



CORRECTIONAL MINISTRIES INSTITUTE

CM201: Foundations of Correctional Chaplaincy

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Course Description

This course provides an overview of correctional chaplaincy as it functions in correctional facilities. Topics include the history of correctional chaplaincy, multiple roles and responsibilities, special skills and abilities required, and the constitutional mandates that govern the delivery of religious services in a correctional institutional setting.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to do the following:

- A. Contrast a calling and career in correctional chaplaincy.
- B. Identify the roles and responsibilities of correctional chaplains.
- C. Describe the critical dimensions of correctional chaplaincy.
- D. Explain religious rights of the incarcerated, major religions and how to determine accommodations.

Course Text

Correctional Chaplains: Keepers of the Cloak by W. Thomas Beckner (2021)

Building Bridges with Corrections Staff: Spiritually, Practically, Relationally by Spinaris & Mayotte

Academic Honesty

At CMI, we believe all we do is “as unto the Lord” and we thus hold to a high academic standard of honesty; we do not tolerate plagiarism and cheating. If you have questions about plagiarism please contact Dr. Karen Swanson at karen.swanson@wheaton.edu

Course Requirements

This course consists of two virtual meetings, mentor meetings, readings, lecture/videos, quizzes, group discussions, and assignment(s). The information regarding these course components and expectations is as follows:

Virtual Meetings. There will be two virtual calls, **Tuesday, September 1st, 7:00 pm (Central)** and **Tuesday, September 29th, 7:00 pm (Central)**. Links and information will be emailed to you.

Mentor Meetings. Meet with your mentor in-person or by phone to share what you are learning and

hearing from God. The mentor report is due at the end of the course.

Reading. Reading assignments covered in this course should be read in the context of the module in which they are assigned. In addition to the required textbooks, you may be asked to read supplementary materials included in the lesson.

Lectures/Videos. Each lesson includes lectures/videos from the instructor or field experts.

Quizzes. Each module includes a multiple-choice quiz over the readings and lectures for that module.

Discussion Forums. Discussion questions related to each week's lectures are provided. The Discussion Forum for each week begins on Monday at 12:01 a.m. Central Standard Time (CST), and your first post is required by Wednesday each week. All posts must be submitted prior to the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m. CST. You are required to post an initial response and respond to two other posts. The following rubric will be used to assess your Discussion Forum posts.

Competency	Criteria Met	Criteria Not Met
Substantive Thoughts Expressed	Ideas and positions explained clearly. Refers back to course content when appropriate. Reply posts extends discussion.	Ideas are not clearly expressed. No reference to course content. Reply post (Yes, I agree) does not provide support for responses.
Length	Initial post is 100-150 words Reply posts are 50-60 words	Initial post less than 100 words Reply post less than 50 words
Completeness	Answers the question completely.	Some parts of the question are not addressed.

Discussion Grading Scale

Number of posts that meet the criteria will be counted.

A	22-24	A-	21	B+	20
B	19	B-	18	C+	17
C	16	C-	15	D+	14
D	13	D-	12	F	0-11

Assignments. Each week you will be given assignment options. Select one of the assignments or propose an alternative assignment for that week. Put your name and assignment number on the first page – no title page needed.

Due Dates. Each week of the course begins on Monday at 12:01 a.m. CST and ends on Sunday at 11:59 p.m. CST. It is at your professor's discretion to penalize late work. *Contact the professor prior to the deadline if there is a problem.*

Course Grades

Grades will be issued within two weeks of the end of the course. Your grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Virtual Meetings and Discussion Forum	30% of Course Grade
Assignments	30% of Course Grade
Quizzes	30% of Course Grade
Mentor Meeting	10% of Course Grade

Grading scale will be as follows:

A	92-100	A-	90-91	B+	87-89
B	84-86	B-	80-83	C+	77-79
C	74-76	C-	70-73	D+	67-69
D	64-66	D-	60-63	F	0-59

Weekly Topics and Assignments

MODULE 1: Chaplaincy Overview

DUE: Sept 6

VIRTUAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 1st at 7:00 pm Central

1.1 Welcome and Syllabus, Mentor Report Form review

LISTEN

1.2 Correctional Chaplaincy Profession

1.3 Calling and Spiritual Authority

READ

1.1 Syllabus

1.2 Correctional Chaplaincy Profession

1.2a Correctional Chaplain Position Statements

1.3 Calling and Spiritual Authority

1.4 Beckner, Ch. 1-4

DISCUSS

What stood out to you or what questions do you have related to the Beckner reading?

QUIZ

Quiz 1 on readings and lectures (open notes)

ASSIGNMENT 1

Select **ONE** of the following and submit your assignment.

- A brief description of how you sensed and discerned the Lord's call to chaplaincy.
- the Correctional Chaplaincy position statement from the facility where you serve or would like to work
- The steps for ecclesiastical endorsement in your denomination

Module 2: Institutional Navigation

DUE: Sept 13

LISTEN

- 2.1 Staff and Administrators
- 2.2 Policy and Procedures
- 2.3 Legal Issues

READ

- 2.1 Staff and Administrators
- 2.2 Policy and Procedures
- 2.3 Legal Issues

DISCUSS

Share a policy or legal issue you have encountered and how it was handled OR share what you have found to be helpful in institutional navigation.

QUIZ

Quiz 2 on readings and lectures (open notes)

ASSIGNMENT 2

Select **ONE** of the following and submit your assignment (based on the institution where you serve)

- a) Copy of the organizational chart
- b) PREA policy
- c) Policy and procedures for religious services
- d) Inmate manual
- e) Policies on handling legal issues

Module 3: Personal and Professional Development

DUE: Sept 20

LISTEN

- 3.1 Spiritual identity and Spiritual Growth
- 3.2 Emotional Health
- 3.3 Professional Development and Code of Ethics

READ

- 3.1 Spiritual identity and Spiritual Growth
- 3.2 Emotional Health
- 3.3 Professional Development and Code of Ethics
- 3.4 Beckner, Ch. 5

DISCUSS

What trainings, conferences, podcasts or books have helped you develop your spiritual, professional or personal life and how has it impacted your ministry?

QUIZ

Quiz 3 on readings and lectures (open notes)

ASSIGNMENT 3

Select **ONE** of the following and submit your assignment

- a) Code of ethics (institutional, organizational, ACCA, CMCA or other)
- b) List of certifications and memberships

Module 4: Pastoral Care

DUE: Sept 27

LISTEN

- 4.1 Pastoral Care
- 4.2 Building Bridges Webinar

READ

- 4.1 Pastoral Care
- 4.2 Spinaris Ch. 1-10
- 4.3 Beckner Ch. 6

DISCUSS

Share your interactions with staff and a takeaway for you from Building Bridges with Corrections Staff book.

QUIZ

Quiz 4 readings and lectures (open notes)

ASSIGNMENT 4

Select **ONE** of the following and submit your assignment

- a) Confidentiality policy
- b) Mental health contact within the institution (name and extension)
- c) Baptism and communion policies and procedures

Module 5: Religious Faiths and Accommodation

DUE: Oct 4

VIRTUAL MEETING

Tuesday, Sept 29th at 7:00 pm Central

LISTEN

- 5.1 Make Disciples
- 5.2 Pluralism and Religions
- 5.3 Religious Accommodation

READ

- 5.1 Making Disciples
- 5.2 Pluralism and Religions
- 5.3 Religious Accommodation
- Definition of Terms
- Religious Materials and Resources

QUIZ

Quiz 5 readings and lectures (open notes)

ASSIGNMENT 5

Select **ONE** of the following and submit your assignment

- a) Accommodation policies and procedures
- b) Contacts and/or resources for 3 different religions

Module 6: Administrative Dimension

DUE: Oct 11

LISTEN

- 6.1 Administrative Scheduling
- 6.2 Administrative Reporting
- 6.3 Resource Management

READ

- 6.0 ACA Jail Standards & ACA Prison Standards
- 6.1 Administrative Scheduling
- 6.2 Administrative Reporting
- 6.3 Resource Management
- 6.4 Beckner Ch. 7
- 6.5 95 Theses – First 95 Days of Chaplaincy

DISCUSS - *What tools or administrative practices do you or the Chaplain utilize that are helpful?*

QUIZ

Quiz 6 readings and lectures (open notes)

ASSIGNMENT 6

Select **ONE** of the following and submit your assignment

- a) The religious services for one month or one year (all faiths)
- b) Inmate request form and process for reading, prioritizing and responding
- c) Sample reports
- d) Sample budget, purchasing policy, inventory or needs assessment
- e) Religious Library policies

Module 7: Volunteer Management

DUE: Oct 18

LISTEN

- 7.1 Volunteer Management I
- 7.2 Volunteer Management II
- 7.3 Volunteer Management III

READ

- 7.1 Recruiting and Training Volunteers
- 7.2 Evaluating and Appreciating Volunteers
- 7.3 *The Care and Feeding of Volunteers* by Lennie Spitale

DISCUSS - *What has been a positive and negative experience as a volunteer or managing volunteers?*

QUIZ

Quiz 7 readings and lectures (open notes)

ASSIGNMENT 7

Select **ONE** of the following and submit your assignment

- a) Volunteer selection process
- b) Volunteer training topics
- c) Volunteer evaluation form
- d) Volunteer appreciation examples
- e) Volunteer policies

Module 8: Community Dimension

DUE: Oct 25

LISTEN

8.1 Ministry in the Community

8.2 Connecting and Mobilizing the Church

8.3 Building Coalitions

READ

Beckner Ch. 8-10

PAN Overview

Resources: Reentry Tip Sheets

DISCUSS

What is your expectation of the local church when it comes to correctional ministry? What have you found effective when connecting with the church or community agencies?

QUIZ

Quiz 8 readings and lectures (open notes)

ASSIGNMENT 8

Select **ONE** of the following and submit your assignment

- a) List of supporting churches in your community
- b) List of organization/agencies in the community for reentry
- c) List of resources for families of the incarcerated

MENTOR MEETING REPORT

Submit your mentor meeting report through the online course.