Hermeneutics and Communications

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Professor

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**Assignment #4** – Course Learning Journal

The journal is a written reflection of your learning journey while working in each course. The Learning Journal integrates 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 insights gained as a result of the course. The course

learning journal should be 3-5 pages in length and should include the following sections:

1. Introduction –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– and 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 in your professional field.

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

of your study?

4. Conclusion – Evaluate the effectiveness of the course in meeting your professional,

religious, and educational goals.

Hermeneutics and Communications (H&C) allow individuals to understand text, actions, and situations (Zimmerman, 2015). It is a form of communication. (H&C) is vital to all coursework as it enhances practical research and writing skills. The ability to conduct interpretation is valuable not only in academia but also in everyday life.

Textual hermeneutics teaches the interpretation of an author's intention and the meaning they intend to convey to readers. Understanding a text in hermeneutics entails considering the author’s background, culture, faith, integrity, and knowledge (Zimmerman, 2015).

Hermeneutics and Communications afford me, as a researcher, to discover and understand credible articles. Using document analysis, I can employ proper research techniques by gathering and interpreting information to discover solutions to problems (Badke, 2014). Further, seeking alternative sources helps counter-arguments and exposes one to different ideas and perspectives.

Consequently, (H&C) encourages critical reading, which enables me to ask questions and delve into the material, allowing access to expert information for scholarly writing and peer reviews (Attridge, 2023). As an academic writer, I can refine my work using the writing skills I acquired from this course. According to Attridge, writing with integrity is equally crucial as it ensures the quality and authenticity of the content. Thus, I utilize the American Psychological Association manual (APA) to cite sources, a crucial step to avoid plagiarism (Carter et al., 2019).

 Furthermore, (H&C) encourages me to adopt a background role, refrain from expressing personal opinions to posit a non-biased stance, and ensure substantial, sensible writing (Strunk & White, 1979). Hermeneutics enhanced my ability to interpret and apply neutrality to understand and appreciate different perspectives without dismissing them.

For the next two and a half years, I will apply the methods and techniques used in (H&C) to every Doctor of Social Leadership (DSL) course, including the action research project, to achieve higher research standards. For an action research project, I aim to raise awareness among adolescents about the connection between Cannabis use and the risks of psychosis, schizophrenia, and suicidality (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2017, p. 289 as cited in Anderson & Rees). Through the lens of hermeneutics, I aspire to navigate the terrain of this problem skillfully. In addition, the project will allow me to consider the perspectives of organizations' benefactors and oppositions in the Cannabis Industry (Anderson et al., 2023).

In my quest to explore the impact of legalized marijuana on adolescents' mental health, I initially felt inclined to confront the marijuana industry head-on. However, I have realized the value of approaching opposing viewpoints with an open mind, which allowed me to gain new insights. I do ponder why supporters of the cannabis industry have not considered the implementation of explicit warning labels to highlight the risks associated with THC content in cannabis. I am privileged to have the opportunity to embrace academic freedom at Omega Graduate School. Communication 803 allows me to embrace academic freedom to explore novel ideas and challenge opposing views. This experience empowers me to think independently and nurture my spirituality amidst the anticipated challenges public universities face (Bloom et al., 2012).

Hermeneutics shaped my perspective on humanity, leading me to view individuals through God's compassion and love. While acknowledging the impact of sin, I strive to uncover the good in people and approach them with understanding and empathy (The Holy Bible, English Standard Translation, 2001, 1 John 11) states, “Beloved if God so loves us, we also ought to love one another.”

In my future endeavors, such as writing a biography on my family's pioneering a specific music genre, I intend to utilize my knowledge of Hermeneutics and Communication to interview sections of a populace to gather and interpret data. Researchers call this accessing qualitative data (Attridge, 2023).

Further, the skills I gained through this course extend beyond academia, impacting my growth and enabling me to navigate the world confidently and meaningfully. By developing the ability to broaden my horizon and merge it with others, I am honing the invaluable skill of perspective fusion (Zimmerman, 2015). Zimmerman articulated that hermeneutics is the understanding of piecing facts together to make a coherent whole.

Carnal hermeneutics enables interpreting people's actions, words, and expressions by relying on senses to determine encouragement or discouragement (Kearney, 2020). Further, relying solely on facial expressions may lead to misinterpreting another person's intentions. Forming judgments based on appearance, whether attractive or repulsive, can sometimes be valid but may also lead to misinterpretation (Rahal et al., 2021).

Biblical hermeneutics qualifies me to engage the rules of exegesis to gain deeper insights and understanding of scripture. "*Exegesis*means bringing out of the text all that it contains of the thoughts, attitudes, assumptions, and so forth - in short, the whole expressed mind of the human writer" (Packer, 1975. P. 4). The transformative aspect of hermeneutics enriched my insight into human nature and deepened my connection with others, fostering greater empathy and compassion while interacting with others.

Faith integration hermeneutics taught me the importance of integrating perspectives and aligning them with God's truth. Laza (2019) emphasizes that society often misunderstands the term "natural," mistakenly equating it with an innate desire everyone possesses. However, scripture refers to "natural" as the inherent order within creation, intended for humanity to fulfill the purpose harmoniously with God's divine plan. Thus, the Bible is the ultimate foundation for knowledge, wisdom, and truth, guiding Christians to interpret its teachings and convey the Gospel message (Prov. 2:6).

Christian leadership challenges me to adopt servant leadership. God empowers Servant Leadership through his biblical principles when we humbly serve as agents of change, transcending cultural and socioeconomic barriers to represent Christ (Hyun, 2023). Overall, biblical study enriches our understanding of God and allows us to educate others and glorify Him. Employing Hermeneutics will further equip me to achieve the art of understanding scriptures, research, and effectively conveying biblical messages and their applications guided by the Holy Spirit.

Gilbert (2010), in *What is the Gospel*, emphasizes that numerous self-proclaimed evangelical Christians offer misinterpretations regarding the Gospel message. Gilbert added that Christians must first use the inerrant and infallible Scriptures to convey God's word, highlight humanity marred by sin, and then acknowledge the redemptive work through Christ's death and resurrection offered to believers. Gilbert referenced apostle Paul’s letters in (Rom 1- 4) as our GPS for defining the Gospel.

Faith-integrated hermeneutics qualifies me for a deeper insight and understanding of scripture through engaging exegesis. Exploring the transformative aspects of hermeneutics enriches insight into human nature and fosters empathy and compassion. On the other hand, Carnal hermeneutics relies on the senses to interpret people's actions but may lead to misinterpretation. In short, hermeneutics helps me unveil meaning by examining textual, contextual, and visual elements that deepen my knowledge and foster appreciation for complexity.

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