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120 Day - Course Learning Journal

The journal is a written reflection of your learning journey while working in each course and is an integration of the essential elements of the course within your professional field of interest. The objective of the course journal is to produce a degree of acculturation, integrating new ideas into your existing knowledge of each course. This is also an opportunity to communicate with your professor consistent with the Tutorial Methodology to express insights gained as a result of the course of study. Submit the course learning journal via DIAL. The course learning journal should be 5-7 pages in length, and should include the following sections:

1. Introduction – Describe the expectations of the graduate program and the

campus residency component for that course. Summarize the intent of the course, how it fits into the graduate program as a whole, and the relevance of its position in the curricular sequence.

2. Personal Growth - Describe your personal growth–how the course stretched or challenged you– as well as your progress in mastery of course content and skills during the week and through subsequent readings – what new insights or skills you gained.

3. Reflective Entry - Add a reflective entry that describes the contextualization (or adaptation and relevant application) of new learning into your professional field.

What questions or concerns have surfaced about your professional field as a result of your study?

4. Future Expectations - Continue the journal by addressing questions and concerns you now have relating to the graduate program expectations.

5. Conclusion – Synthesize the three body sections above, evaluating the effectiveness of the course in meeting your professional, religious, and educational goals.

1. **Introduction**

 It is impossibly hard to be on one's own facing all the concerns and challenges of the crisis time we are living in, and even more so for me, as I am an educator. My family shares my concerns and supports my views, but, unfortunately, I cannot say the same about my colleagues, friends or neighbors. At Omega Graduate School, I feel that I have found and have been accepted in a family of like-minded people, and I can feel safe sharing my views and ideas.

 In the community in my home country, while talking to my friends or people I know, as well as at home, I need to give answers to questions arising daily and be prepared to address pressing issues, and as a teacher and educator, I search for answers to questions that arise and look for ways to address the challenging issues in education in order to bring true knowledge to people, which I see as my calling.

 The main intent of the course in Orthodoxy and Orthopraxis is developing interdisciplinary Christian orthodoxy and improving orthopraxis for personal and vocation growth. Studying and examining the methodologies of developing orthodoxy and orthopraxis contributes to developing an understanding of how we can apply our Christian worldview through orthopraxis to all spheres of life, and how critical it is to close the gap between professed and operational beliefs (Omega Graduate School, 2023), as orthodoxy forms the foundation for orthopraxis and we should make sure that orthodoxy is lived out in our orthopraxis in every life sphere (Kaylor, 2023) for their mutual integration.

 The position of the course in the curricular sequence and engaging seminars, workshops and assignments are relevant for achieving the outcome of the graduate program, as the course effectively aids in developing and increasing skills in interpreting and integrating Scripture and Christian tradition, and an awareness of the importance of faith reflection for Christian scholarship for developing an integrated Christian worldview.

 I can say that I have experienced cognitive, affective and spiritual changes and I can perceive my personal and vocation growth; I have found answers to a lot of questions, and I see that I am on the right path in my faith journey. I am a teacher, wife and mother, and every day I have to come up with ideas and answers to plenty of questions and problems, and studying the concepts of orthodoxy and orthopraxis, reflecting on the core beliefs of Christianity and gaining the knowledge I need for further growth inspires me, gives me strength and helps a lot in my search for the right answers and solutions to problems.

  **2. Personal Growth**

 With regard to personal growth, all the changes I have experienced, including the knowledge gained and the understanding of the interrelated character of orthodoxy and orthopraxis, a deep awareness of my emotional motivation related to professed and operational beliefs have contributed to the transformation of my inner world and my spiritual growth, and I feel empowered with God's truth and the inspiration, confidence and strength He gives in all the spheres of my life, guiding me in my faith journey. I have to admit I didn't use to turn to Scripture before as much as I do now, and it takes time to read Scripture thoughtfully and read it in a reflective way with an open mind and heart to God's love, support and comfort.

  **3. Reflective Entry**

 Reflecting on the contextualization of my new learning in the professional field, I would like to say that there are a lot of problems and issues in education, which need to be addressed, and the task of educators at the present moment is not only to transmit knowledge and help learners develop the necessary 21st century skills, but, what is far more important, they should also assist in developing harmonious personality, learners' spirituality and their inner world. So, now, with God's help and the inspiration, confidence and strength that God gives me, I will try my best to address the current problems and find ways to promote learners' spiritual development to respond to the challenges of our hard time.

  **4. Future Expectations**

 The most important thing is the knowledge and skills that allow to find answers to questions and solutions to challenging problems we face every day, furthermore, we have to teach the new generation to ask questions that lead to the knowledge of important foundational truths to change life for the better.

 **5. Conclusion**

 I feel more confident and inspired now that I have found like-minded people. The current situation and circumstances are extremely difficult, but with God's help and guidance, and support from like-minded people, I can live out my faith and my calling, integrating my Christian faith, learning and professional growth. I try to use every opportunity to teach my students the important Christian truths and share God's Word with people.

**WORKS CITED**

Omega Graduate School (2023) PHI 943-12 Syllabus. Orthodoxy and Orthopraxis. Spring 2023.

Kaylor, B. (2019) The importance of orthodoxy and orthopraxy, Word & way <https://wordandway.org/2019/02/05/the-importance-of-orthodoxy-and-orthopraxy/>