SR 968-22

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Omega Graduate School

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Professor

Dr. Reichard

Assignment

### *Developmental Readings*

Review Assignment #3, the course essential elements, assigned readings, and recommended readings to identify selections of books and scholarly articles to identify and select developmental reading sources and entries.

* Refer to the “[Student Guide to Developmental Readings](https://drive.google.com/file/d/161V_FaYR2BnNGCSFUlWPjUSIQzcH04Hq/view?usp=share_link)” for updated information on sample comments, rubrics, and key definitions related to developmental readings.

**Source 1:** Forster, D. A. (2021). Post-foundational theology and the contribution of African

approaches to consciousness and identity. *Verbum et Ecclesia*, *42*(2), 1-10.

**Comment 1:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**: “Intradisciplinary and interdisciplinary implications: This article presents a post-foundationalist argument for including African theological notions of identity and consciousness in the debates of this field that take place at the intersections of faith and science. The relationship between explanatory power and truth highlights a critical tension, particularly considering recent clashes related to truth claims from faith and science” (page 1).

**Essential Element**: The comment is associated with faith-integrated sociological analysis

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The abovementioned quote is additive to my understanding and discussion about faith-integrated social analysis. Integrating faith with the soft science of sociology is woven into the fabric of many societal norms worldwide.

**Contextualization**: Faith integration should be the foundation on which Christian scholars and all other ministers build their platforms. It has been my understanding and experience that faith integration takes an intentional approach. It must be strategically woven into all facets of people's lives, such as in the workplace and social gatherings outside the church.

**Source 2**: Ormerod, R. (2020). The history and ideas of sociological functionalism: Talcott

Parsons, modern sociological theory, and the relevance for OR. *Journal of the*

*Operational Research Society*, *71*(12), 1873-1899.

**Comment 2**

**Quote/Paraphrase**: “An element of a shared symbolic system that serves as a criterion or standard for selection among alternatives of orientation may be called a value. All values involve what may be called a social reference; that is, in so far as they are cultural rather than purely personal, they are, in fact, shared. Moral standards have become the aspect of most tremendous direct significance to sociologists” (page 5).

**Essential Element**: Faith-integrated Sociological Analysis

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The researcher’s quote adds to my research and understanding of faith-integrated social analysis. Faith integration cannot be separated from societal values and moral standards. One of faith integration's primary purposes is to understand better the importance of having a God-infused/God-led society.

**Contextualization**: God has to be the primary focus when dealing with values and moral standards. The separation of church and state is essential to a well-functioning society, so people are less apt to utilize religion/God as a tool to push their societal agendas. That being said, God has a place in every fabric of society, the workplace, and politics (to a certain degree). In the workplace, Christian leaders should always pleasingly conduct themselves to God. Likewise, politicians who are Christians cannot forget who paved the way for them to be in office and, therefore, keep His agenda on a higher plane than their own.

**Source 3:** Rasmusson, A. (2024). Dissenter Protestantism and moral and social change.*Verbum*

*Et Ecclesia, 45*(1)

doi:https://doi.org/10.4102/ve.v45i1.2947

**Comment 3:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**: “Oberlin played a significant role in the revivalist movement, emphasizing repentance, sanctification, and the moral transformation of individuals and society. For Finney, the struggle against slavery was a natural outcome of the gospel. He believed that slavery, along with the treatment of Native Americans, was the greatest sin in the country. Finney refused to administer communion to slave owners and criticized the hypocrisy of the Declaration of Independence, which proclaimed that everyone was created equal. At the same time, its authors owned slaves and displaced Native Americans” (page 1).

**Essential Element:** Methods for Christian Social Change

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The quote adds to my research and understanding. In terms of methods for Christian social change, addressing slavery and all other forms of inhuman societal ills should be front and center. The researcher mentioned the words “moral transformation,” which is one of the cornerstones of Christianity.

**Contextualization:** While serving in the ministry, I have witnessed the movement of God in unbelievable/inconceivable ways. I have seen the lamb walk, deaf speak, and other mind-boggling things. Perhaps the most significant change I have witnessed is the change of heart. During my ministerial tenure, I have seen God reconstruct peoples’ hearts, “transforming” them into something bitter and broken into something that became loving and kind. Transforming people one at a time can lead to a significant societal shift, and that’s how Christianity can eventually change/unite the world and make it a better place for everyone.

**Source 4**: Rasmusson, A. (2024). Dissenter Protestantism and moral and social change.*Verbum*

*Et Ecclesia, 45*(1)

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**Comment 4:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Oberlin was the first college to admit both men and women, producing several influential leaders in the women’s rights movement. One notable figure was Lucy Stone, who became one of the iconic leaders of the early women’s movement. Her close friend at Oberlin, Antoinette Brown, became the first woman in the United States to be formally ordained as a minister in her denomination. Lucy Stone was also a close student mentor and then a lifelong friend of John Mercer Langston, an African American student who became a lawyer, university president, ambassador, and congressman” (page 2).

**Essential Element**: The comment is associated with methods for Christian social change.

**Additive/Variant Analysis**: The researcher's quote adds to my understanding of the research on methods for Christian social change by highlighting the profound impact a Christian educational institution can have on society.

**Contextualization:** There have been many social revolutionary and evolutionary movements in America. The equal rights movement for blacks and the second-wave feminism of the women’s rights movement are two prominent ones. Acquiring an education and fighting for the rights of the masses to have equal access to higher education were among the barriers that, as mentioned above, the “equal rights” movement addressed. Without those movements, a large segment of modern society would be further behind than it currently is.

**Source 5**: Andrews, N., & Bawa, S. (2019). "People come and go, but we don't see anything":

How might social research contribute to social change?*The Qualitative*

*Report, 24*(11), 2874-2890.

**Comment 5**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Inasmuch as theory is relevant, one needs to examine its purpose. Theory for the sake of theory may be useful in some circles, but in the context within which we conduct our research, we have noticed the utility of being accountable to research subjects in ways that help in possibly transforming their lives for the better” (page 2875).

**Essential Element**: The quote is associated with a sociological framework for cultural analysis.

**Additive/Variant Analysis**: From my perspective, the author's quote adds to my discussion regarding sociological frameworks by mentioning the need for a theory to be substantiated/confirmed/backed by adequate research. As National University defines it, research is “a set of principles that help us to explain something about the world.” It should have a firm foundation built on facts or research.

**Contextualization:** When considering the environment/culture I live in, I work in and worship God. Although all environmental cultures are similar, they have notable distinctions. When thinking about and or considering the similarities and differences all three have via a cultural analysis lens, the overbearing factor is that all three are the same in that human behavior and are all different because the roles people play in each set are different. I would be intrigued to know how someone from my work culture group would function if they were inserted into my church environment.

**Source 6:** Al-Amar, et al. (2024). A cultural comparative study of

white and black colors in Spanish and Arabic adages.*Theory and Practice in*

*Language Studies, 14*(2), 515-523.

Doi: HTTPs://doi.org/10.17507/tpls.1402.24

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**Comment 6:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “The relationship between language and culture is significant as language is a means of communication and reflects the values, beliefs, and practices that constitute a particular culture. Mastering a language requires an understanding of its associated culture. Language is crucial for preserving and transmitting culture, allowing individuals to communicate traditions, history, and beliefs. The link between language and culture is vital for comprehending and appreciating diverse cultures globally” (Introduction).

**Essential Element**: The quote is associated with a sociological framework for cultural analysis.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This research/discussion is additive to my understanding. Regarding social frameworks, language has to be a central part, as language is an integral part of society. Language is more than vocabulary. It is how we communicate on several levels, such as verbal and written methods, to name a few.

**Contextualization**: Communication is critical to building relationships, and one could argue that the most important function of living in a society is to be able to communicate with each other. The use of language goes deeper than simply speaking, drawing, singing, writing, etc. Language is merely a viable tool that allows us to live our lives in concert with others; without language, we wouldn’t be able to communicate, and without communication, we’d have no society.

**Source 7:** Spillman, L. (2020). *What is cultural sociology?* Polity Press.

**Comment 7:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** Sociology teaches us about human groups and human interactions, how they work, and how they influence our lives. Cultural sociology investigates the meanings people attach to their groups and interactions, what their groups mean to people, what those various meanings come from, and how those meanings influence what they do (Introduction).

**Essential Element**: Sociological Framework for Cultural Analysis

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The author’s (Spillman) quote is additive to my research and understanding of the sociological framework for culture analysis. As I have learned, sociology is a soft science that studies group behavior and considers how people function in a group. In contrast, culture consists of the norms and practices of that group, so to speak. Therefore, sociology and culture always function in rhythm.

**Contextualization:** When working with organizations to help them reach their full potential, I start with an organizational analysis, which contains a segment regarding their culture. Understanding an organization’s culture is vital to understanding the organization. Whereas sociology speaks to the study of group human behavior, I could argue that the group's behavior forms the culture. When the culture was toxic, it was hard to change it without changing some people or having them change their roles. Creating a culture is powerful, and changing it is an uphill battle.

**Source 8:** Spillman, L. (2020). *What is cultural sociology?* Polity Press.

**Comment 8:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**: “For all of us as human creatures, meaning is as essential to our existence as infant care or water. Our lives are entire of meaning and meaning-making” (Introduction).

**Essential Element**: Sociological Framework for Cultural Analysis

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The above statement is additive to my research and discussion on sociology and culture. In sociology, the study of group behavior, it appears that collectively and individually, we all long for some of the same things: a sense of inclusion/belonging and a sense of purpose. Everyone I know wants to feel loved and accepted and, at the same time, live a meaningful life.

**Contextualization:** As a mentor/life coach, I have experienced many people constantly searching for their niche, calling, and purpose in life. Often, after they go through an orientation process, the big question is, “What am I here for?” Life without meaning is meaningless, so my mandate/approach is to let them tell me what they are here for and respond in kind. It’s all pretty simple: those who long to be successful (in all aspects of life) search for God, and those who become successful find Him.

**Source 9**: Kristóf, T., & Nováky, E. (2023). The story of future studies: an interdisciplinary field

rooted in social sciences. *Social Sciences*, *12*(3), 1-16.

**Comment 9:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**: “Although futures thinking has always comprised part of human history, scientific-based futures studies initially evolved in the 20th century. Rooted in sociology and policy sciences, future studies had become a generally accepted academic discipline by the 1960s when it became unequivocally visible in the international scientific community” (Introduction).

**Essential Element**: The quote is associated with an interdisciplinary approach to social analysis.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This is additive to my research and understanding. When conducting social analysis, the researcher should be open to various methods and resources to gather a complete, unbiased study of the subject matter. Furthermore, the past, present, and foreseeable future should also be included in the study/equation.

**Contextualization**: When being a part of a multiple-agency collaboration called “ building healthy communities.” I learned the importance of working in concert with a significant group of people from different races, backgrounds, and cultures. During that time, our goal was to work together to solve some of the social ills facing our community, but we didn’t realize at first that we had to learn about each other to learn how to work together. In a nutshell, we had a two-step process: learning how to work together and uniting to address the identified social ill in an effort to make our community (society) better for us all.

**Source 10:** Calia, R. M. (2021). The Imaginary dress. An interdisciplinary fashion approach

among sociological, anthropological, and psychological orientations. *Fashion*

*Theory*, *25*(2), 243-268.

**Comment 10:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**: “The social meanings of the “objects of culture” are continually renegotiated in the relationship not only with each other but also with the context while highlighting forms of opposition, conformity, differentiation, and symbolic resistance. They communicate changes in the social structure, which are well manifested in the field of fashion. This complexity of fashion would require a joint effort from social scientists, but this does not happen as the theories of fashion continue to be fragmented. The article underlines the importance of an “interdisciplinary approach” central to recognizing some theories of fashion and the cultural significance of self-fashioning, including clothing and body alterations such as tattooing and piercing. Fashion represents a complement and reflects far deeper and more structured social transformations and events. It analyses specific anthropological and psycho-sociological theories considered essential in the development of fashion studies” (abstract).

**Essential Element:** The quote supports the interdisciplinary approach to social analysis.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The above quote, albeit somewhat lengthy, is additive to my research and understanding. Reading the quote, I made the tough decision to include it all because it covers the essential element in a profound “fashion.” The research has several good points regarding social interdisciplinary research methods that piqued my interest. List some of the tangible benefits of an interdisciplinary social analysis approach. While the focal point may be fashion, the research method is comprehensive and interdisciplinary.

**Contextualization:** Although I may not capture everything (on paper) when working with agencies and conducting a social analysis, I observe just about everything. One thing that resonates with me is professional dress, body piercing, and tattoos. These things are usually slightly mentioned in my report, but they seem to have a long-term impression on my critique of the organization as they speak to the heart of the culture. Moreover, being aware of this bias, I utilize other methods to analyze different segments of the organization, and in doing so, conducting an interdisciplinary approach to the analysis can give a fair, more comprehensive (fair) overview of the organization.

**Source 11:** Bhat, et al. (2023). Concepts and Contexts: The

Interplay of Philosophy and History in Understanding Human Society. *East Asian*

*Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*, *2*(6), 2581-2590.

**Comment 11:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**: “This study's significance lies in its potential to enhance the understanding of the interdependence between philosophy and history, ultimately fostering a more nuanced perspective of human society. By examining their mutual influence, the research may contribute to more accurate historical interpretations, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, and emphasize the importance of incorporating diverse philosophical perspectives in historical research and education” (introduction).

**Essential Element**: The quote is associated with an interdisciplinary approach to social analysis.

**Additive/Variant Analysis**: The quote adds to my research and understanding; it is imperative to recognize that conducting research demands a broad/comprehensive brush approach to adequately analyze society and societal norms. Utilizing a single method and relying on one subject, such as history, may leave gaps in a researcher's product.

**Contextualization**: When a large group of us decided to analyze our community to develop a plan to level the playing field for underserved youth (and their families), we called on researchers from more than one educational institution from various backgrounds to study different aspects of the community.

For example, one researcher was proficient in gathering historical data, another found her niche in studying current cultural norms, and another did some forecasting for us.

The goal was to get a 360-degree snapshot of our community. We then formulated a plan to build access to opportunities for underserved individuals. By utilizing a comprehensive interdisciplinary approach, we were able to capture an adequate picture of our community.

**Source 12:** McIntyre, L. (2014). The practical skeptic: Core concepts in sociology, 6th ed, New

York: McGraw-Hill Education.

**Comment 12:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**: “In looking at society from the perspective of what he called the overlapping social spheres of religion, economy, politics, and law, Webb was among the first to assert that a theory of society could be obtained only by examining the causal influences of various social spheres, which he conceived of as forming different “departments of life” (page 5).

**Essential Element:** This comment is associated with faith-integrated sociological analysis.

**Additive/Variant Analysis**: The statement adds to my research, discussion, and understanding. The overlapping spheres of religion, economics, politics, and law reinforce the need for faith-integrated social analysis. Since the Bible heavily influenced the American Constitution, it’s nonsensical to conduct a sociological analysis void of religion, and Christianity in particular.

**Contextualization:** As a youngster, attending church is one of my first and fondest memories. In the mid-size city of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, it was my belief that everyone went to church on Sunday; in fact, stores didn’t sell liquor that day as it was God’s Day. Having said that, it's hard to fathom any society without Christ being the center of it. Although, on the surface, faith may not be woven throughout the fabric of society, there are hidden threads that hold America together. Faith-integration. When sociological analysis is performed, discarding faith as a vital study component would be erroneous.

**Source 13**: Forster, D. A. (2021). Post-foundational theology and the contribution of African

approaches to consciousness and identity. *Verbum et Ecclesia*, *42*(2), 1-10.

**Comment 13:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**: “Religion has been changing for thousands of years, but psychological scientists have only recently begun to study this change. This is an unprecedented time to study religious change because we are building multilevel theories of how culture shapes religion and developing methods to test these theories with unparalleled statistical rigor and causal inference” (page 847).

**Essential Element**: This statement is affiliated with an interdisciplinary approach to social change.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is a variant of my research and understanding. Although it may satisfy an interdisciplinary approach, it works against Christianity, in my view, as it states that religion has been changing. Christianity has not changed; perhaps some people's perspectives have changed, but His Word remains the same.

**Contextualization:** Religions may come and go, but God's Word will remain. Heaven and Earth may pass away… (Mathew 24:35). When people talk about religion, it’s been my experience that they tend to put them all in the same bucket. However, for obvious reasons, Christianity should always stand alone. As the researcher mentioned, religions have been changing, but they fail to add that although, to some degree, that may be accurate, Christianity has and will remain the same.

**References**

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