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 <u>not</u> be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

CHPL 830
ETHICS FOR CHAPLAIN LEADERS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of theoretical and applied ethical leadership for chaplains serving as religious representatives and leaders in primarily secular, pluralistic environments. It will broadly explore the field of ethics from theological and philosophical perspectives providing the student with insights to critique them against biblical truth. The course will prepare chaplains to engage ethical problems through the development and application of a biblically based ethical decision-making model and personal code of ethics. Additionally, the course will address the ethics of evangelism, civil discourse, and the free exercise of one's faith in a pluralistic culture.

RATIONALE

The pastoral calling is inherently theological. Therefore, chaplains are public moral theologians who must view their role as ethical advisors as a call to apply biblical truth to the pursuit of the knowledge of right and wrong, how we are to behave in the light of that knowledge, and the integration of ethical and moral truth into public life. In order to effectively accomplish this, chaplains must be able to evaluate the ethical issues emerging in their ministry context; analyze and critique common theological and philosophical approaches to ethics; develop and apply a biblically-based, personal decision-making model; and synthesize a personal code of ethics appropriate to their chaplaincy role.

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 Word

   E.   School of Divinity Writing Guide:
        https://www.liberty.edu/divinity/index.cfm?PID=28160

IV.   **MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

A.   Analyze the core differences between common theological and philosophical approaches to ethics.

B.   Apply a personally-developed, biblically-based ethical decision-making model to context-specific emerging ethical issues.

C.   Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of opposing options for resolving an ethical problem in light of biblical teaching.

D.   Defend an option that best reflects a biblical perspective on an ethical issue in a way that facilitates understanding and application in secular and pluralistic settings.

E.   Analyze the content of an ethic of evangelism, civil discourse, and the free exercise of faith in a pluralistic culture.

F.   Synthesize a personal code of ethics appropriate to the type of 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 350 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to at least 2 classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 250 words. Sources are referenced in current Turabian format. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E)

D.   Ethical Context Analysis

The student will identify and describe 2–3 ethical worldviews that dominate his/her ministry context, and will identify 2–3 major areas of potential ethical failure. The student will summarize his/her analysis in a 600–900-word paper written in current Turabian format. Each paper must be supported with at least 3 scholarly references in proper current Turabian format. (MLO: A, C)

E.   Ethical Decision-Making Model

The student will formulate a model for making biblical decisions regarding ethical questions and problems he/she will face in his/her role as a senior chaplain leader. The student will summarize his/her model in 2,000–2,400 words written in current Turabian format. The model must be biblical in nature, using Scripture as a guide for rational decision-making, must demonstrate an understanding of ethical theory, and must explain how the student will analyze ethical options that appear to be in conflict. Each paper model must be supported with at least 7 scholarly references in proper current Turabian format. (MLO: A, B, D)

F.   Ethics Integration Paper

The student will write a 2,400–3,500-word research-based paper in current Turabian format. The paper must articulate the student's position on an ethical issue appropriate for his/her area of chaplaincy ministry. The paper must identify the dominant ethical worldview of his/her work environment, must state an ethical problem faced in that environment, and must formulate an ethical response supported by a Christian worldview that could be defended in a pluralistic environment. The paper must include at least 10 references in current Turabian format from books or scholarly journal articles, in addition to course textbooks and the Bible. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E)

G.   Personal Code of Ethics

The student will develop a personal code of ethics appropriate to his/her area of chaplaincy ministry. The paper must be 600–900 words and adhere to current Turabian formatting. The student will use the examples found in *Ethics for Christian Ministry: Moral Formation for Twenty-First-Century Leaders* as a foundation. The paper must include at least 4 scholarly references cited in current Turabian format. (MLO: F)

VI.   COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A.   Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 100 pts ea)	400
Ethical Context Analysis	100
Ethical Decision-Making Model	150
Ethics Integration Paper	250
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. 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 830

Textbooks: Carson, *The Intolerance of Tolerance* (2013).
Frame, *The Doctrine of the Christian Life* (2008).
Hollinger, *Choosing the Good* (2002).
Thiessen, *The Ethics of Evangelism* (2011).
Trull & Creech, *Ethics for Christian Ministry* (2017).
Wilkens, *Beyond Bumper Sticker Ethics* (2011).

MODULE/WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Frame: chs. 1–2 Hollinger: ch. 3 Trull & Creech: ch. 1 Wilkens: chs. 1–6	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 100
2	Frame: chs. 4–8 Wilkens: chs. 7–11	Ethical Context Analysis	100
3	Frame: chs. 9–21 Hollinger: chs. 1–2	DB Forum 2	100
4	Frame: ch. 3 Hollinger: chs. 6–8	Ethical Decision-Making Model	150
5	Frame: chs. 45–49 Hollinger: chs. 4–5, 9–12 1 presentation 2 websites	Ethics Integration Paper	250
6	Carson: chs. 1–8 1 website	DB Forum 3	100
7	Thiessen: chs. 3–9, appendix 1	DB Forum 4	100
8	Frame: ch. 50 Trull & Creech: chs. 2–6, 8, appendix 3	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**.