

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

CHPL 598

SPIRITUAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHAPLAIN

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course addresses the professional and spiritual formation of chaplains. Students will observe and evaluate, first-hand, various chaplain ministries. Attention is given to the biblical nature of chaplain ministry and its practical application within the secular and pluralistic contexts of the military, healthcare, and community chaplain settings. Special emphasis is given to formation of godly character necessary for successful chaplain ministry.

RATIONALE

Chaplains need to understand the biblical nature of chaplain ministry and its application within secular and pluralistic contexts. The student needs to observe and evaluate first-hand various chaplain ministries to best understand how to provide soul-care and lead spiritually within the framework of secular, pluralistic environments. Additionally, the chaplain must be spiritually grounded and growing in the Lord to minister within military, healthcare, and community chaplain settings.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Appraise the biblical nature and work of chaplaincy within military, healthcare, and community settings.
- B. Assess the value of chaplain ministry as observed firsthand in pluralistic chaplaincy contexts.
- C. Create a chaplain/ministry manual for a specified type of chaplaincy ministry.
- D. Summarize the biblical basis for spiritual disciplines and daily living.

- E. Analyze the disciplines essential for a strong spiritual formation.
- F. Critique the evidence of spiritual disciplines in his/her life.
- G. Create a spiritual growth plan pertinent for a specified type of chaplaincy ministry.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.
- C. Discussion Board Forums (4)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be a minimum of 400 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be a minimum of 200 words.
- D. Journals (14)

The student will write Journals recounting his/her ministry observations and spiritual reflections. Prompts for each journal will be provided.
- E. Course Plan of Action

The student will disclose the 3 chaplains he/she will interview. Additionally, the student will list the 6 services they will use for their ministry manual excerpts. Finally, the student will name the chaplain he/she will shadow and provide a schedule regarding how he/she will fulfill the 16-hour requirement.
- F. Spiritual Assessment

The student will complete a personal Spiritual Assessment as the basis for a spiritual development plan. The student will reflect intently on his/her daily relationship with the Lord and complete a personal SWOT analysis. The Spiritual Assessment paper must be 900–1,200 words.
- G. Spiritual Development Plan

The student will create a Spiritual Development Plan. Each Spiritual Development Plan will focus on specific and measureable steps the student will take over the coming weeks to implement/practice chosen spiritual disciplines. Creating a Spiritual Development Plan is intentionally mapping the student's part of the spiritual formation process. The Spiritual Development Plan must be a minimum of 3,000 words and be in current Turabian format.

H. Shadow Evaluations (8)

The student will evaluate his/her shadow experience. This will include an evaluation from the chaplain shadowed and their affirmation regarding the completion of the 16 hours required. Each evaluation must be 600–900 words.

I. Chaplain Manual Excerpts (6)

The student will create ministry framework tools for common ministrations. The excerpts will be based on predefined areas listed within the course. Each excerpt must be 300–1,500 words.

J. Journal Summary

The final journal will be a summary of the student’s ministry experience and spiritual growth for the entirety of his/her formation practicum. The Journal Summary must be 900–1,200 words.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 50 pts ea)	200
Journals (14 at 10 pts ea)	140
Course Plan of Action	30
Spiritual Assessment	30
Spiritual Development Plan	150
Shadow Evaluations (8 at 30 pts ea)	240
Chaplain Manual Excerpts (6 at 30 pts ea)	180
Journal Summary	30
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the [LBTS Writing Guide](#) and the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the [Online Writing Center](#).

D. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

E. Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

F. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

CHPL 598

Textbooks: Boa, *Conformed to His Image* (2001).
 McArthur, *Pastoral Ministry: How to Shepherd Biblically* (2005).
 Murray, *Humility* (2012).
 Nolan, *Spiritual Care at the End of Life* (2012).
 Tozer, *The Pursuit of God* (2011).
 Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* (2014).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Boa: chs. 1–3 MacArthur: chs. 1–8 4 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist	10
		Class Introductions	0
		DB Forum 1	50
		Journal 1	10
2	Boa: chs. 4–12 Whitney: ch. 1 3 presentations	Course Plan of Action	30
		Journal 2	10
		Spiritual Assessment	30
3	Boa: chs. 15–16 Whitney: chs. 2–3 3 presentations	DB Forum 2	50
		Journal 3	10
4	Boa: chs. 17–18 MacArthur: chs. 10–11 Nolan: Entire Text Whitney: ch. 4 3 presentations	DB Forum 3	50
		Journal 4	10
5	Boa: chs. 34–35 MacArthur: ch. 14 Whitney: ch. 5 2 presentations	DB Forum 4	50
		Journal 5	10
6	Boa: chs. 30–33 MacArthur: ch. 19 Whitney: ch. 6 3 presentations	Journal 6	10
7	Boa: chs. 24–26 Whitney: ch. 7 2 presentations	Journal 7	10

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
8	Boa: chs. 19–20 Whitney: ch. 8 1 presentation	Shadow Evaluation 1 Journal 8	30 10
9	Boa: chs. 27–29 Whitney: ch. 9 2 presentations	Shadow Evaluation 2 Journal 9	30 10
10	Boa: chs. 13–14 Whitney: ch. 10 2 presentations	Shadow Evaluation 3 Chaplain Manual Excerpt 1 Journal 10	30 30 10
11	Tozer: Entire Text Whitney: ch. 11 1 presentation	Shadow Evaluation 4 Chaplain Manual Excerpt 2 Journal 11	30 30 10
12	Boa: chs. 21–23 Whitney: ch. 12 1 presentation	Shadow Evaluation 5 Chaplain Manual Excerpt 3 Journal 12	30 30 10
13	Boa: ch. 36 Whitney: ch. 13 1 presentation	Shadow Evaluation 6 Chaplain Manual Excerpt 4 Journal 13	30 30 10
14	Murray: Entire Text 3 presentations	Shadow Evaluation 7 Chaplain Manual Excerpt 5 Journal 14	30 30 10
15	None	Shadow Evaluation 8 Chaplain Manual Excerpt 6 Spiritual Development Plan	30 30 150
16	1 presentation	Journal Summary	30
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.