

COURSE SYLLABUS

CM401: Foundations of Correctional Chaplaincy

Course Lecturers: Multiple Lecturers, Coordinated by Karen Swanson, EdD

Course Description

Welcome to *Foundations of Correctional Chaplaincy*, an online undergraduate-level course designed for those involved in correctional ministry. This course provides an overview of correctional chaplaincy as it functions in correctional facilities. Topics will include the history of correctional chaplaincy, the special skills and abilities the professional chaplain must possess, the critical dimensions of the multiple roles a chaplain assumes, and the constitutional mandates that govern the delivery of religious services in an institutional setting. Special focus will be placed on the “ministry of presence,” effective volunteer management, the development of individualized ministry plans, and on chaplains as “agents of change.”

Course Objectives

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

- Comprehend the rich tradition of correctional chaplaincy in America.
- Identify three critical dimensions of institutional chaplaincy.
- Explain the religious rights of the incarcerated and how to determine accommodations.
- Identify the multiple ways that effective chaplaincy positively impacts inmates, correctional staff, and the institutional environment.
- Compare the strengths and skill-sets of effective chaplains and compare those with your own personal giftings.
- Demonstrate the ability to build a ministry plan that corresponds to specific institutional settings and its inmate demographic.
- Develop strategies for creating meaningful ministry partnerships with local church leaders and laypersons.
- Develop a chaplaincy manual specific to your institution.

Course Lecturers

Multiple lecturers, each an expert in the topic covered, contributed to this course. The course was edited by Dr. Karen Swanson.



Karen Swanson, EdD

Education:

- Northern Illinois University, EdD
- Western Michigan University, MA
- Calvin College, BS
- Cornerstone University, BA

Teaching Career:

- Professor of Correctional Ministries, Christian University GlobalNet
- Faculty member, Christian Formation and Ministry Department, Wheaton College

Other Career Highlights:

- Director of the Institute for Prison Ministries (IPM), Billy Graham Center for Evangelism at Wheaton College
- Overseer of Charles W. Colson scholarship program at IPM
- Christian Association for Prisoner Aftercare Advisory Board
- Developer, Correctional Ministries courses at Wheaton College and Christian University GlobalNet
- Executive director, LifeHouse Ministries reentry program
- Certified in Justice Ministries, Motivational Interviewing, Moral Reconciliation Therapy, Bridges Out of Poverty, Truthought, and Anger Management
- Volunteer teacher in Life Learning Program, Cook County Jail (Chicago, IL)

Recommended Reading

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbook shown below to supplement your learning.

Beckner, W. Thomas. *Correctional Chaplains: Keepers of the Cloak*. Orlando, FL: Cappella Press, 2012. (This can be ordered from ipm@wheaton.edu)

Course Methods

Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage the students in learning and processing information, and applying the learning to their lives. These methods include the following:

- **Video-based teaching**
The primary teaching session in each lesson is provided in video format. If you do not have the bandwidth required to view the video, we provide the option of listening to the lesson or reading the lesson from a transcript.
- **Additional Resources**
Lessons may be accompanied by additional readings, images, etc. that you can use to supplement your learning.

Course Requirements

Course requirements include:

1. Listening to all 24 audio lectures
2. Taking each lesson Quiz, a Midterm Exam (after completing Lesson 12), and a Final Exam—Quizzes and Exams will cover the material presented in the Class Time lectures.

Note: Quizzes and Exams are automatically graded and your course grade is weighted as follows:

Quizzes	40% of Course Grade
Exams	60% of Course Grade

In order to obtain a Certificate of Completion your overall score in the course must be 70% or higher.