Clinical and Applied Sociology

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Omega Graduate School

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Professor

Dr. Richard Reichard

***Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements***

**Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:**

1. Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited sources) during the

week of the residency. Be prepared to discuss and engage with other students during the live sessions. Post this document in DIAL.

1. Professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR.NC).

Essential Element: Clinical Sociology

Clinical Sociology is a necessary component of study in society today, particularly for world changing Christian scholar practioners, who recognize their career as a calling of God. God created mankind with unique qualities and characteristics for relationship firstly with Him and then with others. But something went wrong in the world! How can it be fixed? Will justice, righteousness and peace ever prevail in the hearts of hurting people? What can be done to facilitate change in society today? Everyone has a view of their own reality that has impact on their choices and actions, and it is imperative that each one is heard through relationships. Clinical Sociology teaches application of theories and skills for intervention to solve problems with individuals in adverse situations.

From the *Handbook of Clinical Sociology* by Rebach and Bruhn, Clinical Sociology is defined as “The application of social theory and sociological perspectives to facilitate change,” (Rebach & Bruhn, 2001). This broad definition is further explained from Dr. Gary David’s video, “What is Clinical Sociology? It is a creative humanistic, rights-based and interdisciplinary specialization that seeks to improve life situations for individuals and groups in a wide variety of settings. It is creative in its solutions, humanistic in care for others through sociological concepts, theories, and methods, interdisciplinary work with others,” (Professor EXP, 2021). The opportunity to work with others to overcome challenges for their well-being is a God given calling for the Christian Clinical Sociologist.

Clinical Sociology differs from Applied Sociology, simply, in that it focuses on personal and group intervention and change, whereas Applied Sociology focuses on research knowledge (theories) to inform decision making. Clinical Sociology’s main goal is through serving clients and supporting them. It is more hands-on and personal through directly engaging groups or individuals. However, the outcomes of both clinical and applied sociology are improved quality of life for society (Reichard, 2024).

To conclude, it is interesting to note the *Routledge International Handbook of Sociology and Christianity*. The Dedication at the beginning of the text says, “For those who practice grace—". Grace is undeserved, unmerited, unearned favor of Jesus Christ at His expense. Does society view broken and hurting people in the way that Jesus views them? Will some believers answer the call of Christ as a Christian Clinical Sociologist? “Will they offer a unique biblical worldview lens that focuses on ethical moral values to advocate for social justice, compassion, and equity regardless of their personal leanings?” (Reichard, 2024). Most in society do not care how much one knows, until they know how much one cares. So then, how will those who care facilitate societal change?

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York: Routledge.

Professor EXP. (2021, January 18). What is clinical sociology [Video file]. YouTube.

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Rebach, H. M. & Bruhn, J. G. (2001). *Handbook of Clinical Sociology.* New York: Kluwer

Academic/Plenum. [Amazon: Sample] [Seminal]

Reichard, R. (2024). *Applied and clinical sociology a christian perspective*.

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Clinical\_Sociology\_Presentation\_Complete.pdf