



PATH6337 Advanced Chaplaincy
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church Ministry
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New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to develop within each student a personal theology and identity of chaplaincy ministry. The course builds on concepts introduced in Introduction to Chaplaincy. Topics addressed include personal identities and theologies of chaplaincy, self-care, pathways for board certification, creating verbatims, clinical policies, professional ethics, and denominational and religious encounters in a pluralistic context. Students will be challenged to build their personal identity and theology of an evangelical, Christian chaplain while serving in a secular, pluralistic context of ministry.

Required Prerequisites:

PATH/THEO5337 Theological and Practical Issues in Chaplaincy (Introduction to Chaplaincy). This course is required before taking Advanced Chaplaincy, but may be waived by the professor.

Recommended Prerequisites

PATH5331 Pastoral Ministry; THEO5301 Systematic Theology 1 OR THEO5302 Systematic Theology 2.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is ***spiritual vitality***. We want everything we do to be characterized by offering the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Develop a personal theology of chaplaincy.
2. Construct an identity of being an evangelical Christian chaplain in a pluralistic context.
3. Understand chaplaincy board certification pathways and processes.
4. Develop a self-care plan for chaplaincy ministry.
5. Understand the various rituals and liturgies of other denominational and religious traditions that one may encounter in a pluralistic context.

Required Texts

Evans, Keith. *Essential Chaplain Skill Sets*.

Laing, John. *In Jesus' Name: Evangelicals and the Military Chaplaincy*.

Roberts, Stephen. *Professional Spiritual and Pastoral Care: A Practical Clergy and Chaplain's Handbook*.

Course Requirements

1. **Absences:** School policies concerning absences and tardiness will be strictly enforced. Due to the workshop format of this class, no student absences may be granted.
2. **Exam:** One examination will be given at the end of the class. The test will cover both materials covered in class and in the readings. The test will consist of objective sections (matching, true/false, and multiple answer questions) and subjective sections (identification and essay questions).
3. **Book Review:** Each student will write a 12-page, double-spaced (Times Roman 12 point font) book review and analysis covering the three required books (4 pages per book). The review will discuss the contents of the book as well as provide analysis of the arguments presented within the book. The book review is due on the first day of class. Students may write the book review in either NOBTS Style Guide or APA format. Due on first day of workshop.
4. **Research paper:** Each student will write a 15-page position paper (in NOBTS Style Guide format) on the topics assigned. The topics for the paper will be discussed and assigned at the end of the

workshop. Topics assigned will be to address the theological foundations of chaplaincy ministry and issues. The due date is 3 weeks after the last day of the workshop. Students may write the book review in either NOBTS Style Guide or APA format.

5. Group Activity-“Verbatims”:

Students will be grouped into groups of 3-4 persons. Each person will give a verbatim of their last encounter with a person in a chaplaincy context (or something similar, such as a hospital visit, counseling session, pastoral visit, etc.). The purpose of the verbatim is to give a script of the encounter and allow the other student to give feedback on the encounter. Examples will be given in class of a verbatim, but the groups can use the following guidelines to assess each encounter:

- A. Verbatims are NOT evangelistic encounters.
- B. The encounter should be assessed on how much “care” the student provided to the client/church member/infirm/et al.
- C. The goal is to encourage students to de-center themselves from the encounter and think about how they can make the person receiving care the center of their ministry of presence.
- D. Verbatim scripts need to be as detailed as possible and to the nearest wording of the encounter.
- E. If the Gospel is or was presented, it needs to be done in such a way that it was at the invitation of the person receiving care. The presentation also needs to be done in a way that would not be perceived as proselytizing.

6. Chaplaincy Reflection Paper

Students are to “shadow” a chaplain for half a day of ministry and write a 5-page reflection paper on the experience. Students may choose a chaplain in any of the various forms of chaplaincy ministry, but the chaplain must have at least 5 years of experience and be endorsed by a chaplaincy or mission-sending agency. The paper is to be double-spaced and may be written in first person. If the student took an Introduction to Chaplaincy class, they must select a chaplain from a different type of chaplaincy to shadow. Paper is due 4 weeks after class.

7. Participation: All students are responsible for being in the classroom on time, reading the assigned materials, and participating in the class discussions. Therefore, each student will receive a class participation grade. This grade will be based upon three criteria: class attendance, tardiness and contribution to class discussions.

Guide for Grades of Papers:

A Paper: Demonstrates a *superior* grasp of ideas, arguments, or theories it discusses, and presents very good, clear, and thoughtful arguments, with very few, if any, significant grammatical and/or form and style problems.

B Paper: Demonstrates a *good* grasp of ideas, arguments, or theories it discusses, presents an argument that exhibits good reasoning, with minimal significant grammatical and/or form and style problems.

C Paper: Demonstrates an adequate though perhaps limited understanding of ideas, arguments, or theories it discusses, mixed with a significant number of incorrect claims, presents weak arguments, contains significant grammatical or structural problems.

D Paper: Demonstrates significant misunderstandings of factual matters, uses poor logic or fallacious reasoning (if any) to argue points (e.g., merely makes a series of unconnected assertions), fails significantly with respect to technical specifications.

F Paper: no paper submitted, a paper that commits plagiarism, or a paper that presents no argumentation.

Grading

The final grade for the course will consist of the following:

Final Exam	20%
Research Paper	20%
Book Review	20%
Reflection paper	20%
Verbatim project	10%
Participation	10%
Final grade	100%

Miscellaneous notes:

- Cell phones must be turned off or to silent while in class. If a phone rings, the professor reserves the right to answer the phone or confiscate it until after class.
- No playing games or surfing the internet while taking notes on a computer.

- Do not do other class work while in class. Your attention should be focused on the professor, class material, and class discussion.
- Late work will be penalized at the rate of 10 points per day.

Ensure you have access to Blackboard for the class. Class materials, lecture, and content will be posted there.

WORKSHOP FORMAT:

Monday- Units 1-3

Tuesday- Units 4-6

Wednesday- Units 7-9

Thursday- Units 10-13

Friday- Units 14-15

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

[Other items may be included, such as: expectations for reading assignments, policy on late assignments, academic honesty, classroom demeanor, extra credit]

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Part I: The Chaplaincy Context

Unit	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT
1	Review of Chaplaincy basics and definitions	Evans 1-2
2	Developing a Personal Theology and Identity	Roberts 1 and 2
3	The Alphabet Soup of Chaplaincy Boards	Evans 3-4
4	Non-Federal Chaplaincy	
5	Chaplaincy care in critical incidents	Roberts 9
6	Self-care in chaplaincy	Evans 12
7	Self-care in Chaplaincy	Evans 13 Mid-class assessment
8	Critical Incident Stress Debriefing	Roberts 10
9	Verbatims and Their Practice	Evans 14

UNIT 2: Board Certification

Unit	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT
10	More Alphabet Soup of Chaplaincy Boards	
11	Guest speaker on board certification	
12	Personal Plan for Board Certification	Verbatims

UNIT 3: Pluralistic Contexts

Unit	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT
13	Understanding Pluralism in a Religious Context	Evans 6-7
14	Understanding Pluralism in a Political Context	Roberts 32 Evans 8-9
15	Practices and Liturgies of Other Denominations and Religions	Evans 10-11 Robert 33 Final Exam in class

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