Course Description and Objectives:
This course provides opportunities for students to explore and cultivate a theory and practice of ministry within the multicultural context of American society as well as within a global context, i.e., the Church around the world. This course has three major goals:

First, students will explore the relationship between the socio-cultural context of human beings and the educational ministry strategies of the church as they are manifested in both multicultural and cross-cultural ministry contexts:

- The influence of culture upon ourselves as ministers of the Gospel
- The cultural realities of those we teach and the implications of these for our efforts

Second, students will develop strategy for cultural engagement that is applicable for the educational ministry/evangelism of the church in both multicultural and cross-cultural contexts:

- The role of culture in the formation, interpretation, and application of biblical texts
- How to achieve greater levels of cultural congruence in our preaching and teaching
- How to become the men and women who are able to both appreciate the cultural diversity of God’s people and minister cross-culturally
- How to equip members of our churches for the faithful and effective life and ministry in an increasingly multicultural world

Third, students will develop competency in conducting a qualitative research. This will be pursued through various in-class activities, as well as through participation in a small group research project preferably in a cross-cultural setting.

Course Texts:


Course Assignments:
- Attendance and Participation (10%)

- Integrative Essay Examination Exercise (40%)
  Students will take an active and participatory essay examination experience by: (1) carefully reading all the course texts; (2) submitting four significant essay questions (one from each course text); (3) studying a list of edited essay questions with classmates; and (4) individually writing the essay examination in class.
• **Ethnographic Research Project (50%)**
  Students in groups of 2 or 3 are expected to commit themselves to engaging in participation observation, including interviews, of a particular cultural and/or people group throughout the semester. This is the major project that will culminate in a final project presented in written form. The guidelines for this final paper and presentation will be given at a later date.

- **All papers should be in Turabian format.**
  - For online help, consult: [http://www.libs.uga.edu/ref/turabian.html](http://www.libs.uga.edu/ref/turabian.html)

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**Course Outline:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading &amp; Assignment Due for Class</th>
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| January 26 & 28 | - Introduction & Course Preparation  
- The Complexity of the Study of Culture  
- A Biblical Vision of Culture and Christian Formational Education  | *A Many Colored Kingdom, Introduction, chs.1-4*                                                   |
| February 2 & 4 | - Ethnographic Research Design  
- Data Gathering Stage in Ethnographic Research  | *A Many Colored Kingdom, chs.5-8, Conclusion*                                                    |
| February 9 & 11 | - History and Issues of Race Relations in American Evangelicalism  | *Divided by Faith, Introduction, chs.1-6*                                                        |
| February 16 & 18 | **NO CLASS**                                                                                                                                     | **READING WEEK ONE**                                                                                           |
| February 22 & 25 | - The Uneasy Prospect of Race Relations in America Evangelicalism  
- The (Late-) Modern Challenges in American Evangelicalism  | *Divided by Faith, chs.7-9, Appendixes*  
*The Great Giveaway, Introduction & ch.1*                  |
| March 2 & 4 | - Data Gathering & Reduction  
- Applied Ethnography  | *The Great Giveaway, chs.2-8, Conclusion*                                                        |
| March 9 & 11 | - The (Late-) Modern Challenges in American Evangelicalism & Beyond  | *Who’s Afraid of Postmodernism?  
*Culture Making, Introduction, Parts I & II*  
*3/18 R – Integrative Essay Examination Questions Due* |
| March 16 & 18 | - A Post-Christian America, Reflexivity & the Future of the Church in America  | *Culture Making, Part III*                                                                           |
| March 23 & 25 | **NO CLASS**                                                                                                                                               | **READING WEEK TWO**                                                                                           |
| March 30 & April 1 | - Making sense of Ethnographic Research Data  
- Cultural Enfolding as Christian Formational Education  | *Culture Making, Part III*                                                                           |
| April 6 & 8 | - Cultural Engagement as Christian Formational Education  
- Integrative Essay Examination Exercise  | *4/6 T – Integrative Essay Examination Exercise*                                                        |
| April 13 & 15 | - Research Presentations  
- Closure  |                                                                                                      |
| April 23 Fri | **All work due 4pm**                                                                                                                                               | **Ethnography Due**                                                                                           |
Bibliography
Jones, Preston, ed. *Is Belief in God Good, Bad or Irrelevant?: A Professor and a Punk Rocker Discuss Science, Religion, Naturalism and Christianity*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006.


