



PBC
PERTH BIBLE COLLEGE

STUDY LEVEL	500 LEVEL
UNIT CODE: UNIT TITLE:	CP551 A Theological Introduction to Chaplaincy
TRIMESTER:	Trimester 2, 2025

LECTURER:	Dr Mel Burr-Dixon	
CONTACT DETAILS:	Email: mburrdixon@pbc.wa.edu.au	

UNIT OVERVIEW:	<p>This is the foundational Chaplaincy unit. As such, it will introduce key ideas which will be referred to throughout other Chaplaincy Units. Students will be introduced to a number of chaplaincy approaches and their theological underpinnings.</p> <p>This module aims to develop the student's understanding of 'God as Chaplain', 'Incarnation as Divine Strategy', the Chaplain as 'presence', guide, and carer, amongst others. In addition, the unit addresses theological aspects for the modern-day Chaplain, encouraging students to assess their ministry through various lenses.</p>
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ACADEMIC DETAILS

Location in course:	This unit is an introductory unit and is offered at the 500 level. This is a core unit.
Workload	<p>This unit carries 3 credit points.</p> <p>The contact hours for this unit are 2 hours/week for 5 weeks. Students are expected to study a further 10 hours/week.</p> <p>Student must complete at least 5 hours per week in a practical Chaplaincy context</p>
Pre-Requisites	NIL
Delivery	Delivery will be via lectures, class activities and discussion, assignments and online via Moodle.
Summary of Content	<p>This is the foundational Chaplaincy unit. As such, it will introduce key ideas which will be referred to throughout other Chaplaincy Units. Students will be introduced to a number of chaplaincy approaches and their theological underpinnings.</p> <p>This module aims to develop the student's understanding of 'God as Chaplain', 'Incarnation as Divine Strategy', the Chaplain as 'presence', guide, and carer, amongst others. In addition, the unit addresses theological aspects for the modern-day Chaplain, encouraging students to assess their ministry through various lenses.</p>
Learning outcomes	<p>A. Employ foundational theological knowledge to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and evaluate critical theological issues related to chaplaincy. 2. Critically engage with the notion of a "theology of presence".
	<p>B. Analyse a practical context to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critically evaluate various theological approaches to chaplaincy. 2. Identify the religious and theological associations linked to the term "chaplaincy" in the praxis.
	<p>C. Develop and employ practical methods and actions to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Help chaplains embrace their theological identity and set appropriate theological goals and expectations for their ministry.
	<p>D. Engage in critical personal reflection to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critically identify and evaluate their theological foundations, goals and expectations for chaplaincy.
Requirements to complete	<p>To complete this unit students must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. lodge all assessments that are required for this unit, and B. obtain a total grade of at least 50% in the unit.

ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Assessment Type	When assessed	Weighting	Learning outcomes Assessed
Discussion Posts - Context Analysis Students must write a 250-word weekly reflection and post them to MOODLE. 1,000 words (250 words x 4 weeks)	Weeks 1 - 4	20%	A1, B1, C1, D1
Presentation – PowerPoint Presentation (equivalent of 800 words)	Week 5	20%	A1, B1
Creative Writing - Fieldwork Report 1,200 words	Week 6	60%	A2, B2, C1, D1

LECTURE SYLLABUS

Week	Content	Pre-reading
1	Overview and Objectives of Chaplaincy	Week 1 Reading
2	Challenges, Role and Effectiveness of Chaplaincy	Week 2 Reading
3	Imago Dei and Industry Case Study	Week 3 Reading
4	Approaches (Biblical, Missiological, Contextual, Theological, Incarnational)	Week 4 Reading
5	A Practical Theology of Chaplaincy	Week 5 Reading

ASSESSMENT ITEMS**1] Assessment Type** Reflection Posts – Context Analysis**Value:** 20%**Word Length:** 1 000 (4 x 250)**Due:** Weeks 1, 2, 3, & 4

Description: Students post a contribution to MOODLE in answer to any ONE reflection question in their lesson. This should include a sentence or two of summary of the lesson, the biblical perspective and a practical example from the ministry context.

2] Assessment Type Presentation – PowerPoint Presentation**Value:** 20%**Word Length:** (equivalent to 800 words)**Due:** Week 5

Description: Students prepare a PowerPoint presentation on the content of ONE lesson. Include the content, the theological perspective and practical examples from the chaplaincy practice. Maximum 15 slides.

3] Assessment Type Fieldwork Report**Value:** 60%**Word Length:** 1 200 words**Due:** Week 6

Description: Students write a theological reflection report on their field education location.

Students must evaluate the theology at play in the chaplaincy context; the various approaches employed, ways to enhance the chaplaincy praxis and the effectiveness of the chaplaincy process.

This can be in the format of topic reviews, commenting on each lesson and giving practical examples from the chaplaincy experience. No academic references required.

Students should also have a working knowledge of PBC's Assessment Policies (www.pbc.wa.edu.au and then *Student Portal/Useful Links/Policies & Procedures/ Assessment Policies*) to assist in completing this unit.

TEXTBOOK

Caperon, J, Todd, A & Walters, J (Eds), (2017), *A Christian Theology of Chaplaincy*, London, Kingsley Pubs.

KEY REFERENCES

Pennington, M, (2020), *The Church and Social Cohesion, Connecting Communities and Serving People*, London, Theos

Ryan, B, (2015), *Chaplaincy, A Very Modern Ministry*, London, Theos

McPhee, A, (2001), *The Missio Dei and the Transformation of the Church*, Virginia, Eastern Mennonite University