

ID 6500 UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS IN MINISTRY

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Fall 2020 (2 credit hours)

October 5th – November 30th; Mondays, 6:30-9:10 PM

(Offered Only as A Remotely-Learning Course via Zoom)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Welcome to ID 6500, “Understanding Social and Cultural Contexts in Ministry”. Employing theories and methods from sociology and anthropology, this course aims to equip the student to exegete and critically analyze the socio-cultural context of today’s changing world from a biblical and theologically informed perspective. The course will then seek to help the student to understand the dialectic relationship between the church and its surrounding cultures/societies and the church’s call to be an effective and prophetic witness in the contemporary world. Students will acquire context-oriented understandings and skills that will inform their ministry strategies and practices.

In light of the COVID public health situation and in order to maximize pedagogical effectiveness, TEDS is complying with local guidelines regarding social distancing. Due to the nature of this class, it is being offered in a synchronous video conference format only. There will be no face to face section offered. You should not anticipate that the course sessions will be recorded for this course. All students should plan to attend at the scheduled time. Students will be expected to have video cameras turned on throughout the course session and should have their microphones muted, unless they are asking a question.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Using a set of social scientific and theological concepts and methods, this course will help you to learn how to exegete today’s contexts of ministry and help you to see yourself as a socially and historically located observer and interpreter.
2. This course will help you to gain a deeper understanding of several significant socio-cultural phenomena we experience today, examining critically not only “what” is happening but also “why” it is happening.
3. This course will also help you to learn how to examine the complex relationship between the church and its surrounding cultures/societies. You will learn to explore how surrounding cultures shape the internal culture and mission of the church and to evaluate these influences biblically, theologically and from a social scientific perspective.
4. This course will place a special emphasis on the constructed reality of racism/racialization in the U. S. and how this on-going challenge shapes the ministry and mission of churches in our multiracial society.

REQUIRED READING:

- Emerson, Michael and Christian Smith. *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Wilson, William Julius. *More Than Just Race: Being Black and Poor in the Inner City*. New York: WW Norton & Company, 2009.

Articles Available on the Class Moodle

- Cha, Peter. "Doing Theology in a Multicultural Theological Community". *Common Ground Journal*. Vol. 5, No. 2, Spring 2008, 81-92.
- Hollinger, Dennis P. "The Church: A Social Institution?" *TSF Bulletin*, Jan-Feb 1987, 18-24.
- Padilla, Rene. "The Impact of Globalization on the Poor." *Micah Network*, September 2003.
- Turkle, Sherry. *Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in A Digital Age*. New York: Penguin Press, 2015 (Chapters 1-2, pp. 3-58).
- Volf, Miroslav and Judith Gundry-Volf. *A Spacious Heart: Essays on Identity and Belonging*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1997, 1-11, 33-60.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Reading** all assigned materials and class participation. Reading record due, Nov 30th (10 points).
2. **Exercise paper**, 2 pages, double space. Due on October 19th (10 points). Identify a significant social or cultural phenomenon and analyze how it has been "externalized," "objectivated," and "internalized" over the years. Please pair up with another student to do this exercise.
3. **Mid-term Paper**, 5-6 pages, double space. Due on November 9th (40 points).
Read carefully *Divided by Faith*, *More Than Just Race*, and *A Spacious Heart*.
Interacting closely with these three works, analyze the nature and extent of racism permeated in our culture and society. Then identify ways through which attitudes and practices of racism have influenced individual Christians as well as Christian communities. Finally, offer one or two specific steps that the church needs to take so that it can be a prophetic witness to our divided world. All papers should carefully follow the TIU Style and Format Guide available on the Academic Info web page. Papers will be evaluated in terms of content (quality and depth of engagement with all three works), form (coherence), and style (clarity and grammar). Please pay attention to all three aspects in the process of writing (and revising) the paper.
4. **Take-home Final examination:** Due on December 7th, more information will be provided. (40 points)
5. **Late Work:** Grades will be penalized 5% per day late. No assignment will be accepted after 7 days late. In the case of an unforeseen emergency, please email the professor.
6. **Grading Scale**
A = 94-100; A- = 90-93; B+ = 88-89; B = 83-87; B- = 80-82;
C+ = 78-79; C = 73-77; C- = 70-72; D+ = 68-69; D = 63-67

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Trinity community is committed to integrity in all areas of life, including academic integrity, which we believe is essential in the search for and promotion of truth. The pursuit of truth is integrally connected

with values of the Trinity community including respect for individual intellectual contributions, the development of God-given talents, and the building of relationships in community in a spirit of trust. Therefore, academic integrity is upheld in the Trinity community and any form of cheating and plagiarism is not permitted.

Cheating is a form of deception and takes many forms—copying of a word from another’s quiz or exam; the use of unauthorized notes, previous exams, books or other materials; the submission of another’s work to fulfill a course requirement; the unauthorized use of work completed for one course in another; or the reporting of material as read that was not read.

Plagiarism gives the impression that the words or ideas in one's writings are one's own when in reality they are taken from another’s written or oral work. Plagiarism may be either intentional or unintentional and includes: paraphrasing the words or ideas of another without giving credit (unless describing common knowledge); the use of quotations without identification by quotation marks and citation; and the reproduction of another’s written work as if it was your own. Plagiarism is an affront to community standards, a willful neglect of the scholarship of another, and an expression of poor scholarship.

A student found to break the standard of academic integrity by cheating or plagiarizing will be confronted by the faculty member involved and will be reported to the Dean of Students. This will result in a “zero” grade for that particular paper or exam, which may result in an “F” for the course (e.g. depending on the normal weight of that particular assignment, as articulated on the syllabus, the student may fail the course). Such an assignment cannot be “made-up” or a substitute assignment made. It may also lead to expulsion from the institution, or a revocation of a degree already granted by Trinity.

Refer to the posting on MyTrinity>[TEDS Academics](#)>Style Guide, Writing & Thesis Helps for a more lengthy discussion of academic integrity and plagiarism, including access to Turnitin Software which helps writers avoid plagiarism.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) POLICY

In compliance with Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* and the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990* (ADA), it is the policy of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School to provide appropriate and reasonable accommodations, or academic adjustments, and services to students with a documented disability to help ensure an equal educational opportunity. Students seeking these services should contact Ms. Mary Guthrie, Assistant Dean of Students, at the earliest possible time with supporting documentation. If you believe you might have a disability that negatively impacts your educational performance, but have never been diagnosed, you are encouraged to meet with Mary Guthrie to discuss your needs. You can contact her at mcguthrie@tiu.edu or [847-317-7114](tel:847-317-7114).

CLASS SCHEDULE:

- 10/5 Introduction and course orientation
- 10/12 Church and society
Volf, *A Spacious Heart*, pp. 1-11 (Moodle)
Emerson & Smith, Introduction-Chapter 3
- 10/19 Church and culture
Hollinger, "The Church: A Social Institution?" (Moodle)
Volf, *A Spacious Heart*, pp. 33-60 (Moodle)
Exercise paper due
- 10/26 Urbanization in the U. S.: A Case Study of Chicago I
Wilson, *More Than Just Race*, Chapters 1-3
Emerson and Smith, *Divided by Faith*, Chapters 4-6
- 11/2 Racialization and racism in the U. S.: A Case Study of Chicago II
Wilson, Chapters 4-5
Emerson and Smith, *Divided by Faith*, Chapters 7-9
- 11/9 Modernization and modernity
Interaction paper #1 due
- 11/16 The emergence of postmodernity and the impact of technology
Turkle, *Reclaiming Conversation*, Chapters 1-2 (Moodle)
- 11/23 Globalizations
Padilla, "The Impact of Globalization on the Poor," pp. 1-14 (Moodle)
- 11/30 Multicultural realities
Cha, "Doing Theology in a Multicultural Theological Community," (Moodle)
Reading record due
- 12/7 **Take-home Final exam due**

A Selected Bibliography

Church, Culture, and Society

- Dyrness, William. 1989. *How Does America Hear the Gospel?* Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
- Guder, Darrell L. 2000. *The Continuing Conversion of the Church.* Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. Eerdmans.
- Hauerwas, Stanley and William Willimon. 1989. *Resident Aliens.* Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press.
- Hunsberger, George and Craig Van Gelder, eds. 1996. *The Church between Gospel And Culture: The Emerging Mission in North America.* Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
- Keller, Timothy. 2012. *Center Church.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- McKinney, Jennifer and Kevin Neuhouser. 2013. "Divided by Gender: How Sociology Can Help." *Cultural Encounters* 9 (1): 38-55.
- Mott, Stephen. 2011. *Biblical Ethics and Social Change.* Oxford, U.K.: Oxford University Press.
- Niebuhr, H. Richard. 1951. *Christ and Culture.* New York: Harper & Row, Publishers.
- Richardson, Rick. 2019. *You Found Me: New Research on How Unchurched Nones, Millennials, and Irreligious Are Surprisingly Open to Christian Faith.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Smith, Christian. 1998. *American Evangelicalism: Embattled and Thriving.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Urbanization and Urban Experiences/Ministries in the United States

- Anderson, Elijah. 1999. *Code of the Street.* New York: W. W. Norton & Company.
- Clark, David. 2003. *Urban World/Global City.* New York City: Routledge.
- Emerson, Michael and Kevin Smiley. 2018. *Market Cities, People Cities: The Shape of Our Urban Future.* New York City: NYU Press.
- Fischer, Claude. 1984. *The Urban Experience.* Orlando, FL: Harcourt Brace and Jovanovich.
- Florida, Richard. 2005. *Cities and the Creative Class.* New York: Routledge.
- Kozol, Jonathan. 2005. *The Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America.* New York: Crown Publisher.
- Leong, David. 2017. *Race and Place: How Urban Geography Shapes the Journey to Reconciliation.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Logan, John and Harvey Molotch. 2007. *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place.* Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Nightingale, Carl H. 2012. *Segregation: A Global History of Divided Cities.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Sampson, Robert J. 2012. *Great American City: Chicago and the Enduring Neighborhood Effect.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Sider, Ronald and Heidi Unruh. 2005. *Saving Souls, Serving Society: Understanding the Faith Factor in Church-Based Social Ministry.* New York: Oxford University Press.
- Wilkerson, Isabel. 2010. *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration.* New York: The Random House Publishers.
- Wilson, Julius and Richard Taub. 2006. *There Goes the Neighborhood.* New York: Knopf.

Race Relations in the United States and the Ministry of Racial Unity

- Carroll, Daniel. 2011. *Christians at the Border: Immigration, the Church, and the Bible.* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
- Carter, J. Kameron. 2008. *Race: A Theological Account.* New York: Oxford University Press.

- Cornell, Stephen and Douglas Hartmann. 2007. *Ethnicity and Race: Making Identities in a Changing World*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.
- Emerson, Michael et. al., 2003. *United by Faith*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Emerson, Michael and George Yancey. 2011. *Transcending Racial Barriers: Toward a Mutual Obligations Approach*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Fields, Bruce. 2001. *Introducing Black Theology: Three Critical Questions for the Evangelical Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
- Gilbreath, Edward. 2006. *Reconciliation Blues*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Hill, Daniel. 2017. *White Awake: An Honest Look at What It Means to Be White*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Jennings, Willie James. 2010. *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Katongole, Emmanuel and Chris Rice. 2008. *Reconciling All Things: A Christian Vision for Justice, Peace and Healing*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press.
- Lindsay, Ben. 2019. *We Need to Talk About Race: Understanding the Black Experience in White Majority Churches*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- McNeil, Brenda Salter. 2020. *Roadmap to Reconciliation 2.0: Moving Communities to Unity, Wholeness and Justice*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press.
- Noll, Mark A. 2008. *God and Race in American Politics: A Short History*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Priest, Robert and Al Nieves, eds. 2006. *This Side of Heaven: Race, Ethnicity, and Christian Faith*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Twiss, Richard. 2000. *One Church Many Tribes*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books.
- West, Cornel. 1993. *Race Matters*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Modernization, Secularization, and Globalization

- Berger, Peter, Brigitte Berger and Hansfried Kellner. 1974. *The Homeless Mind: Modernization and Consciousness*. New York: Vintage Books.
- Berger, Peter and Samuel Huntington, eds. 2002. *Many Globalizations: Cultural Diversity in the Contemporary World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Berger, Peter, Grace Davie, and Effie Fokas. 2016. *Religious America, Secular Europe?* New York: Routledge.
- Collier, Paul. 2013. *Exodus: How Migration Is Changing Our World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Ehrenreich, Barbara and Arlie Hochschild. 2002. *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*. New York: Holt Paperbacks.
- Giddens, Anthony. 1990. *The Consequences of Modernity*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- _____. 1992. *Modernity and Self-Identity*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Gay, Craig. 1998. *The Way of the (Modern) World Or, Why It's Tempting to Live as If God Doesn't Exist*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
- Jenkins, Philip. 2002. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Koser, Khalid. 2016. *International Migration*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Ritzer, George. 2019. *The McDonaldization of Society: Into the Digital Age* (Edition 9). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Robertson, Roland. 1992. *Globalization: Social Theory and Global Culture*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Press.
- Sassen, Saskia. 2006. *Cities in A World Economy*, 3rd edition. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press.
- Wuthnow, Robert. 2009. *Boundless Faith: The Global Outreach of American Churches*. Berkeley, CA: The University of California Press.

Multi-ethnicity/Multiculturalism

- Anderson, David. 2004. *Multicultural Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
- Blount, Brian and Leonora Tisdale. 2001. *Making Room at the Table: An Invitation to*

- Multicultural Worship*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press.
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- Elmer, Duane. 2002. *Cross-Cultural Connections: Stepping Out and Fitting In Around the World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Emerson, Michael. 2006. *People of the Dream: Multiracial congregations in the United States*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Emerson, Michael et. al. 2003. *United by Faith: The Multiracial Congregation as an Answer to the Problem of Race*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Foster, Charles. 1997. *Embracing Diversity: Leadership in Multicultural Congregations*. Washington D. C.: The Alban Institute.
- Matsuoka, Fumitaka. 1998. *The Color of Faith: Building Community in a Multicultural Society*. Cleveland, OH: United Church Press.
- Ortiz, Manuel. 1996. *One New People*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Perry, Dwight, ed. 2002. *Building Unity in the Church of the New Millennium*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press.
- Pocock, Michael and Joseph Henriques. 2002. *Cultural Change and Your Church: Helping Your Church Thrive in a Diverse Society*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
- Spencer, Aida and William Spencer. 1998. *The Global God: Multicultural Evangelical Views of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.
- Sleeter, Christine and Carl Grant. 2007. *Making Choices for Multicultural Education: Five Approaches to Race, Class and Gender* (5th Edition). John Wiley and Sons, Inc.
- Takaki, Ronald. 1993. *A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company.
- Taylor, Charles. 1994. *Multiculturalism*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.