

Wesley Theological Seminary
Doctor of Ministry Program

Military Chaplains: Religious Leadership in a Complex, Multi-faith Environment

Course: DM-M601 Chaplaincy On the Line: Identifying Key Issues for Military Chaplains in a Changing and Multi-faith Context

Date: June 27 – July 1, 2016

Faculty: Drs' David McAllister-Wilson and [Terry Bradfield](#)

Please note: This course involves guest lecturers whose availability is sometimes outside typical classroom hours. Some sessions may occur during regular meal times or in the evening and also may involve some in-town travel to the guest lecturers' locations.

Course Description:

This course examines the nature of leadership and spirituality from two perspectives: the leader/commander (executive decision-maker) and the chaplain (the primary religious advisor and spiritual guide). Through conversational engagement with current and former leaders in significant military, governmental, and organizational positions, students will explore the human and spiritual dimensions of leadership in organizations and environments experiencing rapid change, complex personal and political relationships, and multi-faceted religious interactions. This course will lay the foundation for follow-on courses in this DMin track that addresses "Religious Leadership in a Complex, Multi-Faith Environment."

Course Objectives:

1. Engage current and former senior leaders within the military, government, and civilian policy organizations to gain a perspective on the issues and challenges that affect their decision-making and the expectations they have of the religious leaders they rely on for both advice and spiritual guidance.
2. Assess the role of the chaplain as a religious leader both for the senior executive and the organization as a whole.
3. Develop a viable framework for religious leadership when the environment includes interaction with faith expressions unlike and, at times, hostile to those held by the senior religious leader.

Required Reading (to be completed prior to the first class session):

Mike Bonem and Roger Patterson, *Leading from the Second Chair: Serving Your Church, Fulfilling Your Role, and Realizing Your Dreams* (Jossey-Bass, 2005).

Ronald A. Heifetz and Marty Linsky, *Leadership on the Line: Staying Alive through the Dangers of Leading* (Harvard Business Press, 2002).

Edwin H. Friedman, Margaret M. Treadwell, and Edward W. Beal, *A Failure of Nerve: Leadership in the Age of the Quick Fix* (Seabury Books, 2007).

William H. Willimon, *Calling & Character: Virtues of the Ordained Life* (Abingdon Press, 2000).

Supplemental Resources:

Israel Drazin and Cecil B. Currey, *For God and Country: The History of a Constitutional Challenge to the Army Chaplaincy* (Ktav, 1995).

Garrett M. Graff, *The Threat Matrix: The FBI at War in the Age of Global Terror* (Little, Brown and Company, 2011).

Douglas M. Johnston, Jr., *Religion, Terror, and Error: U.S. Foreign Policy and the Challenge of Spiritual Engagement* (Praeger, 2011).

John W. Kiser, *Commander of the Faithful: The Life and Times of Emir Abd el-Kader* (Monkfish, 2010).

John W. Kiser, *The Monks of Tibhirine: Faith, Love, and Terror in Algeria* (St. Martin's Griffin, 2002).

Joint Publication 1-05, 13 November 2009, *Religious Affairs in Joint Operations* (Department of Defense, 2009).

Katcoff v. Marsh (755 F.2d 223 (1985)):

http://scholar.google.com/scholar_case?case=11556278367811784727&hl=en&as_sdt=2&as_vis=1&oi=scholar

Sondra Wheeler, "Theology for Ministry" (Lecture, March 5, 2010).

Sondra Wheeler, "Theology of Ministry" (Lecture, March 5, 2010).

Course Requirements:

1. Pre-class assignment: Submit one 5-7 page (double-spaced, about 1,500 words) report on the primary themes and major talking points of the Required Readings. Include in the report a brief estimate of the value of this reading for your work as a senior staff officer and a religious leader. **This assignment is due at the first class session (9 a.m. on June 27, 2016).**
2. Post-class assignment: Submit an essay, not to exceed 25 double-spaced pages (6,000 – 6,500 words), integrating lessons learned from the required readings, presentations by visiting leaders, and classroom discussions. For perspective, relate your learning to either the setting of your current position or to a setting you anticipate occupying in the course of your career. Be sure to provide the scope and scale of your responsibilities in the description of the setting you select. **This assignment is due six weeks from the conclusion of the course session (August 12, 2016).**

Notes:

1. Use the Turabian style manual for all written requirements for this class. An internet search on "Turabian style" will result in many online resources. If you are using a modern version of MS-Word, you can set Turabian as your default style by going to the References tab and selecting Turabian Style on the Citations & Bibliography tab.
2. As military chaplains, you are accustomed to the liberal use of acronyms and jargon. Be aware of this, and be intentional about defining or explaining terms in such a way that a general audience can understand your meaning with an initial reading.