SR 968-22 Sociological Methodology

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Professor

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**Assignment #4** – Course Learning Journal The journal reflects 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, incorporating new ideas into your existing knowledge of each course. This is also an opportunity to communicate with your professor insights gained because 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, 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 course's effectiveness in meeting your professional, religious, and educational goals.

The field of sociology about Christianity examines how sociological principles, methods, and research can provide an understanding of Christian faith, practice, and community dynamics. It encompasses the study of social frameworks, cultural ramifications, and collective actions that create distinct types of religious engagement and expression among Christian groups. Because sociology is all based on social interactions, it equips us to understand our social interactions with faith. Such a multidisciplinary approach makes the study of Christianity important. It encourages understanding our faith and how it impacts us in different social structures, leading to a more comprehensive perspective of our religious life in the modern world.

**Personal Growth**

Understanding sociology and Christianity allows us to explore how our faith interacts with our social world. Understanding sociology and Christianity has allowed me to develop a broader approach to both disciplines by examining how my religious beliefs impact my professional and social behavior. As I continue to apply my faith to my profession, I better understand how my faith guides my relationship with my coworkers, subordinates, and the citizens I am sworn to protect. My faith is the ethos behind my actions and ethical behavior in my daily li. Still, it highlights the transformative power of faith in tackling social challenges such as inequality, injustice, and marginalization as I perform my duties as a police officer.

I have looked at how the interpretation and expression of the Christian faith are highly contingent on societal and historical context and cultural and economic conditions. These societal conditions are leading factors for movements for social justice.

Understanding sociological factors can inform Christian engagement with social issues. At the same time, Christian insights can enrich sociological study and strengthen a commitment to ethical living within communities.

**Reflective Entry**

This first year attending Omega Graduate School has been transformative in my approach to my career in law enforcement. As stated earlier, sociology is based on social interactions; sociology equips us to understand our social interactions. Applying this definition to my Christian faith gives me the ethical, moral, and compassionate eye that was often put aside during my career. As police officers in the police academy, we are taken from our worlds, stripped down, and indoctrinated into the mindset and culture of a police officer. Laws are black and white; while going through this indoctrination phase, our social interaction is focused on enforcing the law.

When my Christian faith is added to the equation, the dynamic changes. The purpose and mission of enforcing the law remain the same; however, how I approach those I am sworn to protect and serve differs. In law enforcement, we often see people at their worst; every call we respond to does not mean they are terrible. They are just in a bad situation at the time. My Christian faith gives me an ethical perspective that is not just black and white or right or wrong. Still, it provides me with a moral and ethical social dynamic for administering the laws in the communities equally and justly, irrespective of the communities or the socio-economic status of the individuals I deal with. In explaining the transformational change I am undergoing, watching how I impact the other members of my unit and agency is interesting. I am interested to see how different age brackets and officers' experiences affect their understanding and application of Christian values in daily interactions.

My experience with gaining a greater understanding of sociology and Christianity is based on more than just the law enforcement aspect of my job. Policing does not stop once we arrest someone and transport them to the Department of Corrections. Our treatment of those in the community extends not only to those who commit crimes but to their families and friends and, because of the news media, the community. I have found that the integration of sociology and Christianity allows me to filter laws through the lens of my religious beliefs, subsequently allowing me to provide more fair and equitable treatment of individuals that I come into contact with. This has given me the skill set to teach and train those under my command to balance the adherence to our policies and procedures, our officer survival mindset, with ethical considerations rooted in their faith.

**Conclusion**

The field of sociology of Christianity examines how sociological principles, methods, and research can help us understand Christian faith, practice, and community dynamics. Understanding sociology and Christianity allows us to explore how our faith interacts with our social world. Understanding sociology and Christianity has allowed me to develop a broader approach to both disciplines by examining how my religious beliefs impact my professional and social behavior.

As police officers in the police academy, we are taken from our worlds, stripped down, and indoctrinated into the mindset and culture of a police officer. Laws are black and white; while going through this indoctrination phase, our social interaction is focused on enforcing the law. My Christian faith gives me an ethical perspective that is not just black and white or right or wrong; it provides me with a moral and social dynamic for administering the laws in the communities equally and justly, irrespective of the communities or the socio-economic status of the individuals I deal with. Integrating sociology and Christianity has allowed me to filter laws through the lens of my religious beliefs, subsequently allowing me to provide a fair and equitable treatment of individuals that I took an oath to protect and serve. The ability to integrate faith into the academy training, in-service training, and an officers career enhance the chances of providing fair and equitable treatment to all members of society.