PHI-815 History of the Integration of Religion & Society

Sheri Dozier

Omega Graduate School

Date February 16, 2025

Professor

Dr. David Ward

Assignment

### *Developmental Readings*

1. Create Developmental Readings from seminal sources and scholarly peer-reviewed journal articles. Review instructions for Assignment #3, the course essential elements, and course readings to identify selections of books and journals to create entries.

a. Refer to the "Student Guide to Developmental Readings" in the General

Helps folder for updated information on sample comments, the grading rubric,

and key definitions related to developmental readings.

**Sheri, great job on your Developmental Reading Assignment #2 for PHI 815-22!**

**Quote/Parahrases: You chose relevant sources, most of which were provided in course resources. This is fine for this course as they are seminal works on the subject (Hegeman, Hunter, Schmidt, Wolters & Goheen). Your selected readings are from appropriate and current scholarly sources.**

**Essential Element: Is the component of a Developmental Readings Comment is where you need to identify which Course Essential Element from the Syllabus your selected reading is related to, so for PHI 815 here are the Course Essential Elements**

**1. Social Reforms**

**2. Religion & Society Integration Models**

**3. Christianity’s Influence on Society**

**4. Historical Methodologies**

**You described the Essential Elements each reading related but it would help in future course work to see the brief list in each Syllabus and in your brief discussion, name a specific one that the Syllabus lists in for clarity's sake.**

**Additive/Variant Analyses: You demonstrated critical thinking by by juxtaposing ideas from different sources in relation to each other with both Additive and Variants reflections. That was really good. Feel free to discuss a little more in the Analysis portions. How do these diverse sources relate to your concerns in society as a person of faith? Do some starting assumptions lead to different outcomes that are open to critique?**

**Contextualizations: Your discussions showed good understanding of the relevance of the selected portions to course related topics, but feel free in the Contextualization portions to explain how you might apply insights from the author to your profession, your life, your church, or family, or community. Or even how you might apply ideas to your understanding of a subject of interest. Show how you are building your own expertise and how the history of Christianity's impact in society can apply to the differences you are trying to make.**

**Works Cited: Your list of sources conforms to APA7 style, but here are tips to improve: Journal Volume numbers are italicized along with the Journal Titles. If you find any dissertations in the future that are relevant to your research interests, here is the form to follow: The format for Dissertations uses the following form: Author. (Year). Title in italics and sentence case. [Type of Dissertation or Thesis, Awarding Institution]. url [if relevant].**

**Overall, a solid assignment! -- Dr. David Ward**

**Source One:** Akanbi, S. O., & Beyers, J. (2017). The church as a catalyst for transformation in the society. *Hervormde Teologiese Studies, 73 (4).*

**Comment 1:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** The church functions beyond a worship space by actively promoting social justice and community development while offering moral guidance to its members. (Akanbi & Beyers, 2017, p. 4)

**Essential Element:** The article explores how the church functions as a driving force for social change through its theological approach to faith-based actions. Akanbi and Beyers contend that religious institutions function as pivotal agents of social change by meeting both spiritual and practical societal needs.

**Variant Analysis:** While Ward (2014) explores interdisciplinary faith-learning integration this article instead examines how the church functions as an institution that influences societal development.

**Contextualization:** This resource provides valuable insights into faith-based activism and the church’s duty to confront societal challenges outside traditional religious activities.

**Source Two:** Hegeman, D. B. (2007). *Plowing in Hope: Toward a Biblical Theology of Culture,* 2nd. Ed. Canon Press

**Comment 2:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** Christians must engage with culture because it represents a fundamental way to express their faith in the world. (Hegeman, 2007, p. 12)

**Essential Element:** The book advocates that faith must be integrated into cultural development instead of remaining isolated from it. Hegeman explains how Christians need to use biblical principles to interact with and influence cultural development.

**Variant Analysis:** Wolters & Goheen (2005) examine how worldviews develop but Hegeman defines cultural transformation as a faith-based activity.

**Contextualization:** This book provides foundational biblical principles necessary for Christians who study the relationship between theology and cultural engagement.

**Source Three:** Hunter, J. D. (2010). To Change the World: *The irony, tragedy, and possibility of Christianity in the late modern world.* Oxford University Press.

**Comment 3:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** The church exerts its greatest cultural influence through a persistent faith-based presence rather than the exercise of power. (Hunter, 2010, p. 95)

**Essential Element:** The book presents a new method for cultural engagement that opposes conventional Christian tactics by promoting an approach that achieves meaningful impact through quiet influence.

**Variant Analysis:** Hunter evaluates Christian activism's impact in today's culture as opposed to Noebel (2006) which outlines different worldviews. Hunter challenges modern Christianity’s influence methods and suggests genuine cultural transformation emerges from faithful existence rather than political dominance.

**Contextualization:** This source proves vital for debates on social activism inspired by religious beliefs especially in light of today's political and cultural changes.

**Source Four:** Kgatla, S. T., & Kamukwamba, D. G. (2019). Mission as the creation of God-ward culture: A critical missiological analysis. *Verbum Et Ecclesia*.

**Comment 4:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** Christian mission efforts extend past simple conversion as they work to establish a culture deeply rooted in divine principles. (Kgatla & Kamukwamba, 2019, p. 30)

**Essential Element:** The piece examines how Christian mission work produces extensive cultural changes that surpass simple proselytization efforts. Through evangelism and ethical teachings Christian mission work establishes "God-ward" cultural development in communities according to the authors.

**Variant Analysis:** While Beers & Beers (2008) examine how education integrates faith learning elements this article examines how mission work leads to cultural transformation. This work examines how Christian missions establish a culture oriented toward God through a critical missiological lens.

**Contextualization:** Researchers focused on Christian mission work's worldwide influence and its capacity to modify societal values will find this resource essential.

**Comment 5:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** Kgatla and Kamukwamba (2019) propose that mission work must be tailored to honor local customs while leading communities on a path to faith-based transformation.

**Essential Element:** The authors present the requirement for maintaining cultural sensitivity together with Christian teachings to establish lasting and genuine faith experiences.

**Variant Analysis:** This article proposes that mission work should be an adaptive process instead of imposing beliefs rigidly as opposed to Noebel's (2006) discussion of worldview collisions.

**Contextualization:** Intercultural ministry demands that religious leaders successfully traverse diverse cultural terrains to develop true spiritual advancement.

**Comment 6:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** The practice of mission work should extend past teaching religious doctrine and connect with the socio-economic elements that define communities. (Kgatla & Kamukwamba, 2019, p. 45)

**Essential Element:** The article shows how mission work addresses real-world issues including poverty, education, and social justice.

**Variant Analysis:** Hillman (2017) examines individual spiritual purpose and divine calling, but Kgatla and Kamukwamba (2019) highlight collective transformation through initiatives led by faith.

**Contextualization:** This understanding proves essential when examining faith-based humanitarian work because it shows the connection between spiritual principles and real-world social improvement.

**Source Five:** Schmidt, A. J. (2004). *How Christianity Changed the World.* Zondervan.

**Comment 6:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** Christian morals established the groundwork for lasting institutions ranging from hospitals to universities. (Schmidt, 2004, p. 15)

**Essential Element:** This work explores Christianity’s historical influence on civilization and demonstrates that faith continues to mold societal frameworks. Schmidt studies the historical influence of Christian doctrines on societal development throughout ethics education and human rights.

**Variant Analysis:** Schmidt examines Christianity’s historical cultural impact while Noebel (2006) focuses on contrasting different worldviews.

**Contextualization:** This source offers valuable insights into historical debates about Christianity’s influence on Western civilization development and current ethical issues.

**Comment 7:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** According to Schmidt (2004), Christianity functioned as a fundamental force in human rights development by ending slavery and promoting social justice.

**Essential Element:** The book demonstrates Christianity's historical commitment to championing human rights through its advocacy for human dignity and equality.

**Variant Analysis:** Schmidt creates an extensive historical examination of religiously inspired social changes while Kgatla and Kamukwamba (2019) analyze the cultural effects of missionary activities.

**Contextualization:** The perspective serves as a foundation for debates about how religious beliefs affect the establishment of legal and ethical standards within human rights movements.

**Comment 8:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** The Christian dedication to educational development resulted in the foundation of numerous early universities which advanced intellectual and scientific discovery. (Schmidt, 2004, p. 102)

**Essential Element:** The book demonstrates how Christianity contributed to the evolution of intellectual development and the foundation of institutional education.

**Variant Analysis:** Schmidt analyzes Christianity as an historical force that propelled academic and scientific achievements while Nosich (2005) examines critical thinking across various disciplines.

**Contextualization:** This analysis becomes crucial when discussing faith's interaction with educational systems because religious principles have traditionally promoted scholarly research.

**Comment 9:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** According to Schmidt (2004), Christian ethical principles have deeply impacted Western legal systems by establishing fundamental concepts like justice and human rights.

**Essential Element:** The book demonstrates Christianity's enduring impact on forming today's legal and ethical systems.

**Variant Analysis:** Beers & Beers (2008) integrate faith with learning, but Schmidt examines faith's historical impact on legal institutions.

**Contextualization:** This source serves as an important resource for examining the ongoing impact of Christian principles on current debates regarding law, morality, and governance.

**Source Six**: Wolters, A., & Goheen, M. W. (2005). Creation Regained: Biblical Basics of a Reformational Worldview

**Comment 9:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** The Christian faith extends beyond individual belief to serve as a complete worldview framework that helps understand reality. (Wolters & Goheen, 2005, p. 35)

**Essential Element:** The book presents the case for a unified faith system that uses religious beliefs to direct both cultural activities and intellectual exploration. This book establishes the principles of a Christian worldview while stressing that faith needs to influence all life areas.

**Variant Analysis:** Compared to Repko et al. Written in 2017, this book examines theological worldview formation through interdisciplinary studies.

**Contextualization:** This resource provides vital insight into the relationship between religious belief systems and cultural interaction.

**Comment 10:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** According to Wolters & Goheen (2005), Christianity extends beyond redemption to the restoration of creation as governed by God’s authority.

**Essential Element:** The book introduces a Reformational viewpoint which proposes that faith should act as a force for societal change instead of being limited to personal religious belief.

**Variant Analysis:** This book contrasts with Schmidt (2004) by presenting a theological argument supporting ongoing cultural involvement rather than focusing on Christianity’s historical impact.

**Contextualization:** This perspective serves as a vital foundation for conversations about Christian responsibilities in social justice, politics, and education because it promotes a comprehensive understanding of faith as a daily practice.

**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

Hegeman, D. B. (2007). *Plowing in hope- Toward a biblical theology of culture,* 2nd. Ed. Canon

Press. https://www.exodusbooks.com/samples/Canon/30623sample.pdf

Hunter, J. D. (2010). To change the world: *The irony, tragedy, and possibility of Christianity in*

*the late modern world.* Oxford University Press.

Kgatla, S. T., & Kamukwamba, D. G. (2019). Mission as the creation of a God-ward culture: A critical missiological analysis. *Verbum Et Ecclesia,* ***40***(1)

.http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/ve.v40i1.1911

Schmidt, A. J. (2004). *How Christianity Changed the World*. Zondervan.

Wolters, A., & Goheen, M. W. (2005). *Creation regained: Biblical basics of a reformational worldview.* Eerdmans.