

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 615

CHAPLAIN ETHICS FOR ADVISEMENT AND PASTORAL CARE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course provides a study of the methodology and practice of biblical ethics applied within the secular and pluralistic contexts in which chaplains serve. Attention is given to chaplain ethical advisement of leaders and followers within the military, healthcare, and community chaplain environments. The course will prepare chaplains for ethical dilemmas through the development of an ethical decision model and personal code of ethics. Additionally, the course will address the ethics of evangelism and exercising one's faith in a pluralistic culture.

RATIONALE

Chaplains must be prepared to address a wide range of ethical issues facing those they minister to and lead spiritually. Military commanders, healthcare administrators, and community members look to them for informed guidance and a spiritual perspective on the moral and ethical issues they face in a culturally diverse and highly pluralistic society. In view of their critical role, chaplains must understand ethical theory and be able to exercise sound reasoning based on biblical principles. As spiritual leaders who lead by moral example and influence, they must also exhibit high personal moral standards.

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. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Distinguish between different kinds of ethical systems.

- B. Apply the Bible to modern ethical issues chaplains face.
- C. Discuss ethical issues in ways that facilitate understanding and application of biblical concepts within secular and pluralistic settings.
- D. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different options for resolving ethical dilemmas in light of biblical teaching.
- E. Defend an ethical option that best reflects a biblical perspective on specific issues.
- F. Develop a code of ethics appropriate to the chaplain ministry to which he/she has been called.

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 at least 400 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 200 words.
- D. Ethical Decision-Making Model
The student will formulate a process/model for making biblical decisions regarding ethical questions/problems he/she will face as a chaplain and summarize his/her approach in a 1,500–1,800-word paper in current Turabian format. The model must be biblical in nature, using Scripture as a guide for rational decision making. It must also demonstrate an understanding of ethical theory and explain how the student will analyze ethical options that appear to be in conflict.
- E. Same-Sex Attraction Paper
The student will write a 2,100–2,400-word paper in current Turabian format that articulates his/her position on same-sex attraction and describes how he/she will minister to people in his/her work environment who claim to have same-sex attraction and/or support same-sex unions. The paper will integrate biblical principles as well as ethical theory.
- F. Bioethics Position Paper
The student will write a 2,100–2,400-word research-based paper in current Turabian format that articulates his/her position on a bioethical issue selected from [Bioethics.com](#). The selected issue must be appropriate for the student's area of chaplaincy ministry. The paper must include at least 5 references from books and/or scholarly journal articles in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

G. Personal Code of Ethics

The student will develop a 600–900-word personal code of ethics appropriate for his/her area of chaplaincy ministry based on the examples found in Trull and Carter’s *Ministerial Ethics: Moral Formation for Church Leaders*.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 100 pts ea)	400
Ethical Decision-Making Model	150
Same-Sex Attraction Paper	175
Bioethics Position Paper	175
Personal Code of Ethics	100
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 [LUSD 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 Accommodation Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at equityandcompliance@liberty.edu. Click to see a full copy of Liberty’s [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

CHPL 615

Textbooks: Jones, *Biblical Christian Ethics* (1994).
 Rae, *Moral Choices* (2009).
 Thiessen, *The Ethics of Evangelism* (2011).
 Trull & Carter, *Ministerial Ethics* (2004).
 VanDrunen, *Bioethics and the Christian Life* (2009).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Jones: ch. 1 Rae: chs. 1–4 VanDrunen: ch. 1 2 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 100
2	Jones: chs. 2–6 VanDrunen: chs. 2–3 1 presentation	DB Forum 2	100
3	Jones: ch. 7 Rae: ch. 4 Trull & Carter: ch. 2 2 presentations 1 website	Ethical Decision-Making Model	150
4	Rae: ch. 11 2 presentations 4 websites	DB Forum 3	100
5	Jones: ch. 11 Rae: ch. 10 VanDrunen: chs. 4–6 2 presentations	Same-Sex Attraction Paper	175
6	Thiessen: chs. 1–2 Trull & Carter: ch. 7 VanDrunen: chs. 7–9 1 presentation 1 website	Bioethics Position Paper	175
7	Thiessen: chs. 3–9, Appendix 1 1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 4	100

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
8	Trull & Carter: chs. 1, 3–6, 8 1 presentation	Personal Code of Ethics	100
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**.