming the Trauma of War Experiences</td>
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<td>February 21</td>
<td>The Chaplain Spouse; Military Families</td>
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<td>Chaplain as a communicator</td>
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<td>February 28</td>
<td>Understanding Your Ministry Environment:</td>
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<td>Assessing Needs/Developing Ministry</td>
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<td>Accessing Resources for Ministry</td>
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<td>March 7</td>
<td>Ministry in a Pluralistic Environment</td>
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<td>Diversity: It’s Opportunities and Challenges</td>
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<td>Relationships with the AG: Chaplaincy Department and District</td>
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<td>March 14</td>
<td>Spring Study Week—NO Classes</td>
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<td>March 21</td>
<td>Developing Ministry: Needs Assessment; Relationships/Networking; Planning</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Clergy Self Care (Part 3): Managing Your Personal Affairs/Household</td>
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March 28  Legal Issues Affecting Military Chaplaincy
The Chaplain as a Communicator

April 4  **PAPERS DUE!!**
Commander/Chaplain Relationships
NCO/Chaplain Relationships

April 11  Best Practices: Chaplain Professional Development
Clergy Self Care (Part 4): Maintaining Healthy Emotions/Relationships

April 18  Setting Priorities/Managing Time

April 25  Review of Course Material

Final Class

Notes:
Order of topics is subject to change based upon the availability of guest lecturers.
Student presentations will occur as part of most class dates. Topics and schedule TBA.
Our class will attend one or two chapel services during normal class hours. Dates and times 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 significantly toward determining your final grade.

2. **Reading: 10%**
   Minimum of 2,300 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 4 April that contains the following information: name of each book/publication and the number of pages read.

3. **Practice of Ministry: Oral Presentation: 10%**
   Each student will share his/her personal testimony in one oral presentation with the class during the semester. Presentations will cover the individual’s journey and calling to chaplaincy ministry. Dates will be selected/assigned during the first class meeting on January 10.

   Oral Presentation (10%):
   a. Demonstrated ability to make an oral presentation to fellow students that is clear and concise
   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 4 April 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 classes.

Cheating is defined as “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.**

**THE USE OF COMPUTERS IN THE CLASSROOM**
The use of computers for word processing in the classroom represents a privilege given to students to enhance their learning. They may only be used for purposes related to the course. It is therefore a breach of classroom etiquette, an act of rudeness, and a distraction to other students, when computers are also used to surf the web, watch videos, play games, and send messages, etc., during class time. The professor assumes that seminarians will be persons of integrity when using computers in the classroom.

**NON-DISCRIMINATORY LANGUAGE**


**DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Evangel University, is committed to equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act as amended (ADA). Academic Support, a division of the Center for Student Success, is the office designated to review disability documentation, determine reasonable accommodations, and develop plans for the provision of such accommodations.

If you have already established accommodations through Academic Support and receive accommodation memos, please meet with the professor to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible (accommodations are not retroactive). If you have not yet established accommodations, but have a disability or health condition (permanent or temporary) that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, you are welcome to contact the Academic Support staff in the Center for Student Success (ZM-208; 417-865-2815 x.8215) so that accommodations can be arranged. See the Disability and Academic Accommodations Handbook for further information on the accommodations process.

**COURSE COMMONS**

This course will use Course Commons, Evangel’s learning management system. There are links to Course Commons in the Student Portal and the Evangel website. The login page for Course Commons is [https://courses.evangel.com/](https://courses.evangel.com/).
Course Commons Student Orientation

All Evangel students have access to the Course Commons Student Orientation. If you are new to Course Commons, you are encouraged to take advantage of this excellent resource. As part of your course preparation, this will help you make the most of the features that are available to you as a student.

Accessing the Course in Course Commons

Access your courses list by clicking on the Courses icon on the Global Navigation menu on the left of the screen. You can also click on the course card on the Dashboard.

To customize your Courses list, see the following Help Guide: How do I customize my Courses list?

Students will have access to this course in Course Commons seven (7) days before the official beginning of the semester. Students have until seven (7) days after the semester begins to complete financial registration. If financial registration is not completed by the seventh day, course access will be revoked.

After the end of the semester, students will have read-only access to the course through Course Commons. Only access to already submitted work, course resources and grades will be available.

Accessing Course Content in Course Commons

The professor controls the availability of course content and features. Some items may be unavailable until a date set by the professor.

You can navigate the course content and features using the Course Navigation menu on the left. This menu can be customized by the professor, so it may differ from course to course, depending on what features the professor has chosen to make available.

You can collapse the Course Navigation menu to focus on the page content. Click on the menu icon in the upper left (which looks like 3 lines). You can expand the menu by clicking on the menu icon again.

All course content (syllabus, modules, course materials, assignments, online quizzes, online discussions, grades, etc.) can be accessed using the links in the
Course Navigation menu.

Personal Settings in Course Commons

Students can adjust their personal settings in Course Commons. Click on the Account icon to access the Account menu.

On the Profile page, you can add a profile picture to your account. You can also edit your display name, which will show to your instructor and peers throughout Course Commons.

The Settings link allows you to add additional contact methods (personal email or cell phone number for text message alerts) to your account. You can also add external services, like Twitter, Skype or Google Drive.

The Notifications link allows you to customize what notifications you receive from Course Commons and how and when you receive them. This is a student-centered feature that allows you to optimize your notifications to help you stay connected to what is happening in all your courses.

For more information, see the following pages in the Course Commons Student Orientation: How to Update your Profile and Settings and How to Update Your Notifications Preferences.

Accessing Grades in Course Commons

All course grades will be recorded and shown through Course Commons. Simply click the “Grades” button on the lower right of the Dashboard to access your grades for all courses. You can also use the Grades link in the Course Navigation to access your grades for this course.

For more information on how to check your grades and what you can do from the Grades page, see the following page from the Course Commons Student Orientation: How to Check My Grades.

How to Get Help with Course Commons

Help is never more than a few clicks away! You can access the Help menu from any page in Course Commons.

Click on the Help icon in the lower left corner of the screen. Because the Course Commons is powered by the Canvas Learning Management System, all help guides and helpdesk tickets will reference Canvas.

From the Help menu, you can send a message to your instructor, search the Canvas Help Guides, or report a problem.

You can browse and search the Help Guides using the following link: https://community.canvaslms.com/community/answers/guides/.

Course Commons Troubleshooting

Do you have a question about a quiz, an assignment, or another item in the course? Contact your professor.

Are you having technical problems with Course Commons? Click the Help icon, click “Report a Problem” and complete the form to file a ticket for a personal response from the support team. Please be sure to include a thorough description of the problem.
**Are you having trouble with your Evangel account (username and password)?** Contact the IT Helpdesk at 417-865-2815 ext. 8368 (phone), helpdesk@evangel.edu (email), or help.evangel.edu.

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**GRADING PROCEDURE**

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

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

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.

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

(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, contact Chaplain McChrystal for prior approval.)


**SPECIFIC DATA**