**Assignment #1**

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Omega Graduate School

SR 968- 22 Sociological Methodology

Professor Dr. Joshua Reichard

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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).

**Faith-Integrated Sociological Analysis**

Faith-integrated sociological analysis blends traditional sociological ideas with faith-based perspectives to better understand social issues. While sociology often focuses on secular explanations, adding faith-based insights can bring moral and ethical dimensions that deepen the discussion. This combined approach helps researchers look at cultural challenges and social trends from a broader angle.

For example, when examining problems like poverty, traditional sociologists might point to economic structures or government policies as the main causes. But by including faith-based perspectives, we can also consider the importance of community support, moral responsibilities to help those in need, and the role of religious groups in providing social services or support. This approach doesn’t just look at material factors but also considers how spiritual values can influence behaviors and outcomes (Heddendorf & Vos, 2010).

Faith integration also offers a different way of understanding social change. While many theories emphasize economic or political forces, faith-based views often highlight the power of ethical principles and moral renewal. History shows us that some of the most impactful social movements, like the civil rights movement, were driven by religious leaders who combined calls for legal reform with moral arguments (Farganis, 2004).

In today’s world, blending faith with sociology helps tackle complex social issues more holistically. It pushes scholars to go beyond narrow explanations and include the role of values and spirituality in shaping society. By doing so, this approach not only broadens our understanding but also helps develop solutions that resonate with a variety of communities.

**References**

Heddendorf, R., & Vos, M. (2010). Hidden threads: A Christian critique of sociological theory. University of America Press.

Farganis, J. (2004). Readings in social theory: The classic tradition to post-modernism (4th ed.). The McGraw-Hill Companies.