SR 968-22

Sociological Methodology

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Professor

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**Assignment #4** – Course Learning Journal

The journal is a written reflection of your learning journey while working in each course. The Learning Journal integrates the essential elements of the course within your professional field of interest. The objective of the course journal is to produce a degree of acculturation, integrating new ideas into your existing knowledge of each course. This is also an opportunity to

communicate with your professor insights gained as a result of the course. The course

learning journal should be 3-5 pages in length and should include the following sections:

1. Introduction –Summarize the intent of the course, how it fits into the graduate

program as a whole, and the relevance of its position in the curricular sequence.

2. Personal Growth - Describe your personal growth–how the course stretched or

challenged you– and your progress in mastery of course content and skills during

the week and through subsequent readings – what new insights or skills you gained.

3. Reflective Entry - Add a reflective entry that describes the contextualization (or

adaptation and relevant application) of new learning in your professional field.

What questions or concerns have surfaced about your professional field as a result

of your study?

4. Conclusion – Evaluate the effectiveness of the course in meeting your professional,

religious, and educational goals.

1. Introduction: This course provided me with an understanding of how individuals within social groups think, relate to one another, and are influenced by societal, community, and familial factors. I further gained insight on the fallenness of the world through societal problem (Benn Tweedell, 2016). SR 968 allowed me to explore the concepts of belonging and being ostracized within social groups. The purpose of this program is to help graduates comprehend the social dynamics, theories, and strategies that address the challenges faced by groups affected by societal ills. Sociological Methodology aims to provide an understanding of the program as a whole and its significance within the curriculum. It is relevant to use this program now as it helps identify groups and individuals that influence Christian sociological thought and compare it with sociobiological thinking.   
2. Personal Growth: On numerous occasions, I have extensively written about the subject of youth and mental health. In this course, I adopted a social justice perspective to advocate for the well-being of young individuals. This approach enabled me to recognize the various social variables that contribute to the formation of an individual and thus a populace. Frequently, I would single out and hold accountable marginalized community for their actions.” For the Christian, sociology should provoke more respect than rancor, more sentiment than suspicion”

Heddendorf and Vos, p.213, 2010). Sociological imagination (Benn Tweedell, 2016) positioned me to observe societal factors that contribute to the discrimination against them, their lack of hope living under disadvantage conditions and the lack of family support. 3. Reflective entry: I now recognize that society bears responsibility for the repercussions of individuals' circumstances. As Christians, we are particularly compelled to utilize the scriptures and the salvific message to advocate for the divine embodiment of mankind. “Christian caring ought to be the very best kind of caring. It ought to restore people to a high capacity of bearing God’s image” (Myers, p.154, 2017). Observing life and situations unfold passively is effortless, however actively delving into the reasons behind a particular scenario concerning a specific population requires more effort. It provides a sociological and theological perspective to understand the various roles that society plays in bringing about transformation.   
This course sparked these questions as I researched the topic of youth mental health , cannabis use and incarceration.

A) Why is the issue of youth marijuana use not given due consideration?

B)Why does stigma still persist in the 21st century, to the extent that only when people commit crimes highlight the necessity for mental assistance? The study on youth marijuana usage and incarceration provided me with valuable insights, indicating that there is potential for positive change in this area. As Christians, it is our responsibility to use our faith engraved influence. Moreover, the younger generation is heavily impacted by both the capitalistic medical marijuana legislation and the bureaucracy of the juvenile justice system (O’Leary, ), which unjustly categorizes their circumstances based on race from the outset (Kemp et al., 2023).

This study prepared me to conduct additional research on the juvenile justice system and actively support and advocate for young individuals who struggle with substance addiction and depression, rather than stigmatizing them as very dangerous criminals. Further, there exists numerous factors that influence their behavior. I did not have the opportunity to investigate the impact of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) on the decision-making process of young individuals about substance abuse, which can lead to despair, delinquency, and ultimately, jail ( Chatterjee et al., 2018).

4. Conclusion: This course has been highly beneficial in helping me achieve my professional goal of making a significant impact on the lives of American adolescents and, eventually, Caribbean youth. I perceive this as preparing me to support African American males who experience the greatest burden of stigmatization and self-stigmatization. I am convinced that my biblical examples will contribute a comprehensive approach to the impact and treatment that these young individuals require. I am dedicated to conducting social and practical research to advocate for young individuals who are grappling with depression, addiction, and violence, and are currently underrepresented in the prison care system.

**REFERENCES**

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