



# ERSKINE

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*Serving Christ and His Church  
for 180 years*

## **DC 941Z CHANGING FACE OF THE AMERICAN CHURCH**

Fall 2019

*September 9, 2019 to October 28, 2019*

### **Erskine Virtual Campus (EVC)**

3 Semester Credit Hours

Professor: Michael A. Milton, Ph.D., M.Div., M.P.A.

*James Ragsdale Chair of Missions and Evangelism; Director of Chaplain Ministries;  
President, the D. James Kennedy Institute of Reformed Leadership*

### **Office Location and Hours:**

- Contact Dr. Milton by email for week-to-week questions: [milton@erskine.edu](mailto:milton@erskine.edu). Appointments are available through Dr. Milton's Assistant, Mrs. Christine Hartung. Face-to-face appointments can be arranged through Zoom. Please contact her at [chartung@faithforliving.org](mailto:chartung@faithforliving.org). You may also leave Christine a message to arrange an appointment with Dr. Milton at 1-800-983-2051.
- See Dr. Milton's Faculty Page for resources: <http://michaelmilton.org/faculty-page>
- See Dr. Milton's Philosophy of Teaching: <https://michaelmilton.org/2019/05/20/a-teaching-philosophy/>
- Rubrics for the course are available on Dr. Milton's faculty page and within the course itself.

### **MISSION**

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

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the Church in post-World War II American culture. Students evaluate the influences upon the Churches in a rapidly changing environment. Elective. Three hours. Specifically, this course examines eight significant features in the ongoing metamorphosis of the "face of the Church" (her expressions of faith and work) in North America, with attention to the Church in the United States, from 1945 to the present. By careful, scholarly investigation of seen and unseen structural (philosophical, demographic, socio-economic) conditions that elicit short and long-term change, as well as the social and ecclesial movements in response to these structures, the student will seek to research and evaluate the impact of any changes on the ministry effectiveness of the Church (with several benchmarks for evaluation to be offered). Final reflections on the future of the Church in North America will be considered by

professor and students. Students will leave this course with a framework to help local churches navigate a sustainable, faithful Gospel witness amid a constantly changing context.

## **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. As a part of that mission, one goal is that graduates write and speak using theological language that is clear, well-considered, disciplined, and meaningful for those to whom they minister. Another goal is that graduates be prepared to communicate the Bible’s message through preaching and evangelism, to make clear that its meaning is relevant for today. Specific outcomes for a course in the changing face of the American Church include introducing the graduate theological student to the philosophical and cultural factors, from 1945 to present (Post World War II to the Information Age), as well as ecclesial trends in response (in North America, with an emphasis upon the U.S.) that have influenced and shaped the Church today. By the end of this course, students will:

1. Articulate the Biblical ground, nature, and history of the Chaplaincy. **(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 legal basis for the Chaplaincy in governmental agencies. **(MDIV SLOs 1b and 1c)**
4. Demonstrate by online discussions based in individual scholarly research a depth of knowledge about the eight chaplaincy sectors. **(MDIV SLOs 1b, 1c, 2a, and 2b)**
5. Articulate the tenets of a call to the chaplain ministry. **(MDIV SLO 3)**
6. Present the features of a profile of one called to the chaplaincy, including the skills required for chaplaincy effectiveness. **(MDIV SLOs 2d, 3 and 4)**
7. Provide a careful, scholarly summary of the role relationship of the chaplain with other helping professionals, distinguishing the primary functions of the chaplain’s place. **(MDIV SLOs 2a, 2b, 2c and 2d)**

## **GRADING BASED ON ERSKINE SEMINARY SCALE**

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

1. Readings	30%
2. Quizzes	10%
3. Discussion	10%
4. Weekly Papers	20%
5. Final Portfolio Paper	30%
	100%

### **GRADING SCALE**

A	95-100	B	88-90	C	80-83	D	72-75
A-	93-94	B-	86-87	C-	78-79	D-	70-71
B+	91-92	C+	84-85	D+	76-77	F	0-69

## **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**

Gelder, Craig Van. *The Essence of the Church: A Community Created by the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000. (208)

Jenkins, Philip. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002. (288 pp.)

Milton, Michael A. *Cooperation without Compromise: Faithful Gospel Witness in a Pluralistic Setting*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2006. (20 pp.)

Newbigin, Lesslie. *Foolishness to the Greeks: The Gospel and Western Culture*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans Pub., 1986. (160 pp.)

Volf, Miroslav. *A Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common Good*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2011. (190)

Various readings, audio and video content will be offered online.

## **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: Weekly Assignments**

1. Eight weeks of intensive online content, readings, quizzes, research papers, and a final major paper on the Chaplaincy. **(CLOs 1-7)**
2. Watching the "lecture for the week" which is usually an introduction or overview of the specific week's topic. **(CLOs 1-7)**

3. Weekly written research papers following Turabian guidelines, including bibliography. The content of the paper (not including cover page and bibliography) is to be no less than three pages and no more than four. Each paper should include at least two peer-reviewed articles. **(CLOs 1-7)**
4. Weekly discussion questions on the platform with at least two interactions with peers on their responses to each of the discussion questions. See the rubric for discussion questions in the course. The professor will be monitoring the exchanges between students. **(CLOs 1, 2, 4 and 5)**
5. Readings of the assigned texts for each week with a one-page journal entry of your reading in your own journal. This is not to be turned in. In lieu of turning in the journal, each student will turn in this statement: "I completed \_\_\_\_\_% of the readings and \_\_\_% of the required journal entries." **(CLOs 1-7)**

#### **A CO-CURRICULAR CONFERENCE ON EVANGELISM**

Dr. Milton will host the Reverend Dr. Rick Richardson of Wheaton College at a local church in the Charlotte, North Carolina area. The event is set for September 17<sup>th</sup> from 6 PM until 7:30. The event will be streamed. All students are urged to attend or to view via streaming on Facebook. The church is TBA.

Dr. Richardson (Trinity International University) is Professor of Evangelism and Leadership, Director of the BGC Research Institute, Director of Church Evangelism Initiative. His bio is [here](#).

Click [here](#) for a video tutorial on formatting a document in Turabian style.

## Requirement Two: Weekly Quizzes and Final Portfolio Paper

1. Complete the weekly quizzes as assigned. **(CLOs 1-7)**
2. Write a final research paper applying selected lessons of the course (in philosophical structures, social and ecclesial responses, and ministry expressions) of no more than fifteen pages, that addresses a presenting issue in a real or fictitious parish church (in liturgy, organizational leadership, or Christian education) and cites (1) “structural” reasons for the problem; (2) theological reflection on solutions for the problem and possibilities for renewal and growth through the issue. 5% of citations should be peer-reviewed journal articles. **(CLOs 4, 5 and 6)**

## **COURSE CALENDAR**

\*Discussion boards are due by Thursday evening at midnight of the module week.

\*Weekly papers are due by the following Monday at 1200 noon.

\*This is an eight-week intensive online course. It is important to check-in on the learning management system daily for updates and announcements.

\*The final paper is due the Wednesday after the final module.

\*Students employ the honor system for recording the percentage of the reading completed (e.g., 80%, 95%, 100%)

## **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

Turabian, Kate L., et. al. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Eighth ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013. (464 pp., ISBN 978-0226816388)

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 download a copy of the [Erskine Seminary Turabian Research Paper](#) Template at Dr. Milton’s Faculty Page.

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 incompletes), academic conduct, and expectations for written assignments.

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