

**Department of Sociology**  
**Department Term-Tenure and Promotion Readings**  
**Christian Scholarship and the Academic Vocation**  
*February, 2019*

**Prompt 1:**

Jacques Ellul describes the "questions of his life" as a sociologist, and concludes with a definition and vision of the power of Christian faith to shape society. Jacobsen and Jacobsen describe how "Christian scholarship" can influence society. *Describe the questions of your life, as a sociologist, and connect these questions with faith in a way that engages Ellul's distinction between faith and religion, and Jacobsen and Jacobsen's notion of Christian scholarship.*

**Readings:**

Ellul, Jacques. *Perspectives on our Age: Jacques Ellul Speaks on His Life and Work*, ed. Willem H. Vanderburg, Toronto, Canada: Canadian Broadcasting Company, 1981.

Jacobsen, Douglas and Rhonda Hustedt Jacobsen, *Scholarship and Christian Faith: Enlarging the Conversation*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

**Prompt 2:**

In *Science as a Vocation*, Weber states that "Science is meaningless because it gives no answer to our question, the only question important to us: What shall we do and how shall we live?"

*As a Christian scholar and educator, how have you engaged the challenges inherent in the study, practice, and teaching of the social sciences pertaining to questions of 'ultimate meaning'?*

**Readings:**

Smith, C. (2014). *The sacred project of American sociology*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Weber, M. (1991, 1946). Science as a vocation. In C.W. Mills and H.H. Gerth (eds.), *From Max Weber: Essays in sociology* (pp. 129-156). London: Routledge.