

**Statement of Rationale**  
**ETN 010 GE Certification for**  
**Understanding Society**

**Certification Criteria**

*Students will be able to:*

*1. Identify foundational theories that offer explanations of social, political, economic, and/or cultural phenomena*

- Readings: Excerpts from Omi & Winant, *Racial Formation in the United States*; Sollers, “Ethnicity and Race” in *A Companion to Racial and Ethnic Studies*; Excerpts from Kendi, Excerpts from *Stamped from the Beginning*; “Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color” by Kimberle Williams Crenshaw
- Weekly Journal Entries: Students will respond to specific prompts that help them to identify the key theories (and theoretical presuppositions or assumptions) in assigned readings

*2. Apply foundational theories to analyze contemporary problems or controversies*

- Readings: Readings in Unit 2 facilitate the application of the theoretical perspectives identified in Unit 1. For each racial group, we read accounts of both their historical and contemporary formation, situating contemporary problems and controversies relating to race and ethnicity within that formation process.
- Unit Papers: Each unit paper will require students to use key theories to analyze contemporary issues that connect to the realities of their own lives.
- Final Exams: Short answer questions will require students to apply different theories to social problems related to race and ethnicity (e.g., apply an intersectional perspective to the Black Lives Matter movement; explain how understanding the historical and contemporary formation of Asian Americans can be used to analyze anti-Asian prejudice and discrimination in the pandemic).

*3. Make personal and social application of various theories—informed by a biblical perspective.*

- Readings: Excerpts from *Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery* by Mark Charles and Soong-Chan Rah; excerpts from *The Baptism of Early Virginia* by Rebecca Anne Goetz; excerpts from *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race* by Willie James Jennings; excerpts from *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman; excerpts from *Brown Church: Five Centuries of Latina/o Social Justice, Theology, and Identity* by Robert Chao Romero; excerpts from *From a Liminal Place: An Asian-American Theology* by Sang-Hyun Lee; Excerpts from *White Awake* by Daniel Hill; excerpts from *Healing Racial Trauma: The*

*Road to Resilience* by Sheila Wise Rowe; excerpts from *The Death of Race: Building a New Christianity in a Racial World* by Brian Bantum

- Unit Papers: In Unit Paper 1, students apply racial formation theory and intersectionality to their own racial and ethnic identity. In Unit Paper 2, students apply theories to their involvement in communities and structures. In Unit Paper 3, students apply different disciplinary theories to their vocational aspirations.
- Final Exam: The final exam asks essay questions on the intersection of theories with Christian faith, and on the personal and social implications of the different theories.

### **Student Learning Outcome**

*Students will apply appropriate foundational theories to analyze social, political, economic, and/or cultural phenomena.*

- Unit Papers: Students will apply key theoretical frameworks in ethnic studies to analyze racial and ethnic phenomena.
- Final Exam: Short answer questions will require students to apply different theories in ethnic studies to social problems related to race and ethnicity.