



2024-25 Course Offerings

Fall 2024

CCS 410/510 Trauma-Informed Chaplaincy
Dr. Kate Lassiter

CCS 422/522 Grief & Lament
Dr. Cody Sanders

Spring 2025

CCS 301 Introduction to Chaplaincy Studies
Dr. Zachary Moon

CCS 404/504 Mindfulness & Chaplaincy
Dr. Cheryl A. Giles

CCS 410/510 Trauma-Informed Chaplaincy

Fall 2024

Course Description

Trauma is the emotional response to distressing events; it impacts a person's executive function and ability to self-regulate. This course introduces key concepts to learners including individual and collective trauma, an overview of the science of trauma, and consideration of the cultural contexts of chaplaincy and trauma. As well, students learn and practice evidence-based spiritual care interventions, develop personal frameworks and habits for a lifetime of work, and identify strategies for implementation in their context.

Instructor: Dr. Kate Lassiter

Dr. Lassiter is the Senior Director of Lifelong Learning and Doctor of Ministry at Meadville Lombard Theological School. Her book *Recognizing Other Subjects: Feminist Pastoral Theology and the Challenge of Identity* identifies interpersonal, structural, and theological barriers to advancing care and justice and strategies for personal and social transformation. She holds a Ph.D. in Religion, Psychology, and Culture from Vanderbilt University where she was a fellow in the Program for Theology and Practice. She is also a yoga and meditation instructor and an avid outdoorswoman.

CCS 422/522 Grief and Lament

Course Description

Grief is one of the most ubiquitous experiences for a spiritual care provider in any context. Situations of death and dying call for a spiritual care provider to employ a cross-section of ministerial roles and functions: individual care, ritual praxis, ethical consultation. In the wider social contexts in which we serve, large-scale losses call for grief care on a communal level: from the increasing precarity of democratic governments and the breakdown of institutions we've depended upon, to the collapse of the climate and extinction of species on a mass scale, to the loss of landscapes integral to our sense of self-in-community. The course develops practical theological approaches to grief and loss on scales from the individual, to the communal, to the planetary.

Instructor: Dr. Cody Sanders

Cody J. Sanders is Associate Professor of Congregational and Community Care Leadership at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, an affiliated faculty member in Pastoral Theology and Chaplaincy Studies at Chicago Theological Seminary, and a faculty member at the Center for Chaplaincy Studies. He is a former parish pastor and chaplain serving both Harvard and MIT. He has published a number of books, including *Spiritual Care First-Aid: An All-Hands Approach for Church and Community* (Fortress, 2025), *Corpse Care: Ethics for Tending the Dead* (Fortress, 2023), and *A Brief Guide to Ministry with LGBTQIA Youth* (Westminster, 2019). Cody is an ordained Baptist minister (Alliance of Baptists and American Baptist Churches).

Course Description

This course introduces the field of chaplaincy studies. Chaplains are rooted and accountable to their religious tradition, but they serve people and communities who may have different religious backgrounds or have no religious affiliation. How does one develop a ministry resilient in the face of pluralistic religious demands, complex human suffering, and institutional cultures that may conflict with human flourishing? This course will engage five contexts of chaplaincy ministry including hospital, military, prison, campus, and hospice.

Instructor: Dr. Zachary Moon

Dr. Zachary Moon is a leading voice in the study of moral injury and moral distress. His books include *Coming Home: Ministries That Matter with Veterans and Military Families* (Chalice Press, 2015), *Warriors between Worlds: Moral Injury and Identities in Crisis* (Lexington Books, 2019), *Goatwalking: A Quaker Pastoral Theology* (Brill, 2021), and *Doing Theology in Pandemics: Facing Viruses, Violence, and Vitriol* (Pickwick, 2022). Dr. Moon is the Professor of Theology and Psychology at Chicago Theological Seminary. He has served as a chaplain in multiple contexts, and specializes in working with military veterans and their families, training faith communities in post-deployment reentry and reintegration, and building sustainable social movements for justice through holistic compassionate care.

CCS 404/504: Mindfulness & Chaplaincy

Course Description

Mindfulness has been the foundation of contemplative practice since Antiquity, generally understood as paying attention in the present moment and without judgment or reactivity. This course aims to support the well-being and human flourishing of chaplains and those we serve by engaging mindfulness practices that reduce stress, promote balance, and increase focus.

Instructor: Dr. Cheryl A. Giles

Dr. Cheryl A. Giles is Francis Greenwood Peabody Senior Lecturer on Pastoral Care and Counseling at Harvard Divinity School. She teaches courses on spiritual care, trauma, and contemplative care of the dying. Since 2020, she has also been a Visiting Research Scholar in the Department of Sociology at Brandeis University focused on chaplaincy innovation and training. In 2012, Dr. Giles was co-editor of *The Arts of Contemplative Care: Pioneering Voices in Buddhist Chaplaincy and Pastoral Work* with Willa Miller. Her most recent book is *Black and Buddhist: What Buddhism Can Teach Us About Race, Resilience, Transformation, and Freedom*, co-edited with Pamela Ayo Yetunde. She received her PsyD from Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology.