PHI 815 History of the Integration of Religion and Society

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Omega Graduate School

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Professor

Dr. David Ward

**Content Questions**

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

a. Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited sources) during the 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).

**Christianity’s Influence on Society**

Religion plays a powerful role in the lives of people and society. According to Nath (2015), “Religion occupies an important place in human society” (p. 82), and this place will always prevail no matter how advanced our technologies and scientific discoveries become. Why? Religion is the only hope of mankind beyond the materialism and mundane realities of the world we know. Religion serves a functional role in society as “It formulates human conduct, behaviour, social sense morality etc.” (Nath, 2015, p. 82), and God knows we are in need of morality and better human conduct in a society and a world beset by so many dysfunctions today. One religion that has been extraordinarily powerful in influencing human society is Christianity. A core essential element from the course, PHI 815 History of Integration of Religion and Society, is what is described as a “Christianity’s Influence on Society.”

The influence of religion via Christianity on society has been witnessed over many centuries in various forms and sectors of human lives. This is noted in the syllabus for PHI 815 via the “social impact of Jesus and Christianity in multiple ways, i.e., advancing human rights, abolishing slavery, improving morality, advancing education, art, science, and democracy, and other areas of social concern” (Omega Graduate School, 2025, p. 2). This is indeed the case as we see Christianity in arts forms including poetry, painting, songs, dance, theatrical performances of diverse types, public order and government, and even business in the sale of religious artefacts, travel and vacations such as visits to venerated religious places, and many other areas of life. For example, in the area of education and learning, religion has been integrated into some programs and schools, and there are also specialized schools of religion based on Christianity such as the many seminaries and Bible colleges across the United States and the globe. There is also some levels of faith-learning integration such as that promulgated by Omega Graduate School (Ward, 2014).

Recently in the United States, Christianity, the conservative brand of Christianity has emerged powerfully to affect politics and government, infiltrating the Supreme Court, the Congress, and the Presidency despite the idea of “Separation of Church and State” in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. The 45th and now 47th President of the United States, Donald J. Trump has been one of the most influenced by Christianity and Christian ideas in the 21st century, especially as evangelicals have come to influence and affect his policy initiatives and ideas. Unfortunately, some of these reflect fundamental Christian beliefs and not the unity which God’s vision for humankind entails. Whatever the case, religion, and particularly, Christianity has touched all aspects of society, and the existence of a powerful Christian State such as The Vatican and its Catholicism influence about 1.4 billion people across the globe in their values, lifestyles, and beliefs (Krapic, 2023). The Christian Church is a very powerful catalyst for transformation in society (Akanbi & Beyers, 2017). In the recent inauguration of the President of the United States, we saw the importance of religion via the National Cathedral (The Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul) as the 47th President of the United States and his family attended the religious ceremony. We have seen the role of religion and Christianity thoroughly displayed in the coronation of England’s King Charles, and how much religion shapes the political views of many Americans regarding issues such as gender, orientation, and attitudes toward immigration and other issues. Religion, and especially Christianity is powerful in western society and the lives of individuals.

**Works Cited**

Akanbi, S.O., & Beyers, J. (2017). The church as a catalyst for transformation in the society. *Hervormde Teologiese Studies, 73*(4) <http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/hts.v73i4.4635>.

Krapic, N.B. (2023). Global Catholic population rising as number of priests, religious falls. Vatican News, October 20, 2023. Retrieved January 23, 2025, from <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2023-10/fides-catholic-church-statistics-world-mission-sunday.html>.

Nath, S. (2015). Religion and its role in society. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, *20*(11), 82-85.

Omega Graduate School. (2025). *PHI 815 History of the Integration of Religion and Society Syllabus* (Spring 2025, Term A). Dayton, Tennessee: Omega Graduate School.

Ward, D.C. (2014). Interdisciplinary faith-learning integration for social change. *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies, 26*(1/2). 29-56.