PHI1923 Contextualization for Social Change

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Professor

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

a. Weekend Residency: Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited

sources) during the week of the residency. Be prepared to discuss and engage

with other students during the live sessions. 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).

**Contextualization for Constructive Social Change**

People contextualize information based on their own cultural experience, context and background. In order for transformative, transformational constructive social change to take place there needs to be conviction, knowledge of the context of the problem and a deep desire and will to effect change. Contextualization is about making a connection and communicating in a way that makes sense for the audience, “in a language and form that is comprehensible” (Keller, 2013).

Feldmann’s (2016) work embodies social currency movement as a means of driving constructive change through contextualization of opportunities to reach activists, donors and others along a path of action. Context does matter. From a missiological, anthropological and sociological context, world changers have been brought into the life world of the interdisciplinary approach to change interspersed with the spheres of life: family, ministry, work, political functions and cultural roles.

Theological contextualization in particular translatability and relatability of God’s word to our lives is an important factor for contextualization for social change (Moreau, 2005). The story of Peter in particular and his faith experience around fear and trusting God to walk on water, not taking his eyes off Him, has always been useful for my daily living (Matthew 14:22-31). As a Christian scholar, social work educator practitioner who has built a career and life around change, this consideration of contextualization is formational. Additionally, the cultural context within a Jamaican/ Caribbean population is important to build context to influence change for families and women’s revolution from care work is part of my calling to change the world.

**Works Cited**

Feldmann, D. (2016). Social movements for good: How companies and causes create viral

 change. John Wiley & Sons.

Keller, T. (2013, February 28). What is contextualization? [Video file]. YouTube.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3eUvwzmV0P8>

Moreau, S. Contextualization: Adapted Message to an Adapted Life in Pocock, M. (2005)

 Changing face of world missions: Engaging contemporary issues and trends.

 Baker Academic.