**Course Description:**

3 hours. This course assists the student to integrate exegetical, theological, historical, and practical aspects of intercultural ministry, with special attention given to exploring pastoral and social ethics within intercultural ministry contexts with respect to issues of gender, generational and ethnic diversity, and cultural values and worldviews. The course also explores creative tensions between globalization and localization and introduces models of contextualization in intercultural ministry and pastoral ethics.

**Professor of Record:**

Sam Larsen is the Samuel Patterson Professor of Missions and Evangelism and has taught Missions and Intercultural Studies at Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS) since 1998. He has a Doctor of Ministry from RTS and a PhD in Intercultural Studies from Trinity International University. He brings together life experience both as a missionary in Kenya and Australia and as a Navy Chaplain and has traveled and taught extensively in North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Oceania. He has planted or pastored churches on three continents.

**Learning Objectives:** Participants will demonstrate the following learning outcomes (competencies):

A. Cognitive Learning Outcomes:

1. Participants will become aware of the Church’s *kairos* within the *chronos* of redemptive history and the significance of the processes of modernity and globalization for missions in the Third Millennium.

2. Participants will become familiar with important contextualization theorists (such as McQuilkin, Schreiter, Dyrness, and Hiebert) and their presuppositions and contributions to intercultural ministry.

3. Participants will develop a critical comprehension of biblically-based pastoral and social ethics theory as applied to both general and specific intercultural ministry settings, including an understanding of worldview theory and principles of cultural engagement for effective ministry.

B. Affective Learning Outcomes:

1. Participants will develop a growing confidence in God’s sovereign governance over the affairs of individuals and nations as He carries out His redemptive plan until it is
culminated in the return of His Son, when the kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.

2. Participants will grow in their assurance of God’s presence and love, in their confidence in His purpose and calling for their lives, and in their desire to conform their lives to Christ.

C. Volitional Learning Outcomes:

1. Participants will deepen their commitment to the central task of discipling the nations as God’s appointed means of reaching the lost, building up the Body of Christ, and ultimately of bringing all glory to Him.

2. Participants will grow in their determination to strengthen the unity of the culturally and generationally diverse Body of Christ, to seek all that exalts Him, and to reflect His character in their values and relationships.

**Required Reading:** (1999 pp)


**Recommended Reading:**


and Ministry Resources. (211 pp)


Webster, Douglas D. 1999. *Soulcraft: How God shapes us through relationships.* Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press. (228 pp.)


**Course Assessment:**

1. The student’s active and informed contribution to class discussion, drawing upon assigned readings, and prompt and regular class attendance. (20%)

2. A major course paper of 15-18 pages on an actual personal or pastoral issue faced by the student regarding a personal or pastoral ethical decision, written in such a way as to preserve the anonymity of the church and individuals involved. The paper will take into account biblical grounds for ethical principles, intercultural ministry contextual dynamics, and the process by which the writer reached and implemented the decision, together with an assessment of effectiveness and lessons learned through the process. (80%)

**Office Hours:** Appointments may be scheduled with Dr. Larsen after class or by e-mail (slarsen@rts.edu).