Integration of Religion and Society

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Omega Graduate School

March 3, 2025

Dr. David Ward

**Lemma, excellent work on this assignment!**

**You effectively integrated concepts in the Integration of Religion and Society Course Learning Journal to support your academic and professional goals. Your reflective synthesis aligns with the course's essential elements and reflects your professional interests.**

**Your reflections show thoughtful engagement with the course content for PHI 815-22. You nailed it when you wrote, "the course teaches how to analyze trends, issues, and problems that need the transforming impact of a Christian worldview in the social sciences. It also enhances critical thinking skills to clarify the nature and significance of issues related to the integration of religion and society." My response: Exactly, and the skill is HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE informed by divinely revealed truth from God through the Scriptures. Critical thinking happens when issues in society are discerned in relation to their effects in either marginalizing faith and morals FROM society versus the humanizing ethical effect of integrating religion IN society!**

**Toward the end you wrote, "The course stretched me to examine the far-reaching role of Christianity in history. I’m deeply moved by how God actively directs history and how he persistently uses his church to impact this world." I encourage to to follow through on this decision: "I have actually decided to create a short video for the general public in my local language to briefly explain how our Christian faith has impacted societies."**

**As for your question, "• What are some of the secular movements in my country of Ethiopia that the Church should address and how?"**

**Check this out:**

**https://www.mnnonline.org/news/gospel-truth-taking-more-ground-amid-hostility/**

**The journal shows you are preparing to change your world. Here is a question for you: How can you communicate the need for change to overcome resistance in your social/organizational context? The world doesn't change constructively without overcoming the entrenched powers of resistance to God's kingdom.**

**I really appreciate your personal reflection and professional contextualization in this course, Lemma. Please reach out with any questions, Lemma. -- Dr. David Ward**

**Grade: A**

**Assignment #4 – Course Learning Journal**

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

**Introduction**

The Omega Graduate School (OGS) seeks to develop a Christian professional who would integrate the right faith with the right action, thus, live a transformed life that can transform a society. As stated in the course description, History of Integration of Religion and Society is a course that provides a historical perspective on and illustrates models of the integration of religion and society. The course seeks to equip learners to change **the** world by integrating their faith with society.

Emphatically, the course teaches on how to analyze trends, issues, and problems that need the transforming impact of a Christian worldview in the social sciences. It also enhances critical thinking skills to clarify the nature and significance of issues related to the integration of religion and society. It describes historical precedents of Christianity's positive and negative social impacts for guidance in social change. In general, the course challenges the student to bridge the gap between professed and operational beliefs in whole of life as they apply to social transformation.

The course essential elements were highly relevant to my personal, professional, and social roles as a Christian. The study involves a guided self-learning process through lectures, progressive assignments, clear grading systems and set of examples in doing assignments, sources for readings, and professional help from the Professor and the OGS team throughout. The learning process allows creativity and personal reflection within the framework of professional standards and generally accepted Christian values. It exposes to divergent views, yet, allows personal responses in a reasonable and biblically founded manner.

**Personal Growth**

My personal learning goal was to grow to maturity as a Christian leader to better equip other Christian leaders lo live and to serve better in their spheres of influence. In light of this personal aspiration, the course has inspired me hope in several ways.

The course stretched me to examine the far-reaching role of Christianity in history. I’m deeply moved by how God actively directs history and how he persistently uses his church to impact this world. I’m affirmed that God plan shall come to pass no matter what. Such insight has been encouraging personally to me to faithfully and persistently live up to my God given call. The course has broadened my understanding of God’s role in human history, strengthened my faith, and inspired me to persevere.

 The course also exposed me to very helpful scholarly sources, which I didn’t know before. And now, I know where to go to for my future reading and training needs. The course uses the Bible as point of reference, which encouraged me to continue to honor and study the Word of God as reference for my Christian perceptions and practices. In short, the course has broadened my view, challenged my perceptions and actions, built my confidence as believer, enriched my passion to serve, and equipped me with skills to be able to search and apply scholarly sources in a principled professional fashion.

I was truly touched by the second chance I was given and by how my professor treated me enabled me to complete the course despite my multiple responsibilities.

**Reflective Entry**

My ministry responsibility is to train church leaders to faithfully continue the work of the ministry. I often use Bible texts and some research data that shows continued church growth, thus, prove God’s sovereignty and highlight that God’s Kingdom is surely but slowly advancing. I didn’t have broader perspective on how Christianity has been impacting history at such global scale.

Now, I’m highly initiated to review my training content, and include the major indicators on how Christianity has continued to shape history worldwide through generations. The truth and resources that I discovered through this course has highly encouraged me personally, and I have no doubt that it’s going to equip Christian leaders toward greater commitment. I have actually decided to create a short video for the general public in my local language to briefly explain how our Christian faith has impacted societies. I believe, this is going to encourage the gospel believers at large to live, to defend, and to boldly share their Christian faith.

In the meantime, the following question came to my mind:

* What are some of the secular movements in my country of Ethiopia that the Church should address and how?

While I continue to research responses to the aforementioned question, I have resolved to pass on the insights that I have gained from this course to my sphere of influence.