

SR 950 Applied and Clinical Sociology, Assignment #2

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Assignment

Assignment #2 – Developmental Readings

1. Create Developmental Readings from seminal sources and scholarly peer-reviewed journal articles. Review instructions for Assignment #3, the course essential elements, and course readings to identify selections of books and journals to create entries.

a. Refer to the "Student Guide to Developmental Readings" in the General

Helps folder for updated information on sample comments, the grading rubric,

and key definitions related to developmental readings.

Course Essential Elements

1. Applied Sociology and Sociological Practice
2. Clinical Sociology
3. Sociological Interventions
4. Applications for Sociological Research

Source One: Reichard, J. D. (2024). Applied and Clinical Sociology: A Christian Perspective. In *The Routledge International Handbook of Sociology and Christianity* (pp. 369-379). Routledge.

Comment 1:

Quote/Paraphrase: “According to Jan Fritz, co-founder of the Clinical Sociological Association, clinical sociology is a “creative, rights-based and interdisciplinary specialization that seeks to improve life situations for individuals and collectivities. Clinical sociologists work with systems to assess situations and avoid, reduce, or eliminate problems through a combination of analysis and intervention” (2008:7–8). Clinical sociologists may be psychotherapists, group facilitators, teachers/trainers, organizational consultants, community consultants, or mediators. Put simply, “clinical sociology is sociological intervention. It is the application of a sociological perspective to the analysis and design of interventions for positive social change. Jammie Price and Jeff Will suggest that clinical sociologists then apply a “medical frame” to groups, organizations, or situations in terms of assessing, diagnosing, treating, and reassessing them (2015:859). Clinical sociologists conduct assessments; build collaborative relationships with organizations, individuals, and subgroups; share assessment findings “with a balance of support and confrontation[;] and make recommendations that reflect a combination of the sociologist’s and client’s

understanding of the problems and solutions" (Piña 2001:343). (Clark and Fritz 1986:174)" (Reichard, J. D., 2024, pp. 370-371).

Essential Element: The essential element is clinical sociology.

Additive/Variant Analysis: This comment is an additive analysis in understanding the purpose and role of clinical sociologists in diagnosing problems and devising interventions.

Contextualization: When I was growing up, I watched my parents work every day. Outside of work, my parents dedicated their lives tirelessly to helping people through ministry and trying to correct what was broken in society. This love of trying to give back in some way was passed on to me. When I accepted Jesus at age fifteen, God gave me a love for humanity. All my life I have been trying to fix and help in some way. As a pastor's daughter, no matter what secular jobs I held, I always found myself involved with serving in a ministry from Young Life to church ministry. I seem to always be leading something trying to help humanity. This desire to help and to fix things led me to go to Africa as a Crossroad volunteer to do humanitarian work in Sudan and The Gambia. Once I learned about missionary work, I took teams to different countries combining the two, Christianity and humanitarian work.

Comment 2:

Quote/Paraphrase: Conservative Christians have criticized progressive social justice, while sociology has not always favored religious institutions. Applied and clinical sociology can bridge the secular-sacred divide by promoting critical-

constructive dialogue. Symbolic interactionism and systems theory align well with Christian approaches to sociological intervention. William Swatos' "Clinical Pastoral Sociology" is a seminal collection of essays that pioneered the convergence of clinical sociology and pastoral care. It emphasizes the web of social interaction and religion as a system of interaction. Swatos' term may be more inclusive of other applications ((Reichard, J. D., 2024, p. 374).

Essential Element: The essential element is Applied Sociology and Sociological Practice.

Additive/Variant Analysis: This comment is an additive analysis. This article attempted to bridge a gulf between the secular-sacred divide, which is what I want to do as a Christian Scholar-Practitioner.

Contextualization: This article epitomizes the definition of faith-learning integration and what Omega Graduate School stands for! As Christian scholars, we have to make our voices heard in all sectors. Many Christians put down the public school system instead of demonstrating compassion and embracing it as a mission field. This has created animosity from the very people we are called to love. As a result, Christian children, teachers, administrators, and staff are left alone without any outside support. Churches support missionaries all over the world but neglect public schools and universities right in their backgrounds. Is it any wonder the opinion of the church is at an all-time low? The masses of children and young people in America attend secular and public schools, colleges, and universities, including Christians. Do non-Christians see the church even

loving on their Christian classmates and co-workers, let alone them? As someone who left Christian education to represent Jesus in public schools a couple of decades ago, I can answer with a resounding no!

Source Two: Lehnerer, M. (2023). Certification: Validating the work of sociological practitioners. *Clinical Sociology Review*, 18(1), 118-130.

Comment 3:

Quote/Paraphrase: “In 2005, the Sociological Practice Association merged with the Society for Applied Sociology (SAS) to establish the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology (AACCS). This merger recognized the benefits of combining resources and efforts (Perlstadt, 2006). The AACCS remains committed to the certification of individual practitioners – applied, clinical, and more recently engaged public sociologists (Burawoy 2005). These certified practitioners include counselors, elected officials, mediation specialists, mitigation experts, program 121 Clinical Sociology Review 18(1)2023 Melodye Lehnerer evaluators (profit and non-profit), policy analysts, organizational development specialists, and community organizers. Some members are practitioners full-time while others do it on a part-time basis (e.g., a professor who teaches at a university but sometimes does organizational assessments)” (Lehnerer, M., 2023, pp. 120-121).

Essential Element: The essential element is Applied Sociology and Sociological Practice.

Additive/Variant Analysis: This comment is an additive analysis providing more depth to pursuing a Clinical Sociology Certification through the Association for Clinical and Applied Sociology.

Contextualization: I started a non-profit combining my love for education and humanitarian projects overseas. As a school administrator, we are called to be sociologists in school whether we want to be or not consistently investigating, diagnosing problems, and creating interventions and solutions. There is not a separation between school and society. Everything that is happening in society comes into the school. As I read the definition of a clinical sociologist, it speaks to me. I want to learn how to make a greater impact by devising interventions and solutions for society.

Source Three: Hiebertis, D. (2023). *The Routledge International Handbook of Sociology and Christianity*.

Comment 4:

Quote/Paraphrase: “Only when theology and social science are viewed as equally collective, human, interpretive enterprises (Postman 1988) can not mere conversation, but true dialogue occur. For a conversation to be a dialogue, each party must fully recognize the other as equal, place self at stake, be open to truth, and seek fusion (Gadamer 2000). Refusal to do so is simply a will to mastery. Dialogues must remain in the present and ongoing, neither totalizing nor capitulating, each holding the other accountable, and thereby providing a system of epistemic checks and balances. For truly, the social sciences are at the bottom

“no more than narrated interpretations of reality which possess no privileged status permitting them to judge or police others” (McGrath 2001:119). So too is theology (Hiebert 2008)...” (Hiebertis, D., 2023, p. 5).

Essential Element: The essential element is Applications for Sociological Research.

Additive/Variant Analysis: The book is an additive analysis of my knowledge of social science and theology coexisted as equals in theory.

Contextualization: This article shows the relevance of faith-learning integration. As an educator moving from administration to looking more deeply into societal problems, understanding how theology and social science can be bridged together is invigorating. Similarly, public education and Christian education are at odds because many Christians have separated themselves. As a result, many citizens in America now see the church as irrelevant. To remedy this, the people of God will need to look at secular schools and universities

Comment 5:

Quote/Paraphrase: “Meanwhile, within Protestantism, both the Ilkley Group in Britain and the Christian Sociological Society (CSS) in the United States were conceived in the 1970s and still active into the 2020s, providing a personal network and supportive forum for Christian sociologists. In 1976, the Association of Christians Teaching Sociology (ACTS) emerged out of the CSS, because “CSS and ACTS originated out of overlapping yet distinctly different needs ... ACTS is similar to an academic or scholarly wing of CSS” (Moberg 2015:60). In 2015,

ACTS was renamed the Christian Sociological Association (CSA) to mirror the American Sociological Association (ASA), and it became the organizational co-sponsor of the newly-named biannual *Journal of Sociology and Christianity* (Hiebert 2016a, 2016b). Though the secular sociology of religion in which religion was approached scientifically had come to dominate the academic discipline, Christian sociology was very much alive” (Hiebertis, D., 2023, p. 4).

Essential Element: The essential element is Applications for Sociological Research.

Additive/Variant Analysis: This is an additive analysis in understanding how Christian Sociologists have been an integral part of not only framing sociology but in maintaining a sound academic arena for Christian sociology to maintain its integrity.

Contextualization: It does my heart good to learn about these Christian organizations. This article stated, “Though the secular sociology of religion in which religion was approached scientifically had come to dominate the academic discipline, Christian sociology was very much alive” (Hiebertis, 2023). The importance of this statement can not be overrated as many in the world are attempting to take all things perceived as Christian to turn them around to minimize their significance. This is why as believers we need to identify ourselves as believers and not be ashamed to declare Jesus’ presence in our lives

so that the world cannot deny the goodness of God and His contributions through His people ((Hiebertis, D., 2023, p. 4; John 12:32).

Source Four: Chiarelli, A. A. (2019). Constructing a " Christian Sociological Re-Imagination:" Creation, Fall, and Redemption as a Unifying Analytical Framework. *Journal of Sociology and Christianity*, 9(1), 27-47.

Reichard, J. D. (2024). Applied and Clinical Sociology PowerPoint. Omega Graduate School.

Comment 6:

Quote/Paraphrase: After teaching a university introductory sociology course over two hundred times and using countless sociology textbooks, Antonio Chiareli asserts that the commonality of all of the textbooks for this course is the “theoretically foundational presentation to students of the three main conceptual paradigms in sociology: Structural Functionalist Theory, Conflict Theory, and Symbolic Interactionist Theory. In analyzing how sociology is being taught to students, this professor states, “I have found that how these perspectives are presented to readers, as mutually exclusive and competing explanatory frameworks for social arrangements, phenomena, and problems, runs contrary to my understanding of the social world and its complex empirical reality” (Chiareli, 2019). Structural Functionalist Theory “views society as a complex system” (Reichard, 2024) Conflict Theory “focuses on the social struggles between different groups and the inequality in the distribution of resources and power” (2024). Symbolic Interactionist Theory “emphasizes the role of symbols and

language as core elements of all human interaction” (Reichard, J. D., 2024; Chiareli, A. A., 2019).

Essential Element: The essential element is Applications for Sociological Research.

Additive/Variant Analysis: This article and the course syllabus are an additive analysis in delineating between Structure Functionalist, Conflict Theory, and Symbolic Interactionist Theory versus a Christian Worldview.

Contextualization: Reading this article, helped me to understand the gravity that these theories have had on sociology classes throughout the United States, which constantly leads to the questions of whose voices get to be dominant and why. Chiarelli provided some pushback in assessing the Christian Worldview of the Creation, Fall, and Redemption.

Comment 7:

Quote/Paraphrase: The Christian sociologist is in a unique position to discern God's truth from every mainstream perspective and to create a fresh meta-narrative and analytical framework for interpreting social phenomena, solving social issues, and ultimately comprehending, communicating, and realizing God's truth about social reality. Christian sociology, therefore, can affirm many of the tenets of contemporary sociological theory while simultaneously advancing toward the prophetic and liberating goal of interacting with the discipline and its students in a biblical and transformative manner, aiming to be salt and light

through the integration of this discipline and our Christian faith (Chiarelli, A. A., 2019).

Essential Element: The essential element is Applied Sociology and Sociological Practice.

Additive/Variant Analysis: This article is an additive analysis because it is another example of the importance of Christian scholars being bold and vocal in letting their light shine across all professions giving Jesus the glory for His interventions through those who serve Him.

Contextualization: Chiarelli shared this scripture, "...that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this so that no one may delude you with plausible arguments" (Colossians 2:2-4, ESV). This verse is a testament to God's love for us. While He may not show us everything, God helps us, all of us, and He shows us things when He is ready. God loves the creation that He made despite our disobedience. Jesus proclaimed that "He was the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6), Creation-Fall-Redemption. Redemption started the moment God came to earth for the redemption of the humanity that He created. God says in His Word, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." This is a promise from God!

Source Five: Scimecca, J. A. (2023). *The Not So Outrageous Idea of a Christian Sociology*.

Taylor & Francis.

Comment 8:

Quote/Paraphrase: “In the late nineteenth century, Nietzsche (1968:7) wrote that ‘Nihilism stood at the door.’ For Nietzsche, nihilism simply meant that there is no such thing as truth; there is no answer to the question of “why” beyond one’s self-interest (ibid.:8). Today, that door has an opening, and nihilism has its foot in the doorway. And if nihilism enters the house and becomes accepted, it brings with it nihilism’s primary tenet- meaningless- because meaninglessness is all nihilism has to offer” (Scimecca, J. A., 2023).

Essential Element: The essential element is Applied Sociology and Sociological Practice.

Additive/Variant Analysis: This article is an additive analysis diagnosing one of the most crucial problems in many parts of the world today, nihilism.

Contextualization: Nihilism is evident in every facet of our society as people reject the notion of faith in an unseen God. I believe it is not just the Christian faith that people are walking away from, but all faiths. Christianity is just front and center because of its dominance in the world. The policies and laws that are being promoted are out of man’s imagination and not necessarily grounded in truth and principles. As stated previously, what is happening in society is mirrored in schools. If through applied sociology we can see nihilism permeating throughout American society, then, through clinical sociology, we need to find

solutions to reverse these trends. From the Christian Sociologist Worldview, that is through the Creation-Fall-Redemption model. So what would a redemption piece look like? I believe the answer lies with churches rethinking their mission budget and investing more in missionary work in America.

Comment 9:

Quote/Paraphrase: “Christian or otherwise, there is agreement that the gravest threat to society lies in an attack on its moral center which makes the society legitimate to its citizens. Without a moral core, we are at the mercy of those in power. This is the insight of the great classical sociologists, Auguste Comte, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber, who were most responsible for the institutionalization of sociology in academia” (Scimecca, J. A., 2023).

Essential Element: The essential element is Applied Sociology and Sociological Practice.

Additive/Variant Analysis: This is an additive analysis demonstrating the degradation we are witnessing all over the world.

Contextualization: In this cancel-Christian-culture climate, I believe many people just thought they would just live out their lives however they saw fit regardless of biblical truths with no repercussions. Many did not consider what would happen as a result of destroying people’s faith in a God who cares; a God who watches over their lives, well-being, and their decisions. As a result, here we are. Our children are making decisions in elementary school to be binary or

switch genders without parental consent. You can see the hopelessness in the lives of people and the choices they are making and in their treatment of other people, in how people are wasting their hard-earned money with gambling, pornography, prostitution, drugs, and alcohol. You can also see this sense of hopelessness in the crimes they are being committed on every socio-economic level in America. Gun violence is out of control. As the one percent continue to compromise our national security by selling weapons, factories, toll roads, steel companies, and large industries to the highest bidder on a global stage, enemy or not, we see ads that are being targeted at people with products that will hurt them, such as all the sports betting, and recalls of the food we eat and the products we buy. America has lost her consciousness. Without question, only through Jesus will we find answers that are sustainable as the Holy Spirit works in raising consciousness and changing hearts. Otherwise, as Scimecca stated, “Without a moral core, we are at the mercy of those in power ((Scimecca, J. A., 2023).

Source Six: Zimmerman, J. (2022). *Whose America?: Culture wars in the public schools*. University of Chicago Press.

Comment 10:

Quote/Paraphrase: Zimmerman asserts that the schools are under attack as cultural wars rage on from religious perspectives being included in the curriculum to contributions of people of color. In question is will we tell a true and accurate story of American history, or will we simply paint the picture of the powerful? Zimmerman notes that James Davidson Hunter believed the cultural wars were

not most sharply divided on race, class, or political party, but rather by competing systems of moral understanding (Zimmerman, J., 2022).

Essential Element: The essential element is Applied Sociology and Sociological Practice.

Additive/Variant Analysis: This article is an additive to my knowledge in many respects as a contribution to my understanding of the importance of a person's worldview, but a variant with some of the pushback regarding the Christian worldview.

Contextualization: I appreciate Zimmerman's work as she advocates for public schools. I respect her work. As believers, we need to come alongside those who are serving the masses in public service. Jesus walked and lived among the common everyday people showing kindness, love, and compassion. He often rebuked the pompous leaders of his day for their self-serving grandiosity. Jesus advocated for everyday folks, the poor and downtrodden, and His ministry added to their lives. There are so many Christians living and working for the Lord quietly in professions, homeless shelters, women's shelters, food banks, and communities all over America. Unfortunately, so many non-Christians forget about them because they listen to the political conservative rhetoric of the Donald Trump crowd forgetting about the kind of everyday, ordinary Christians serving Jesus without a microphone, without protest, without cameras-just ordinary people, and so many are selfishly giving all they have to help other ordinary

people. These are the people in our public schools. May God not forget the masses.

Source Seven: Trimikliniotis, N. (2020). Public sociology, social justice and struggles in the era of austerity-and-crises. *International Social Work*, 63(1), 5-17.

Comment 11:

Quote/Paraphrase: “Nonetheless, a great deal can be learned from the alliances for the advancement in struggles for equality. Within the generally bleak global environment of recent decades, if we were to generate a balance sheet on struggles for justice and equality, we would observe at least some positive developments in some human rights norms. The importance of alliances in struggles for justice has led scholars to speak of a ‘justice cascade’, bringing about justice via prosecutions (Sikkink, 2011). This may be over-optimistic and exaggerated; however, we can read these limited/partial successes as part of the emergence of what Ari Sitas (2008) called the ‘ethic of reconciliation’: the advancement of powerful claims to universal human rights is cited as a key component in these struggles” (Trimikliniotis, N., 2020).

Essential Element: The essential element is Applied Sociology and Sociological Practice.

Additive/Variant Analysis: This article is an additive analysis of my view of the importance of forming alliances, especially with faith-based communities, to be more effective and stronger in providing interventions.

Contextualization: I choose Applied Sociology and Sociological practice for some of my comments, but believe it is Applied Sociology and a lack of effective Sociological practices in many areas. I believe in the God of miracles, and if we as Christian Sociologists continue to align our practices with biblical truths, God will use us to work miracles. All Christian churches and houses of worship that have full-time staff supported by people working secular jobs need to step up and come out from behind their Christian walls. There seems to be a lack of interest in transforming communities through missions work in our own country in the same light as in the global missions field. While theologians may not be sociologists, they are Christian leaders and can form alliances with other agencies running innovative programs to serve the community.

Comment 12:

Quote/Paraphrase: “Sociologists and social workers are products of their times. They cannot but make choices about what they ought to do about a world riddled with contradictions. There is no ‘law of the motion of history’ propelling the world to march forward, nor is modernity necessarily a world of rationality, social justice, equality, and progress. As Wallerstein (2000) aptly illustrated, the old problems of ‘deviance, poverty, crime, and all the other “maladies” attributed to the transition from pre-modernity to modernity,’ which were bread and butter for sociologists, criminologists, and social workers, are not being fixed with the old recipes” (Trimikliniotis, N., 2020).

Essential Element: The essential element is Clinical Sociology.

Additive/Variant Analysis: This is an additive analysis because there is a crisis in our world. However, we can collaborate and bring our resources together to attack these problems one at a time.

Contextualization: To meet the needs of families in our communities, Community Schools are sprinkled throughout the country. In partnering with community resources and agencies, community schools combine academics and collaborative leadership with physical and mental health agencies and social services. These schools also work with youth community development and community engagement. When implemented well, Community Schools remove barriers for students to access high-quality learning and out-of-school barriers to learning. The work can be overwhelming and sometimes sociologists and social workers do not have any answers, but Community Schools are an example of how stakeholders can work together to meet the overwhelming needs of students and families in the community (Maier, A., et al, 2017).

Works Cited

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