

Chaplaincy Internship Program

Course: Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care in the Twenty-First Century: An Introduction by Wendy Cadge, Shelly Rambo

Fall 2026 Syllabus

Course Information

Instructor Information

Instructor: Pat Fredd

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Course Description

Wendy Cadge and Shelly Rambo demonstrate the urgent need, highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, to position the long history and practice of chaplaincy within the rapidly changing landscape of American religion and spirituality. This book provides a much-needed road map for training and renewing chaplains across a professional continuum that spans major sectors of American society, including hospitals, prisons, universities, the military, and nursing homes.

Written by a team of multidisciplinary experts and drawing on ongoing research at the Chaplaincy Innovation Lab at Brandeis University, *Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care in the Twenty-First Century* identifies three central competencies—individual, organizational, and meaning-making—that all chaplains must have, and it provides the resources for building those skills. Featuring profiles of working chaplains, the book positions intersectional issues of religious diversity, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and other markers of identity as central to the future of chaplaincy as a profession.

Textbook & Course Materials

Required Text

Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care in the Twenty-First Century: An Introduction
by Wendy Cadge, Shelly Rambo

Course Requirements

- Internet connection (DSL, LAN, or cable connection desirable)
- Zoom capability

Course Structure

The course will be delivered in lecture form via ZOOM. Each 1-hour session will consist of a lecture (30-45 minutes) and discussion.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student learning outcomes/objectives for this course can be found below:

Understanding Chaplaincy in Contemporary Contexts

- Identify how the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the urgent need to rethink chaplaincy within the changing landscape of American religion and spirituality.
- Describe the historical development of chaplaincy and its role across major sectors such as healthcare, corrections, higher education, the military, and elder care.



Core Competencies of Chaplaincy

- Explain the three central competencies—**individual**, **organizational**, and **meaning-making**—outlined by the Chaplaincy Innovation Lab.
- Assess how these competencies shape effective spiritual care across diverse institutional settings.



Diversity, Identity, and Intersectionality

- Analyze how issues of religious diversity, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and other identity markers influence chaplaincy practice.
- Evaluate strategies for providing inclusive, culturally responsive spiritual care.

 Professional Formation and Training

- Discuss emerging models for training and renewing chaplains in the twenty-first century.
- Apply multidisciplinary insights to develop or improve chaplaincy programs and professional development pathways.

 Real-World Chaplaincy Practice

- Reflect on case studies and profiles of working chaplains to understand practical challenges and innovations in the field.
- Integrate research-based approaches to enhance chaplaincy effectiveness within organizations.

You will meet the objectives listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- Attend class regularly.
- Completing assignments weekly and being prepared to discuss.
- Completing a take-home exam.
- Participating in class discussions and asking questions.

Topic Outline/Schedule

- **Week 1 Introduction: 9/3/2026**
 - Chapters: 1 and 2
- **Week 2: 9/17/2026**
 - Chapters: 3 and 4
- **Week 3: 10/1/2026**
 - Chapters: 5 and 6
- **Week 4: 10/15/2026**
 - Chapters: 7 and 8
- **Week 5: 10/29/2026**
 - Chapters: 9 and 10
- **Week 6: 11/12/2026**
 - Chapter: 11
 - Final thoughts