IS-991: INDEPENDENT STUDY

"Chaplaincy Readings: Behavioral Health as Pastoral Theology for Doctor of Ministry Students"

Fall 2018

3 Semester Credit Hours

Professor: The Rev. Michael A. Milton, PhD
The James Ragsdale Chair of Missions and Evangelism; President, D. James Kennedy Institute for Reformed Leadership

Office Location and Hours: Contact milton@erskine.edu for week-to-week questions. Appointments are available through Dr. Milton’s Assistant, Mrs. Christine Hartung. Please contact her at CHartung@TrinityChapelCLT.org, or telephone 704-593-6506

Dr. Milton’s Faculty Page: https://michaelmilton.org/faculty-page/

MISSION
The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is an independent study supervised reading and research course to locate the intersection of Biblical theology and behavioral health in the Chaplaincy setting. Moving from major readings to theological reflection, critical thinking, and faculty guided discovery, the student deepens in knowledge of and application of a theological praxis for behavioral health.
in the Chaplaincy setting. *Three credit hours. Required for M.Div. students in the chaplaincy track. Elective.*

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The Independent Studies in Chaplain Readings and Research is designed to guide the theological student through major schools of praxis in the Chaplaincy and the disciplines specific to this course. By intensive reading of select texts, including subject matter experts in the field, as well as peer-reviewed journal articles, the student will complete the course with the following outcomes:

1. Articulate the Biblical ground, nature, and relationship of Chaplain ministry to the study topic. *(MDIV SLOs 1b and 1c)*
2. Articulate and identify the purpose of ethical parameters and legal matters defining and guiding the chaplaincy role. *(MDIV SLOs 1b and 1c)*
3. Present an accurate and cogent summary of the praxis and limits of Chaplaincy and the research subject. *(MDIV SLOs 1b and 1c)*
4. Demonstrate by individual scholarly research a new depth of knowledge about the relationship of Chaplaincy and the research subject. *(MDIV SLOs 1b, 1c, 2a, and 2b)*
5. Articulate the tenets of the subject as they relate to the Christian minister's mission and role. *(MDIV SLO 3)*
6. Present the features of a spiritually healthy and Biblically faithful integration of the subject and the Christian ministry. *(MDIV SLOs 2d, 3 and 4)*
7. (As it relates to the research topic) Provide a careful, scholarly summary of the role relationship of the chaplain/minister with other helping professionals, distinguishing the primary functions of the chaplain’s place. *(MDIV SLOs 2a, 2b, 2c and 2d)*

**REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED RESOURCES**

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a [bookstore portal](#). There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD and Amazon) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students’ and professors’ purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

**PLEASE NOTE:** When ordering a book that has been published in more than one edition, make certain that you acquire the correct one (check the ISBN number when ordering); do not attempt to substitute an older edition of a required textbook.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**


RECOMMENDED READING
An extensive bibliography at the end of this syllabus provides recommended resources enabling students to research specifically the chaplain sectors as well as other requirements in this course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS
In addition to the critical reading and research component of the materials listed above, students will complete the following:

Requirement One: Initial Meeting
The student will call Mrs. Hartung to arrange a meeting with Dr. Milton. The agenda for this meeting is as follows:
1. Introductions
2. Prayer
3. Topics
4. Bibliography
5. Review Syllabus
6. Closing Prayer (CLOs 1-7)

Requirement Two: Summary of Study
D.MIN.: Write a final portfolio paper of no less than 12 and no more than 15 pages of content (not including the cover page and bibliography page). The subject will be: “The Theological and Practical Application of [the topic] to the Setting of the [ministry setting; e.g., parish ministry, hospital chaplaincy, etc.].

M.DIV.: Write a final portfolio paper of no less than 5 and no more than 7 pages of content (not including the cover page and bibliography page). The subject and titles or subtitle will be: “The Theological and Practical Application of [the topic] to the Setting of the [ministry setting; e.g.,
parish ministry, hospital chaplaincy, etc.]. For example, “A Dynamic Duo for Doxological Study: A Theological and Practical Application of Covenant Worship by R.J. Gore and Christ-Centered Worship by Brian Chapel.”

The research paper will demonstrate a grasp of the author’s intent, a critique, theological reflection on the meaning of the reading(s) for the Church, and practical application. The paper will follow a traditional research paper format of Introduction with a statement of intent for the paper. The paper will move from Introduction to a proposition (e.g., “Though Gore and Robinson provide differing approaches to homiletic task, the integration of their methods is a possibility with remarkable consequences.”). Then, make the “argument” (the body) by (1) review of the book(s), including your understanding of the author(s) mission; (2) a critique of the work(s) in which you summarize the mission of the author(s), and whether, in your opinion, they achieved their goals; with cited reasons how or why not; (3) theological reflection: “Where was God in this?” “How does the work intersect with Christian teaching according to the Scriptures and confessional statements of the Church in history; (4) Praxis: How does the research effect your own ministry? How might this be beneficial to the Church?

The research paper for IS-991 for Dr. Michael A. Milton will be presented in Turabian Ninth Edition, with a cover and bibliography. No abstract is required. Students may access the Turabian template and other resources at the professor’s faculty page: https://michaelmilton.org/faculty-page.

Students should demonstrate scholarly research by citing at least three peer-reviewed journal articles that support assertions and conclusions, along with at least two citations from assigned books in the IS. (CLOs 5, 6 and 7)

**COURSE CALENDAR**

Independent Study may be completed within an eight-week period of a regular semester at Erskine Theological Seminary. Thus, the student may take two IS research projects in one semester.

For D.MIN. students: If the student anticipates research lasting across two semesters, the plan will be approved by the admissions director, Miss Robin Broome (broome@erskine.edu).

The research paper is due by the conclusion of a semester, an eight-week period within a semester; or, for DMIN students, according to the learning contract made by the student and professor during the Initial Interview.

**GRADING BASED ON ERSKINE SEMINARY SCALE**

Dr. Milton’s rubric for research papers may be accessed at https://michaelmilton.org/faculty-page. See the heading for “Rubrics.” The link to the document is nested in that section.

The final grade for this course will be a total of 100 points totaled from the following:

**GRADING METHOD**
GRADING SCALE

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SEMINARY POLICIES AND WRITING STANDARDS

For Seminary Policies: Click here.

All written work must conform to the latest edition of the Turabian manual of style and typed in twelve-point type, Times New Roman (or similar), normally double-spaced, with one-inch margins. Some reflection papers (which do not use footnotes) may be single spaced. See syllabus requirements for each assignment.


Additional writing guidelines are available in the Sample Paper and Writing Aids folder found on the Seminary’s web site. Here you will find sample papers for several courses, a “Seminary Research Paper Template,” a Bibliography sample, footnote samples, and more.

Students who may need more assistance are encouraged to make use of the Write Here Center (Click Here) for improved writing skills.

Students may find the Erskine Theological Seminary Writing Rubric (Click Here). Scroll down to the Writing Assessment Rubric and download.

All written work presented is expected to be the student’s own unless credit for the ideas, words, etc. of others is clearly identified. Plagiarism in sermons costs pastors their jobs. Plagiarism in class will not be tolerated and penalties will be assigned in keeping with the Seminary’s Catalog.

Students are strongly encouraged to review the provisions of the Seminary’s Catalog, particularly those governing registration for and withdrawal from classes, class attendance, grades (including incomplete), academic conduct, and expectations for written assignments.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


