**Assignment #3 – Essay Draft**

**The Problem of Moral Failing in American Culture and Society**

SR 953 Research for 21st Century Scholarship

Donovan A. McFarlane

Omega Graduate School

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Professor

Dr. David Ward

**Assignment #3: Essay Draft**

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Begin work on Assignment #4 Research for 21st Century Paper (see below):

1. In preparation for Assignment #4, choose a scholarly topic of interest. Type the topic on the title line on the cover page and the first page of the paper. Explain your reasoning for choosing the topic in the introduction section (after the title and before the first Level 1 heading) of the paper. Use your best academic voice, correct sentence structure, tense, and punctuation. In the rest of the introductory paragraph, preview three points you would address in an essay about your topic with ideas that came from your sources.

2. Develop a list of search terms and phrases that pertain to the subject chosen and include these immediately following the first Level 1 heading. Give the list a name and use the name as the Level 1 heading (use the heading styles in the template and the APA 7 Manual or Guide provided in the hyperlinks in this syllabus). Present the list in a complete sentence or a bulleted list with an opener (e.g., Search terms related to the topic of this paper are as follows:). Use correct punctuation.

3. Continue building the Works Cited list you began in Assignment #2. Locate a minimum of two books (minimum of one published in the last five years) relevant to your chosen topic and develop an APA reference for each book. Insert the properly formatted references in the Works Cited section of the paper.

4. Locate four primary research journal articles relevant to your chosen topic; three articles must be less than five years old. Develop a reference for each journal article and insert the references into the Works Cited section. Put your 10 references in alphabetical order.

**The Problem of Moral Failing in American Culture and Society**

1. **Introduction**

In American society there seems to be a major problem that is affecting us as individuals and communities in our choices and decisions, whether we speak about certain behaviors in public spaces such as in the public media or at the mall or in public view, or even private decisions of individuals concerning dressing and other aspects of life. We see people behaving in ‘shameful’ ways that in the past were highly unlikely and designated as ‘immoral behaviors.’ However, what meany once scuffed at have now become behaviors exhibited in public such as lying, making false claims, demeaning others for personal benefits, and the like. There seems to be little to no strong condemnation of such behaviors, but rather rewards in terms of attention and popularity. This lack of moral accountability and responsibility has even made itself to the highest and most noble office in this nation: The Presidency of the United States as evident from the constant lies and behaviors displayed by Donald J. Trump who was elected in 2016 as the 45th President of the United States, and who is running for the Presidency for the November 2024 election, even despite several apparent moral failings. It is not just the highest office in the land that moral failure has been reflected, but this is reflected in the behaviors of ordinary citizens and famous personalities from both the sports arena and Hollywood. What is really causing this problem of continued moral failing in American culture and society, and is there a solution? In order to address this question, this essay looks into three major themes below.

* **The Causes of Moral Failure in Culture and Society**
* **Consequences of Moral Failure in Culture and Society**
* **Solutions to Moral Failure in Culture and Society**

1. **Search Terms**

The search terms related to this topic are as follows:

* Moral decline in America
* Moral Education
* Declining values in American Culture
* Morality and Leadership

1. **Book Sources:**

Butler, A. (2021). *White evangelical racism: The politics of morality in America*. UNC Press Books.

Greene, J. (2021). *How rights went wrong: Why our obsession with rights is tearing America apart*. Houghton Mifflin.

Inglehart, R.F. (2020). *Religion's sudden decline: What's causing it, and what comes next?*. Oxford University Press.

Marsden, G.M. (2022). *Fundamentalism and American culture*. Oxford University Press.

Nye, J.S. (2020). *Do morals matter?: Presidents and foreign policy from FDR to Trump*. Oxford University Press, USA.

Stivers, R. (2023). *The culture of cynicism: American morality in decline*. Wipf and Stock Publishers.

Whitehead, A.L., & Perry, S.L. (2020). *Taking America back for god: Christian nationalism in the United States*. Oxford University Press.

1. **Journal Articles:**

Blanton, R.E., Feinman, G.M., Kowalewski, S.A., & Fargher, L.F. (2020). Moral collapse and state failure: A view from the past. *Frontiers in Political Science*, *2*, 568704.

Deflem, M. (2020). Popular culture and social control: The moral panic on music labeling. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, *45*, 2-24.

Inglehart, R.F. (2020). Giving up on God. *Foreign Affairs*, *99*(5), 110-118.

Kydd, A. H. (2021). Decline, radicalization and the attack on the US Capitol. *Violence: An International Journal*, *2*(1), 3-23.

Killen, M., & Dahl, A. (2021). Moral reasoning enables developmental and societal change. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, *16*(6), 1209-1225.

Mastroianni, A.M., & Gilbert, D.T. (2023). The illusion of moral decline. *Nature*, *618*(7966), 782-789.

**Works Cited**

Blanton, R.E., Feinman, G.M., Kowalewski, S.A., & Fargher, L.F. (2020). Moral collapse and state failure: A view from the past. *Frontiers in Political Science*, *2*, 568704.

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