PHI 943-12 Orthodoxy and Orthopraxis

C. Brian Diggs

Omega Graduate School

Date: April 6, 2025

Professor

David Ward, Ph.D., Th.M.

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

b. The professor will check for content quality and word-count requirements. The grade assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

As I matriculated through Cores #1 and #2 here at Omega Graduate School, I have gained a greater understanding of the importance of faith reflection for Christian scholarship, which involves applying faith and academic pursuits. Integrating my faith into my studies has opened my eyes and challenged me with the importance of using my faith in my career. It has also allowed me to reflect on the world view versus my faith-based view of my career, which is often in conflict. My faith can be understood as my ethos, which shapes how I process the world around me when my career is based on man’s law. Christian theology attempts to understand and summarize what God has revealed. Revelation comes to us through the world, Scripture, and His Son, Jesus Christ. Christians engage in theology utilizing Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience, prioritizing Scripture (Keathley, 2023).

Applying my faith to my studies has given me a new perspective on my profession. As police officers, we are indoctrinated into completing our duties according to the letter of the law, and the world view in policing is equated to right and wrong. Faith-reflection for Christian scholarship has provided me with a new view that naturally incorporates orthopathy, which stresses the significance of having emotions consistent with my beliefs and practices, and orthopraxis, which highlights the significance of living by my faith through actions that reflect my core beliefs.

As the leader of my bureau, I understand that law enforcement's sociological importance lies in its ability to create relationships that allow officers and community members to shape enforcement measures within neighborhoods. Leadership is a position that has a very central role in law enforcement. Without a true leader, many problems will arise. Leadership is rarely included in the curriculum of theological colleges, and widely accepted theories on relational leadership often lack a solid foundation in coherent theology and empirical research (Asep Afaradi, 2023). Holistic leadership is an emerging concept that combines orthodoxy, orthopraxis, and orthopathy to inform effective leadership practices (Asep Afaradi, 2023). Applying orthopraxis and orthopathy to my leadership toolbox will allow me to have emotional integrity, which equates to spiritual health that will demonstrate service and ethical behavior to those under my command.

# References

Asep Afaradi. (2023). Holistic Christian Leadership: The Combination of

Orthodoxy, Orthopraxis and Orthopathy. *Pharos Journal of Theology*, *104*(104(4)). https://doi.org/10.46222/pharosjot.104.413

Demmrich, S., Ağılkaya-Şahin, Z., & Şenel, A. (2024). Love Thy Neighbor:

Exploring Religious and Social Openness among Prospective Theologians in Germany and Turkey. *Religions*, *15*(3), 260. https://doi.org/10.3390/rel15030260

Keathley, K. (2023). The Ethics of Integrating Faith and Science. *Religions*,

*14*(5), 644–644. https://doi.org/10.3390/rel14050644

Nándor Birher. (2025). The Return of the Soul—The Role of Religion in

Regulating Social Life. *Religions*, *16*(2), 252–252. https://doi.org/10.3390/rel16020252

Small, J. L. (2015). *Making Meaning*. Stylus Publishing, LLC.

Song, W., Pang, B., Wang, Z., Xu, Y., Liu, Z., & Tan, M. (2024). Differentiated

secularism: discourse shaping of immigrants from different religious backgrounds in the French media. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, *11*(1). https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-024-03390-x