

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 683

SPORTS CHAPLAINCY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the biblical, theological, philosophical, and cultural basis for sports chaplain ministry. Attention is given to scriptural principles empowering chaplains to provide spiritual leadership, care, and counsel to players, coaches, and families. Finally, students will evaluate and practice the skills, strategies, and character traits necessary for effective chaplain ministry within the pluralistic culture of sports.

RATIONALE

Sports chaplains must have a foundation in the theology, culture, and philosophy of sports in order to best understand and minister effectively in the field of sports. Sports chaplains need to be prepared to spiritually lead and address a wide range of spiritual and ethical issues facing players and coaches.

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. Assess the biblical and theological basis for the sports chaplain.
- B. Compare and contrast pluralism in the New Testament world as it relates to the sports chaplain working within the pluralistic setting of today.
- C. Develop a philosophy of sports ministry based on biblical principles.

- D. Evaluate current issues, trends, and ethics in sports from a biblical worldview.
- E. Evaluate the unique leadership opportunities and challenges of the evangelical sports chaplain while ministering in secular and pluralistic settings.
- F. Develop a biblically based, culturally informed ministry plan within the sports context.

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 (2)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 400 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. Each thread will be a direct reflection of the student's ministry within his/her chosen sports team (reflection questions provided in prompt). In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 200 words.

- D. Shadow Evaluations

The student will complete a 3-hour interview/shadow with 3 chaplains (for a total of 9 hours and 3 evaluations). The student will evaluate his/her shadowing experience. Each of the 3 evaluations must be at least 1,250 words and incorporate at least 2 scholarly citations (in addition to applicable course textbook citations) a conclusion, and utilize a current Turabian format bibliography.

- E. Biblical Nature of Sports Chaplaincy Paper

The student will write a 1,250-word research-based paper that focuses on the biblical nature of sports chaplaincy ministry. This assignment will explore how Scripture guides the sports chaplain in ministry. The paper must include the definition of pluralism, religious tolerance, and diversity as they relate to the sports chaplain working in the pluralistic settings of today. The student must attempt to demonstrate how the New Testament supports these concepts and discuss how a sports chaplain will minister by cooperating without compromising their Christian faith convictions. The paper must be completed in current Turabian format and include a minimum of 5 scholarly references (professional journals, professional magazines, and books) published within the last 5 years, in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

F. Theology of Sports Chaplaincy Paper

The student will write a 1,250-word paper explaining his/her theology of sports chaplaincy based on the Scriptures. The paper must be rooted in Scripture and supported with sound interpretation and biblical analysis. The student will define sports chaplaincy and discuss the different venues of how ministry could be performed within a team setting, as well as include what he/she believes would be God's plan and purpose for sports chaplaincy. The paper must be completed in current Turabian format and include a minimum of 5 scholarly references (biblical commentaries, professional journals, and books) published within the last 5 years, in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

G. Philosophy of Sports Chaplaincy Paper

The student will write a 1,250-word paper explaining his/her philosophy of Sports Chaplaincy. The student will answer "why" and "when" ministry is performed. The philosophy must be rooted in the student's theological and biblical understanding of sports chaplaincy, as well as refer to the Biblical Nature and Theology of Sports papers. The philosophy of sports must intertwine one's biblical worldview and cultural insights. The student will discuss his/her vision (one's ultimate ministry goal for that specific team) and mission statement (the steps of how to accomplish the vision) in light of knowing the specific audience, as well as consider data points as the specific sport, ethnicity of the players, gender of the players, and religious background. The student's philosophy of Sports Chaplaincy will lay the foundation for accomplishing chaplain ministry in secular and sacred sports settings. The paper must be written in current Turabian format.

H. Sports Chaplaincy Ministry Plan

The student will use his/her desired sport and create a 1,250-word ministry plan for the area of chaplaincy. The ministry plan must reflect the student's biblical, theological, and philosophical insights of sports chaplaincy in regards to the spiritual disciplines provided and how he/she plans to apply them personally and in his/her ministry. In the paper, the student must also include the nature of his/her calling to chaplaincy or ministry, gifts and abilities, personal values, and what energizes him/her in ministry. This paper must be completed in current Turabian format and include a minimum of 5 scholarly references published within the last 5 years in addition to the course textbooks.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**A. Points**

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (2 at 80 pts ea)	160
Shadow Evaluation (3 at 120 pts ea)	360
Biblical Nature of Sports Chaplaincy	120
Theology of Sports Chaplaincy	120
Philosophy of Sports Chaplaincy	120
Sports Chaplaincy Ministry Plan	120
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 683

Textbooks: Hoffman, *Good Game* (2010).
Parker et al., *Sports Chaplaincy* (2016).
Swindoll, *Hand Me Another Brick* (2007).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Hoffman: ch. 1 Parker et al.: ch. 1 Swindoll: chs. 1–2	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 80
2	Hoffman: chs. 2–4 Parker et al.: chs. 2–4 Swindoll: chs. 3–4	Biblical Nature of Sports Chaplaincy Paper	120
3	Hoffman: ch. 5 Parker et al.: ch. 14 Swindoll: chs. 5–6	Shadow Evaluation 1	120
4	Hoffman: chs. 6–7 Parker et al.: chs. 6, 9 Swindoll: chs. 7–8	Theology of Sports Chaplaincy Paper	120
5	Hoffman: chs. 8–9 Parker et al.: chs. 7–8, 11 Swindoll: chs. 9–10	DB Forum 2 Shadow Evaluation 2	80 120
6	Hoffman: ch. 10 Parker et al.: chs. 10, 13 Swindoll: chs. 11–12	Philosophy of Sports Chaplaincy Paper	120
7	Hoffman: ch. 11 Swindoll: chs. 13–14	Shadow Evaluation 3	120
8	Swindoll: chs. 15	Sports Chaplaincy Ministry Plan	120
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**.