Lemma Degefa

Omega Graduate School

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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.

**Introduction**

As indicated in the course syllabus and through the lessons learned from the assignments, the course is designed to enhance the effectiveness of interpreting texts and scenarios in a principled fashion. It presents scholarly ways to process a given information or data, and interpret it in a contextually appropriate manner. In so doing, it enhances proper understanding and communicating a subject matter, and practicing it. In short, the course intends to improve interpretation and communication through evidence-based scholarly articles and research methods in compliance with proven practices.

The course perfectly fits into the graduate program in that it guides the student in doing independent study in a professional manner by applying scientific research methods that meets the 21st century scholarly standards.

The skill of researching goes hand in hand with the skill of interpretation. Therefore, offering the course after the student is exposed to the 21st century research skills has made it sequentially appropriate. Needles to say, as a foundation course, it’s appropriate that it was given during the initial phase of the postgraduate study.

**Personal Growth**

The course has been helpful in several ways. The insights shared by the professor has created burning desire to learn more about the subject matter. In addition to this, the course was stretching when it comes to personal prejudice, a blind spot in interpreting a text. It challenged the student to ask good questions and pause before making any generalizations. It also equipped the student with proper interpretation and communication skills.

It's worth noting that the course has convinced me to look for reliable sources, most recent sources, and entertain different views before arriving at a conclusion concerning a subject matter. The availability of helpful techniques, formats, and guidelines have made the student more resourceful as a professional.

Hermeneutics is not just interpreting views of other people; it’s a process of challenging one’s own views and the views of others in a scholarly fashion. It’s also bringing in new insights based on research and critical thinking. Such insights make someone more responsible in reading and interpreting texts and scenarios.

As a student and teacher of the Bible, the skill of hermeneutics appears to be necessary to master. Within the context of the Bible, hermeneutics is more about life than just processing information. The art of understanding the context under which the Bible text was written, the condition of the early and current audiences, the need to comprehending a specific Bible text in alignment with the general doctrine of the Bible, and what reliable Bible scholars say about the Bible text are all beautifully combined in hermeneutics. Hermeneutics enhances one’s faithfulness to the text of the Bible and the context of the audience.

In short, hermeneutics is a necessary life skill that every human being may acquire in order to extract quality information, develop the right understanding, and convey proper message to others the right way, at the right time by using the right channel.

**Reflective Entry**

The student seeks to explore the leadership core competencies during the digital era. The reading engagement of the scholarly articles and the requirement to link developmental readings to the 100-day assignment have been helpfully challenging. It stretched the student to be intentional in every step of searching, reading, interpreting scholarly articles, not just for this particular course, but for all courses being taken.

The experience has started to slightly question my research methodology, and may even slightly touch my research topic. The unforeseen challenge the Hermeneutics course surfaced is the need to interpret views of scholars and contextualize it to the local Ethiopian context. Emphatically, no article was written just to build up the student’s research, and each article is written in a specific context different from the researcher’s context. The question is how to properly interpret the scholarly articles and where to apply the key findings into the study in a contextually appropriate manner. Equally important is the analysis capacity to be able to make sound conclusions.

 **Conclusion**

The course is highly effective in meeting my professional, religious, and educational goals.