PHI 815 History of the Integration of Religion and Society

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Professor

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# 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 syllabus for the History of Integration of Religion and Society tells the student that this course provides a guide to the historical perspective of the integration of religion and society. It also gives models and methods on how to integrate religion and society. This course helps us correct modern secular historical revisionism by tracing the social impact of Jesus and Christianity. Christianity impacted society by advancing human rights, abolishing slavery, improving morality, advancing education, art, science, democracy, and other areas of social concern. Students are challenged to change the world by integrating their faith with society.

This course is the linchpin of the Doctor of Social Leadership program, as it concentrates on how religion and society have been integrated in the past, are being integrated in the present, and can continue to be integrated in the future. This course lays the foundation for future research on integrating religion and society.

The courses in core one teach the students how to research for the doctoral program and help the students understand the Oxford tutorial form of education. The courses in core one clarified the need for scholarly research to write good papers that will bring social change by applying Biblical principles to everyday life. Having this course as the first course in core two allows students to understand the integration of religion and society as they progress toward their doctoral project or dissertation. Everything from now on is building upon what was learned in core one. This course is the roadmap for all future research as the student progresses through the remaining courses. This course showed the students they are building upon the historical foundation of integrating religion and society. The placement of this course in the curriculum is strategic as a bridge between the courses in Core One and the remaining courses for cores two, three, four, and five.

**Personal Growth**

The first time I heard the concept of integrating religion and society was in this course. This course helped me understand the importance of integrating religion and society. Before taking this course, I seldom considered how Christianity impacted society as I always concentrated on individuals being saved and discipled. My training about how to do church planting taught the church planters how to research the needs of the society they will serve. Until this course, I did not understand that I was teaching them about integrating religion and society. As a result of this course, I now understand that if religion is not integrated into society, then we are wasting our time because our ministry will not bring change to culture and society. I now understand the importance of the study of sociology so our ministry can effectively bring about change in individual lives and society as a whole.

For the past 40 years of missionary ministry in Kenya, I have often seen the need for societal change but did not understand

This course has increased my interest in taking more sociology courses and expanding my knowledge of social anthropology. This course has helped guide my educational journey by giving me a pathway for my research toward my doctoral action project.

**Reflective Entry**

As a result of this course, I have started to rethink and rework my teaching notes, mainly focusing on incorporating the history of integrating religion and society. Previously, I never considered this was important as my focus was always on individual salvation and discipleship. However, this course has broadened my understanding, highlighting the importance of integrating religion and society in every area of ministry.

I am considering rewriting and expanding my teaching notes to incorporate teaching on how the history of integrating religion and society can guide our ministry today. We can learn from the victories and the mistakes that were made in the past to be more successful in our ministry now.

With this shift, I aim to equip my students with research skills they can apply in a wide range of disciplines, fostering a historical and thoughtful approach to all areas of study.. By integrating these insights into my teaching, I believe my students will gain a more holistic, well-rounded approach to learning.

**Conclusion**

The History of Integration of Religion and Society course has been a great learning experience. This course has given me a better understanding of Christianity’s impact on society. In my research for this course I learned how faith has historically shaped human rights, education, democracy, and morality. As stated in the syllabus, Christianity has challenged the secular revisionism that often ignores Christianity’s role in social progress.

Before taking this course, my ministry focus was on the salvation and discipleship of individuals. This course has taught me that true transformation requires engaging society. My missionary work in Kenya exposed me to the need for societal change, but I lacked a clear framework for integrating faith with culture. This course has given me that understanding. Through this course, I now know that ministry must go beyond personal evangelism to bring about lasting cultural and social change.

This course has sparked an interest in further study in sociology and social anthropology. These disciplines offer tools for analyzing cultural contexts and developing strategies for effectively bringing social change. Without this understanding, ministry efforts risk being superficial, failing to address deeper systemic issues.

As I continue in the Doctor of Social Leadership program, this course will serve as a foundational guide for my research and future doctoral action project. Moving forward, I am more committed than ever to applying these principles, equipping others to do the same, and striving to see the Kingdom of God influence every sphere of human society.

**Steve, this fanststic journal has been one of the most gratifying I have read, because of who you are as a missionary and the country impacting ministry you have. You are a good writier. You completely got the point of the course and its seed was sown in good soil that is going to bear fruit 30, 60, and a hundred fold! Thank you. Maybe someday I could package a version of it to come and teach at one of your schools on a mission trip? Grade: A+**