

Chaplaincy in the Community

MS 3XC3

McMaster Divinity College
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3 Units

Sat. June 4, 11, & 18th 2016
Time and Place: 9am to 4pm,
McMaster Divinity College

Specializations: Counselling and Spiritual Care, Pastoral Studies, Christian Worldview, Christianity and Culture.

Course Description:

The role of chaplain has increasing importance in contemporary western culture. In a society that recognizes the value of spirituality, but rejects many traditional religious expressions, Chaplains are privileged to speak to the spiritual care needs of human beings who would otherwise remain isolated from this care. This course will explore the phenomena of Chaplaincy in contemporary society in an effort to help students meet the spiritual care needs of those in non-traditional (i.e. non-religious) settings. We will: (1) discover the biblical and theological foundations for the role of Chaplain; (2) consider how to meet spiritual care needs in non-religious contexts; and (3) pursue practices that will help sustain those who fill the role of Chaplain. Drawing on pastoral and spiritual theology, students will discover how to fulfill the vocation of chaplain with an ever increasing competence and spiritual sensitivity. From sports teams to hospices to the military, Chaplains are an important part of holistic care today. Developing spiritual care responses to human flourishing and human suffering will also be a salient feature of this course.

Course Objectives:

Knowing...

- To expand the students biblical, theological, and practical understanding of Chaplaincy.
- To discover skills, strategies, and theological perspectives that will aid students in provide effective spiritual care in non-religious contexts.
- To explore spiritual and theological resources which help others to enduring suffering and pursue flourishing.

Being...

- To help students discern their vocation, giftedness, and aptitude as it relates to Chaplaincy.
- To equip students to discover their “creative response” when confronted with situations of human brokenness and longing.
- To encourage students to cultivate intimacy with God and identify how the Holy Spirit sustains them in their life and ministry.

Doing...

- Students will be able to assess, plan, and deliver effective spiritual care in non-religious contexts.
- Students will be able to theological reflect on situations of care in order to better understand God, themselves, and those they serve.
- Students will implement spiritual practices that sustain them through the joys and challenges of Chaplaincy.

Course Text Books:

Paget, Naomi K. and Janet R. McCormack. *The Work of the Chaplain*. Valley Forge, PA.: Judson Press, 2006.

Crick, Robert. *Outside the Gates: The Need for, Theology, History, and Practice of Chaplaincy Ministries*. Oviedo, FL: HigherLife Development Services, 2011.

Zylla, Phil. *Roots of Sorrow: A Pastoral Theology of Suffering*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2012.

Recommended:

Nouwen, Henri, Donald P. McNeill, and Douglas A. Morrison. *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life*. New York: Image Doubleday, 1983.

Volf, Miroslav. *Flourishing: Why We Need Religion in a Globalized World*. New Haven CT: Yale University Press, 2015.

Course Requirements:

1. Creative Expression of Chaplaincy **Weight: 10%** **Due: Jun 18th**

Craft your own or select an existing creative expression that resonates with your understanding of Chaplaincy in the community. A creative expression can be a song, painting, sculpture, short story, poem etc., so long as it expresses your theological vision of chaplaincy. You will be required to share your creative expression with our class and will also submit a **2 page** reflection explaining how this item resonates with your theology of Chaplaincy in the community.

**2. Write a Course Journal for *Chaplaincy in the Community* Weight: 25%
Due: June 24 & July 8**

To help in the integration of what you are learning in this class, you will be required to keep a course journal. You are to develop and articulate your reflections on this class by submitting your journal in two parts:

- **Part 1:** The first journal will record your reflections on our class time (June 4, 11, and 18th). Reflect on what new learnings and insights you have discovered as it relates to chaplaincy. Record what growing edges seem to be revealing themselves and how you will respond to these. Also reflect on areas of resonance and dissonance you find as you seek to discern your vocation as a Chaplain/Spiritual Care giver. Course lectures, case studies, Q&A's, small group discussion, all should be drawn on for these reflections.
 - 4-6 pages, **due June 24th**.

- **Part 2:** The second journal will record you reflections on the course text books and specialization assignment. Drawing on your required reading and research in the area of chaplaincy reflect on this statement: *I can respond to the opportunity of Chaplaincy in the Community by...*
 - 4-6 pages, **due July 8th**.

3. Develop a Spiritual Care Assessment and Plan Weight: 30% Due: Jun 22nd

Using a published case study of your choosing, develop a spiritual care assessment and plan as if you were the Chaplain responding to the person at the centre of the case study. You will be required to clearly identify how you are assessing and planning to respond to the spiritual care needs of the person in question. This plan will include:

- a. **Spiritual assessment** ~ include spiritual intuition as well as formal assessment techniques.
- b. **Holistic care audit** ~ what other resources are being drawn on to ensure all needs are being addressed in the care of this person.
- c. **Spiritual care plan** ~ how you will seek to meet the spiritual care needs of the person for the time they will be in your care.
- d. **Charting** ~ include at least one entry into the persons "chart" so that others on the care team will know about and understand the spiritual care you are offering.
- d. **Spiritual practices** ~ what spiritual practices you will use to support the person.
- e. **Self-Reflection** ~ how does the case impact you personally, theologically, spiritually?

Please ensure the case study is included in your submitted material.

4. Specialization Assignment

Weight: 35%

Due: July 2nd

Each student will complete **one** of the following assignments in the area of their specialization. All assignments must show interaction and integration of the course text books, lectures, and themes as well as engage in additional research (**minimum** of five quality sources beyond course materials).

Counselling and Spiritual Care Specialization

Write a paper on the delivery of spiritual care in a non-religious context (8-10 pages).

Starting with a verbatim, write a paper on the challenge involved in meeting the spiritual care needs of a non-religious person(s). Identify what therapeutic, theological, or spiritual approaches you feel are appropriate for meeting the spiritual needs of this person(s). Reflect on the challenges and opportunities that come from such an encounter. More precisely reflect on the appropriateness of using prayer, scripture, and sharing the hope of the Gospel in such a context. When and how would you draw on these Christian spiritual elements in this Chaplaincy relationship?

Pastoral Studies Specialization

Write a three sermon series on *Chaplaincy in the Community*

In an effort to show the broader church community the importance of chaplaincy in the community, develop a three sermon series that sketches the vision of spiritual care delivered to non-religious people. This series should touch on the biblical, theological, spiritual, and practical dimensions that go into offering Chaplaincy in the community. Each sermon will be limited to 1200-1500 words and will require careful exegesis as well as creative integration of course materials.

Christian Worldview Specialization

Write a paper on a theology of human flourishing or human suffering and the Chaplain (8-10 pages).

Write a paper that considers a theology of human flourishing **or** human suffering from the perspective of chaplaincy. Explain why and how a chaplain might respond *theologically* to suffering or flourishing as a core dynamic in their work. Relate how a theology of flourishing or suffering will guide the work of Chaplaincy. Identify some of the key spiritual practices that promote flourishing or support those who are suffering.

Christianity & Culture Specialization

Write a paper on the relationship of Christian Spirituality and Chaplaincy (8-10 pages).

Spirituality and spiritual care are becoming common words used in healthcare and other institutional settings. Write a paper that examines the relationship between Christian spirituality and this “non-religious” understanding of spirituality. Where are the resonances and where are

the dissonances between the two? What does a Christian Chaplain need to know in order to navigate these tensions faithfully? How might your research help them to do so?

Course Outline:

June 4th

Day One:

- Session One: Chaplaincy in the Community: A non-Religious Vision for Spiritual Care.
- Session Two: The Biblical and Theological contours of Chaplaincy in the Community.

Lunch

- Session Three: Chaplaincy, Spirituality and Spiritual Care.
- Session Four: Chaplaincy and the Practice of Prayer.

June 11th

Day Two:

- Session Five: Spiritual Contours of Chaplaincy: Suffering & Flourishing.
- Session Six: Spiritual Contours of Chaplaincy: Compassion.

Lunch

- Session Seven: Spiritual Contours of Chaplaincy: Discerning our Creative Response.
- Session Eight: Chaplaincy and the Practice of Presence.

June 18th

Day Three

- Session Nine: Practices of Chaplaincy: Spiritual Assessment and Spiritual Care Plans.
- Session Ten: Practices of Chaplaincy: Using Verbatim's & Theological Reflection.

Lunch

- Session Eleven: Sharing of Creative Expressions.
- Session Twelve: Chaplaincy for the Long Term: Responding to Compassion Fatigue.

A. Textbook Purchase:

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 218, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstores, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K1: phone 416-620-2934; fax 416-622-2308; e-mail books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

B. Academic Honesty:

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result

in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ www.madciv.ca/regs/honesty.php.

C. Gender Inclusive Language:

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

D. Deadlines and Late Submission Penalty

Assignments are due to the instructor via email by 11:59pm of the due date. They are to be submitted in Word format. The penalty for late submission of assignments is loss of one letter grade plus 1% per calendar day.

E. Disclaimer

This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.