**Brian, you synthesized the course really well in your journal. You really seemed to grow in a sense of Christian historical perspective. Although MLK is a hero of the faith for civil rights in America, your choice of him as an exemplar seemed to awaken a fresh appreciation of how one Christian can change the world.**

**My favorite passage was this: “Omega Graduate School, OGS, has sparked a renewed interest in personal growth. The concept of being able to teach an old dog new tricks underscore the idea that personal growth is an ongoing journey of self-improvement. It involves developing and enhancing the ability to reassess past actions with a fresh perspective, particularly religious beliefs and societal norms. Personal growth is not a destination but a continuous learning, adapting, and evolving process.”**

**Seeing recognition of groeth like this is what fulfills me in my calling as a teacher and mentor of leaders.**

**It has been an honor to have such an excellent student in my class!**

**Keep up the great work!**

**Dr. Ward**

**Grade: A**

PHI 815-22 History of the Integration of Religion and Society

C. Brian Diggs

Omega Graduate School

Date: October 5, 2024

Professor

David Ward, Ph.D., Th.M.

**Assignment #4** – Course Learning Journal

The journal is a written reflection of your learning journey while working on 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.

Throughout history, the integration of religion and society has taken on diverse forms, giving rise to notable social movements, community advancement, and cultural enrichment. The interplay between the course’s essential elements, such as social reforms, religion, and models of societal integration, is particularly evident when studying the impact of Christianity on society and the methods employed by historians to analyze these interactions.

Christianity has played a pivotal role in propelling numerous social reforms, particularly in advancing the cause of social justice. Christian principles have catalyzed countless reform movements, emphasizing the value of all individuals and the obligation to support marginalized communities. Martin Luther King Jr. drew upon Christian ethics to advocate for societal transformation. The impact of Christianity on society has left an indelible mark on Western society, particularly in terms of ethics and morality. Christian teachings have influenced morality concepts, legislation, societal norms, and personal conduct.

When evaluating the impact of Christianity on society, historians employ a diverse range of methodologies. By integrating perspectives from sociology and theology, researchers can gain a more comprehensive understanding of the intricate interplay between Christianity and societal development. Historically, scholars have used various approaches to examine how Christianity influenced social reform movements and societal values. These approaches include quantitative analysis, which uses statistical data to analyze trends in social reform movements and their correlation with religious influences. Additionally, qualitative research methods are employed to study texts, artifacts, and oral histories to uncover insights into how Christianity has shaped societal values and practices. Comparative history is another method that involves comparing different cultures or periods to comprehend the diverse impacts of Christianity on social structures and reforms.

The course history of the integration of religion and society is relevant to OGS's focus on interdisciplinary studies that connect theological reflection with practical societal issues. Understanding the historical integration of religion and society at OGS is crucial as it gives us, as students, insight into the intricate relationship between faith and social dynamics. This knowledge empowers us to engage with contemporary issues deliberately and effectively, thereby creating a fairer and more compassionate society.

**Personal Growth**

Omega Graduate School, OGS, has sparked a renewed interest in personal growth. The concept of being able to teach an old dog new tricks underscore the idea that personal growth is an ongoing journey of self-improvement. It involves developing and enhancing the ability to reassess past actions with a fresh perspective, particularly religious beliefs and societal norms. Personal growth is not a destination but a continuous learning, adapting, and evolving process. As I embarked on this journey, my initial framework was shaped by the values instilled in me through upbringing, career, and societal expectations. However, as I progress in my studies, I am committed to challenging the comfort of my beliefs, whether they stem from tradition, training, or personal experiences. This approach has provided me with heightened self-awareness and a better understanding of my strengths, weaknesses, values, beliefs, and emotions.

**Reflective Entry**

I have engaged in various pursuits throughout my life, starting with my experiences as a student and an athlete involved in various sports during my childhood. As I matured into adulthood, my interests expanded, ultimately leading me to pursue a career encompassing roles in law enforcement, fitness coaching, mental health coaching, and pastoral counseling. Initially, I kept these different facets of my life separate, striving to maintain clear boundaries between each discipline. However, as I matured, I realized the significance of prioritizing my faith and allowing it to guide every aspect of my life. OGS has been instrumental in refining this dimension of my life by offering guidance and resources that combined these diverse areas in a manner that exceeded my initial expectations.

**Conclusion**

I have gained additional resources and strategies to enhance my professional skills in this course. It has guided me in effectively integrating my faith into my career. The OGS professors emphasize religious viewpoints' significance in historical and current social matters. Furthermore, OGS has created educational programs that delve into the connection between religion, morality, and social equality, which has fostered me to think critically. Allowing God’s grace to lead in all aspects not only enriches my professional life but also allows me to make a meaningful impact on society.