

Developmental Readings

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PHI 815 History of the Integration of Religion & Society

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Assignment #2 – 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.

Source One: Akanbi, S. O., & Beyers, J. (2017). The church as a catalyst for transformation in the society. *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies*, 73(4), 1-10.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/hts.v73i4.4635>

Comment 1:

Quote/Paraphrase: The article discusses the church's pivotal role in promoting social justice and advocating for marginalized groups in Nigeria. It highlights the significant influence of the Pentecostal Movement in driving socio-economic and political changes, emphasizing the church's proactive stance in addressing societal issues.

Essential Element: Christianity's Influence on Society: The church's advocacy for social justice.

Additive Analysis: This source expands my understanding of how Christianity influences societal structures. It emphasizes the church's proactive role in advocating for social justice, highlighting its capacity to drive societal change. The article provides new insights into the church's involvement in addressing socio-economic and political issues, particularly through the Pentecostal Movement in Nigeria. This perspective adds depth to my knowledge of the church's transformative potential.

Contextualization: The study's findings underscore the significant impact the church can have on societal development. In practical terms, religious institutions can serve as powerful platforms for social reform, promoting education, healthcare, and justice. From personal observations, church-led initiatives often

provide critical support to marginalized communities, fostering a sense of empowerment and community resilience. Reflecting on my personal experiences, I have seen how church-led initiatives can transform communities by providing education, healthcare, and social services. These actions not only uplift individuals but also contribute to the overall well-being of society.

Source Two:

Comment 2: 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>

Quote/Paraphrase: Hegeman explores the relationship between Christianity and culture, arguing that Christians are called to engage with and transform culture through a biblical worldview. He emphasizes the importance of understanding culture from a theological perspective and encourages believers to actively participate in cultural development.

Essential Element: Religion & Society Integration Models: The integration of Christianity and cultural engagement.

Additive Analysis: This source adds to my understanding of how Christians can influence and transform culture by applying biblical principles. Hegeman's perspective provides a framework for viewing cultural engagement as a divine mandate, encouraging believers to see their cultural contributions as part of their spiritual calling. This view contrasts with more passive approaches to culture, offering a proactive and transformative model.

Contextualization: The study's findings highlight the importance of Christians actively engaging with culture to bring about positive change. In practical terms, this means that believers should seek to influence various cultural spheres, such as the arts, education, and politics, with biblical values. Reflecting on my personal experiences, I have seen how Christian principles can shape and improve cultural practices, fostering a more just and compassionate society. This perspective encourages me to view my cultural contributions as part of my spiritual journey and calling.

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: Hunter examines the complex relationship between Christianity and cultural change, arguing that Christians often misunderstand the nature of cultural power. He suggests that true cultural change requires faithful presence within institutions rather than seeking dominance or retreat.

Essential Element: Religion & Society Integration Models: The integration of Christianity and cultural engagement.

Additive Analysis: This source adds to my understanding of how Christians can influence culture by emphasizing the importance of presence and engagement rather than seeking control. Hunter's perspective challenges the notion of cultural dominance and offers a more nuanced approach to cultural transformation. This

view contrasts with more aggressive or passive strategies, providing a balanced and thoughtful model for cultural engagement.

Contextualization: The study's findings highlight the importance of Christians being faithfully present within cultural institutions to bring about positive change. In practical terms, this means that believers should seek to influence various cultural spheres, such as education, politics, and the arts, through their presence and actions. Reflecting on my personal experiences, I have seen how Christians can make a significant impact by being actively involved in their communities and institutions. This perspective encourages me to view my cultural engagement as part of my spiritual journey and calling.

Source Four: Schmidt, A. J. (2004). *How Christianity changed the world. Zondervan.*

Comment 4:

Quote/Paraphrase: Schmidt explores the profound impact Christianity has had on Western civilization, arguing that Christian principles have driven many of the humane, social, scientific, and cultural advances over the past two thousand years. He highlights the church's role in areas such as healthcare, education, abolition of slavery, and the development of moral and ethical standards.

Essential Element: Christianity's Influence on Society: The transformative role of Christian principles in societal development.

Additive Analysis: This source adds to my understanding of Christianity's influence on various aspects of Western civilization. Schmidt provides a comprehensive overview of how Christian teachings have shaped social

institutions and cultural norms, offering a rich historical context. This perspective adds depth to my knowledge of the church's role in promoting human dignity and advancing societal progress.

Contextualization: The study's findings underscore the significant impact that Christianity has had on shaping Western civilization. In practical terms, this means that Christian principles have contributed to the development of healthcare systems, educational institutions, and legal frameworks that uphold human rights and dignity. Reflecting on my personal experiences, I have seen how Christian values continue to influence contemporary discussions on social justice and ethical behavior. This perspective encourages me to view the historical contributions of Christianity as a foundation for ongoing societal development and moral guidance.

Source Five: 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), 1-10.

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

Comment 5:

Quote/Paraphrase: The article critiques the traditional understanding of Christian mission, proposing instead the concept of mission as the creation of a God-ward culture. It emphasizes that culture is a gift from God and that no single culture can be deemed a Christian culture. The authors argue for the creation of communities oriented towards God as a divine mandate.

Essential Element: Religion & Society Integration Models: The integration of Christian mission and cultural engagement.

Additive Analysis: This source adds to my understanding of how Christian mission can be redefined to focus on cultural engagement rather than geographical expansion. Kgatla and Kamukwamba's perspective challenges traditional views of mission, offering a more inclusive and culturally sensitive approach. This view contrasts with the conventional notion of mission as merely converting non-Christians, providing a holistic model for cultural transformation.

Contextualization: The study's findings highlight the importance of viewing mission as the creation of a God-ward culture, which can lead to more meaningful and respectful cultural engagement. In practical terms, this means that Christians should seek to understand and appreciate diverse cultures while promoting values that align with their faith. Reflecting on my personal experiences, I have seen how culturally sensitive mission work can foster mutual respect and understanding, leading to more effective and sustainable community development. This perspective encourages me to view mission as an opportunity to build bridges between cultures and promote a shared sense of purpose.

Source Six:

Comment 6: Tippet, K. (Host). (2017, February 2). How to be a Christian citizen: Three Evangelicals debate. [Audio podcast episode]. In The On Being Project show. Minneapolis, MN.

<https://onbeing.org/programs/chuck-colson-greg-boyd-and-shane-claiborne-how-to-be-a-christian-citizen-three-evangelicals-debate-feb2017/>

Quote/Paraphrase: In this podcast episode, Chuck Colson, Greg Boyd, and Shane Claiborne discuss the role of Christians in politics, highlighting differing perspectives on how faith should influence political engagement. They explore themes such as moral convictions, the importance of compassion, and the complexities of political issues.

Essential Element: Religion & Society Integration Models: The integration of Christian faith and political engagement.

Additive Analysis: This source adds to my understanding of how Christians can navigate the intersection of faith and politics. The diverse perspectives of Colson, Boyd, and Claiborne provide a rich dialogue on the challenges and opportunities of being a Christian citizen. This view contrasts with more monolithic approaches to political engagement, offering a nuanced and multifaceted model for integrating faith and politics.

Contextualization: The discussion in this podcast highlights the importance of Christians engaging thoughtfully and compassionately in political processes. In practical terms, this means that believers should seek to balance their moral convictions with a spirit of empathy and understanding. Reflecting on my personal experiences, I have seen how political engagement informed by faith can lead to more just and compassionate policies. This perspective encourages me to view my political involvement as an extension of my spiritual journey and calling.

Source Seven: Ward, D. (2014). Interdisciplinary faith-learning integration for social change.

Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies, 26(1-2), 29-56.

https://www.pdcnet.org/jis/content/jis_2014_0026_0001_0029_0056

Comment 7:

Quote/Paraphrase: Ward discusses the importance of integrating faith and learning across disciplines to address major social challenges. He outlines a methodology developed at Oxford Graduate School that includes stages such as problem clarification, literature review, faith-learning integration, interdisciplinary research, and ethical/social leadership, all aimed at achieving redemptive-ethical transformation of social problems.

Essential Element: Social Reforms: The integration of faith and learning to drive social change.

Additive Analysis: This source adds to my understanding of how interdisciplinary approaches can be used to address complex social issues. Ward's methodology provides a comprehensive framework for integrating faith and learning, emphasizing the importance of ethical and social leadership. This perspective contrasts with more compartmentalized approaches to social change, offering a holistic and transformative model.

Contextualization: The study's findings highlight the importance of integrating faith and learning to address social challenges. In practical terms, this means that scholars and practitioners should seek to incorporate their faith into their academic and professional work, using interdisciplinary approaches to develop innovative solutions.

Reflecting on my personal experiences, I have seen how faith-based initiatives can drive meaningful social change, fostering a sense of purpose and ethical responsibility. This perspective encourages me to view my academic and professional work as an opportunity to contribute to social reform and promote a more just and compassionate society.

Work Cited

Akanbi, S. O., & Beyers, J. (2017). The church as a catalyst for transformation in the society.

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