SR-968 Sociological Methodology

Obed Alcime

Omega Graduate School

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Professor

Dr. Joshua Reichard

**Assignment #1 – Core 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).

**Methods for Christian Social Change and Faith-Integrated Sociological Analysis**

As a Christian leader and counselor, I work with people struggling in areas that look personal but are drastically shaped by larger social issues. I truly am excited for this course. I applied to Omega Graduate School specifically for training in Sociology so that the knowledge retained will help me to see patterns. As I have been learning to integrate it with my faith, it will help me respond in truth.

 As a professional, I must see two of this course’s core elements as being essential to my professional contexts, preparing me to make sense of problems, systems, and people to give me a clear way forward. The core essential elements of *methods for Christian social change* and *faith-integrated sociological analysis* are both aligned with my professional goals. These two elements will teach me to connect faith with action.

**Faith-integrated sociological analysis**

Faith-integrated sociological analysis shows us not to separate our faith from our academic thinking. It reminds us that God is not an afterthought in social research; He is the source of its enriching wisdom. Heddendorf and Vos (2010) state that contemporary thought is limited in its understanding of God's revelation and that the quality of dialoguing with reality should be a primary objective of Christian social thought.

Using faith as a framework does not weaken the research, it strengthens it, and will provide context, clarity, and direction. Lynn, Naughton, and VanderVeen (2009) emphasize that religious belief shapes not only moral values but how individuals interpret and navigate their life and purpose. They state that integrating belief and analyzing behavior through research provides a fuller picture of how people find meaning in life, especially in Judeo-Christian contexts. This supports my goal of mastering the analysis of social patterns through both a biblical and sociological lens.

**Methods for Christian social change**

Methods for Christian social changewill move me from Christian reflection to social responsibility. I am not just here to study people; I am called to serve them. These methods will train me to offer more than sympathy, and push me to act. However, that action must be thoughtful, informed, and grounded in Scripture. Gayle (2025) observed that Christian mentoring rooted in servant leadership gives young people both spiritual guidance and practical development, offering a model of change that equips them to lead and serve effectively.

**Contextualizing the Two Course Elements**

I am currently counseling some young men at my church who often have questions about their purpose. Their struggles look like low self-esteem and misdirection, but they are tied to deeper issues; specifically, fatherlessness, toxic masculinity, fear, and spiritual confusion. As I am reading through the course materials, I am already seeing that they do not only need spiritual encouragement, they need a lens to understand what is happening around them. These elements describe what will help me to give them that lens.

**Conclusion**

These core elements will keep me balanced, which is why I couldn’t only pick one. If I rely only on Christian convictions, I risk ignoring social patterns. If I rely only on sociology, I may ignore spiritual causes. Used together, they will help me to create an honest and useful approach. As I prepare for my DSL Action research project, I plan to build research that helps real people and leaders. I want to create a lasting work that has both clarity and compassion. I look forward to seeing how all of the course elements will shape how I am learning to frame problems and to propose solutions in my professional context and society at-large.

WORKS CITED

Gayle, C. (2025). *Christian Mentoring Training Manual for Young Men 15-18 Years Old* [Doctoral Dissertation, Regent University]. https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/christian-mentoring-training-manual-young-men-15/docview/3174212315/se-2

Heddendorf, R., & Vos, M. (2010). *Hidden threads: A Christian critique of sociological theory*. University Press of America.

Lynn, M. L., Naughton, M. J., & VanderVeen, S. (2008). Faith at Work Scale (FWS): Justification, Development, and Validation of a Measure of Judeo-Christian Religion in the Workplace. *Journal of Business Ethics*, *85*(2), 227–243. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-008-9767-3