Purpose of the Course: The purpose of this course is to read and review a significant body of literature on the subject of ethnicity and its importance to our understanding of the missiological task of the church. It is hoped that such a review will enlarge the student’s awareness of the issues surrounding ethnicity and globalization with the attending importance of the way ethnicity or the emphasis upon ethnic distinctives can and often does manifest itself in violence and hostility.

Objectives:

1. To increase our knowledge of what ethnicity is and what role it plays in identity formation and maintenance.
2. To examine the evidence of ethnic identity as a contributing factor in group violence.
3. To explore the implications of globalization for threatening identity.
4. To consider the teaching of Scripture regarding identity and ethnicity.

Assessment:

1. The student will participate in leading discussion on at least one topic during the seminar. (40% of final grade)
2. The student will present a final paper due at the end of the semester on a topic approved by the instructor during the seminar period. (60% of final grade)

Required texts:

Lisa Malkki
*Purity and Exile*
Univ. of Chicago Press

Thomas H. Eriksen
*Ethnicity and Nationalism*
London: Pluto Press

Frank Dikotter
*The Discourse of Race in Modern China*
Stanford University Press
Benedict Anderson
*Imagined Communities*
London: Verso

Arjun Appadurai
*Modernity at Large*
University of Minnesota Press

N.T. Wright
*The New Testament and the People of God*
Augsburg/Fortress Press

Seminar Assignments:

In addition to the readings/books listed above, each student will be assigned reading(s) to analyze and present in seminar format during the course. Assignments will be made the first day of class. A copy of readings will be made available in bound form to the students.