**PHI 815-22: History of the Integration of Religion and Society (Spring 2025, Subterm A)**

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Professor

Dr. David Ward

Assignment #1 – Course 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).

**Sheri, this is a good Assignment #1 focusing essentially on the Course Essential Element of Social Reforms. You demonstrated well-grounded research in finding relevant sources (especially recent Journal articles) to support your discussion essay.** **Remember that you can use any of the many course resources for the course in DIAL as Developmental Reading sources. In a brief essay, you highlighted Christianity’s civilizational impact especially on education, in health care, and in labor policies. You a good take-away application at the end for leaders: “Implementing [social] reforms in education, healthcare, and labor policies enables societies to become more inclusive and fairer. Leaders need to elevate these initiatives to build a future where everyone can prosper.”** **Well done. Your APA form is good but note my corrections regarding titles of books, articles, and policy papers: the article titles are not italicized and the journal title and volume # are italicized; book titles are italicized and in sentence case; policy papers are like book titles. It would be good to get used to using the Ruler to create 1/5 inch indented paragraphs instead of spaces. Keep up the good work! Dr. Ward**

**Grade: A**

**Social Reforms** Social reforms function as a cornerstone in building fair societies through the elimination of systemic injustices and the establishment of routes for societal advancement. Their efforts focus on correcting differences in education access and healthcare services while improving economic prospects and civil rights to promote inclusive improvement. Social reforms play a vital role in achieving long-term stability by guaranteeing sidelined groups access to growth opportunities and empowerment resources.

 Educational equity stands out as a crucial domain for social reform efforts. Darling-Hammond. (2020) state that access to quality education acts as a fundamental element in tackling social inequalities. Equitable educational investments serve to close the difference between advantaged groups and communities that lack sufficient resources. Reforms that redistribute resources towards underfunded schools have demonstrated success in improving educational results and prospects for students who come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. When education systems provide equal opportunities for all students it produces widespread societal benefits by disrupting the ongoing patterns of poverty.

 Healthcare stands out as a vital domain needing social reform attention. The growth of affordable healthcare services remains key for both enhancing public health results and resolving embedded social disparities. Research demonstrates Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act has decreased uninsured rates while enabling helpless populations to access preventative care more effectively (Sommers, 2022). The reduction of healthcare disparities advances both personal health outcomes and economic strength through decreased medical debt and improved workforce attendance.

 Social reforms cover both labor and economic policies which seek to diminish income inequality. Programs that increase minimum wages and provide paid family leave benefits clearly enhance financial stability while lowering poverty levels. Fair labor reforms create pathways to economic progress and enable workers to achieve their financial independence according to Mishel and Bivens (2021).

 Social reforms serve as essential tools for correcting universal injustices while enhancing overall societal health. Implementing reforms in education, healthcare, and labor policies enables societies to become more inclusive and fairer. Leaders need to elevate these initiatives to build a future where everyone can prosper.

WORKS CITED

Darling-Hammond, L., Schachner, A., & Edgerton, A. K. (2020). *Restarting and Reinventing School: Learning in the Time of COVID and Beyond.* Learning Policy Institute.

Mishel, L., & Bivens, J. (2021). *Identifying the Policy Levers Generating Wage Inequality.* Economic Policy Institute.

Sommers, B. D., Gunja, M. Z., & Finegold, K. (2022). *The Affordable Care Act and Recent Trends in Health Coverage.* The Commonwealth Fund.