

Statement of Rationale
SOC 189 GE Certification for
Justice, Reconciliation, and Diversity

Certification Criteria-

1. Develop biblically and theologically grounded understandings of justice, reconciliation, and diversity. These will enable students to understand justice and reconciliation in terms of the gospel and appropriate disciplinary frameworks, recognize sin, rebellion, and brokenness as such, and discern their responsibility in the work of justice and reconciliation within their own local context;

-The course is designed around a number of challenging texts that speak specifically to this criteria, such as "Black Liturgies" by Cole Riley, "Blacks and Whites in Christian America" by Micheal Emerson and Jason Shelton, and "The Religion of Whiteness" by Emerson and Bracey. These are supplemented with additional readings from N.T. Wright (The Christian Response to Crime) and John Perkins (Biblical Reconciliation and the 3 Rs).

-In class discussions and written reflections are the primary means through which this is evaluated.

2. Examine personal actions, social norms, and systemic practices involving race and racism in the United States as they relate to historic and contemporary patterns of belonging and exclusion, attending to how historical particularities and differences in power shape the responsibilities different parties have in the work of justice and reconciliation in light of God's kingdom;

-Readings such as "Blacks and Whites in Christian America" by Micheal Emerson and Jason Shelton, and "The Religion of Whiteness" by Emerson and Bracey all speak to this. These are supplemented with readings from N.T. Wright (The Christian Response to Crime), Esau McCauley (Reading while Black) and John Perkins (Biblical Reconciliation and the 3 Rs).

3. Model Christlike dialogue reflecting God's desire for justice and reconciled relationships among all image-bearers, especially when confronting challenging or sensitive issues.

-This is foundational to the course and undergirds all of the activities, reading, and evaluation that we do.

-In class discussions and written reflections are the primary means through which this is evaluated.

Student learning outcomes:

- Students will analyze issues of justice and injustice involving race and racism in the United States in biblically and theologically grounded ways.

-Readings, discussion, lectures, and in class reflections will challenge them to apply theology and scriptural understanding to their worldview as it relates to discussion of race and racism, often in new ways.

- Students will identify Christian responsibilities to pursue justice and reconciliation in diverse relationships, practices, and structures according to the character of God's loving reign expressed in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

-Readings, discussion, lectures, and in class reflections will challenge them to apply theology and scriptural understanding to the way they live their daily lives as it relates to discussion of race and racism. Making this a lived reality can be a challenge for some. But activating their faith in their relationships and practices is a key goal.