

PT 645 Introduction to the Ministry of the Chaplain (3 credits)

Ambrose Seminary

Feb. 19-23

Winter 2008

Coordinator: Dr. Peter Ralph pralph@ambrose.edu

Course Description

This interactive course will help students learn more about the skills and gifts necessary for institutional ministry. Students will encounter some of the growing types of chaplaincy, and explore the art and craft of chaplaincy. Students will examine the challenges of ministry in multi-faith, multi-cultural settings, and reflect on their own styles of ministry. The course will include field trips to various sites where the class will learn from serving chaplains in the field. Currently the course includes exposure to hospital, long-term care, educational, military and corporate chaplaincies. Other types may be added by the beginning of the course.

Course Objectives

1. To gain understanding of the ministry, preparation, certification and opportunity of chaplaincy in Canada today.
2. To gain insight into chaplaincy ministry in multi-cultural, multi-faith contexts.
3. To experience various chaplaincies in their current context.
4. To evaluate students' suitability for various chaplaincy ministries.

Course Text

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

Recommended Texts

A recommended reading list will be circulated in class.

Course Requirements

1. Reading Reports: Students will read 700 pages (not including the course text) from the reading list but not limited to the reading list, and write for each book a 3-5 page report discussing the book's material and the impact of the book on the student's impressions of chaplaincy and their own ministry.

2. Course journal and reflection paper

Students will keep an extensive journal of their emotional, intellectual, spiritual and social responses, good and bad, comfortable and uncomfortable, during the week of the course. This journal will deal comprehensively with each day of the course and all aspects of each day. Students will also prepare a reflection paper based on that journal, their reading and subsequent experience. The journal will assess the impact of the course on students' future ministry, and will assess how chaplaincy will fit into student life and ministry in the future.

3. Job Shadow Students will arrange to accompany a serving chaplain on a typical day of service in their place of ministry. Students will prepare a reflection paper on the experience which will, among other things

- a) describe the student's emotional response to the various encounters during the day
- b) describe the chaplain's style of ministry
- c) write a verbatim of one encounter between the chaplain and a person receiving ministry
- d) give an account of the events of the day using "thick" description (to be discussed in class)

OR

Major Paper

Students will write an academic paper of not less than 15 pages in length on one of the subjects listed below.

- a) Chaplaincy as a ministry of _____ denomination.
- b) A Theological Analysis of some Biblical Concepts of Spiritual Care and Spiritual Well-Being.
- c) A relevant topic of student's choice, agreed upon by the coordinator.

Course Grading

Participation	10%
Reading	30%
Journal/Reflection	20%
Job Shadow/ Paper	40%

Course Outline and Schedule

Tuesday through Saturday:	8:30am – 10:00am – overnight reading discussion
	10:30am – 12:00 pm – guest chaplain
	12:00pm – 1:00pm – lunch
	1:00pm – 1:30pm – load and transport
	1:30 pm – 4:00pm – on site presentation and transport

Course Costs

Students should check www.Ambrose.edu for full cost details. Three credits normally cost \$843, audit \$423.

Due Dates

All course work is due eight weeks from the last day of class. Written work may be emailed to the coordinator.

In Course Reading Schedule

Students will read the text through the week according to the schedule below and come to class prepared to discuss relevant sections.

Prepared for Wednesday am: Chapters 1-4

Prepared for Thursday am: Chapters 5-7

Prepared for Friday am: Chapters 8-10

Prepared for Saturday am: Chapters 11,12, appendices.

Reading Resources

A collection of books is available to the class within the class room during the course. Students may sign these books out each evening and back each morning. The books are all signed out from the library to the professor. All books will be returned by the end of class sessions. Failure to return a book will result in suspension of paper grading.

In addition to this a file will be kept in class containing a wide variety of reading resources available in the Ambrose and other libraries for student use. The file will be placed at the desk in the Ambrose library after the course is ended.