Cross-Cultural Dynamics

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Professor

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Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements

1.Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:

a.Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited sources) during the first week of the term. Post this document in DIAL.

b.Professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

**Course Essential Elements: Interdisciplinary Cross-cultural Understanding**

Throughout history, the world has become ever so globalized, mainly by way of colonization and trade, however, in the past fifty years, our social world has expanded by way of hyper-globalization of commerce, travel, technology, education, and migration. This puts the average person in a new world experience of daily cross-cultural interactions. Where people of different cultural backgrounds locally live their lives, in addition to having global connections and worldwide information in the palm of their hand. Before many may have only experienced the wider world one directionally through National Geographic magazines.

This cross-cultural infusion may come as a challenge to some, where we typically experience life through a narrow lens of our own socialization, believing that what we do and think is the correct way to believe and behave. In cultural anthropology and sociology, two terms stick out to me, cross-cultural understanding, ethnocentrism, and cultural relativism. Ethnocentrism is where people evaluate other cultures in comparison to their own (Newman, 2023) where there is the assumption that the way other cultures engage live is not the right way to do things (very common perspective in western societies, i.e. historically colonizers). Cultural relativism is where one interprets other cultures in light of that particular culture (Newman, 2023). Where instead of judging other cultural beliefs and ways in light of their understanding of their own culture, one tries to see life being brought up in the other culture, putting oneself in the other person's shoes to try to understand the other culture's view of life. Cultural relativism is not a version of relative truth but is a way to see other cultures in light of that culture.

The problem of cross-culture misunderstandings I believe is a function of ethnocentrism, which I believe all people throughout the world could hold, I think this is particularly problematic in western societies, where there is a particular underpinning of ethnocentrism socialization and history. I do believe that our younger generations in western societies do hold to ethnocentrism less since they have come to have the benefit of being raised in a multi-cultural environment of the hyper-globalized world. This is a blessing indeed, in particular to the church body, to see the world more like Christ, in His wonderful created diversity.

WORKS CITED

Newman, D. M. (2023). Sociology: Exploring the architecture of everyday life. Sage Publications.