Course Learning Journal

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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.

 This course aims to expand students’ worldview by teaching basic Christian leadership skills (e.g., using scripture and applying biblical principles) and equipping students to connect these skills to their vocation to advance the Kingdom. Placement in the second half of the first semester is timely because an OGS student’s goal is to expand and use a Christian worldview in preparation for a career as a societal change maker. Course material learned now will help students gain practical experience and build a solid foundation to be successful.

 As a Business As Mission (BAM) Practitioner, focused on “business”, I believed teaching business skills to marginalized people would help alleviate their poverty. However, God used this course to show me that I needed to focus on the “missional” component as well.

 Teaching biblical business principles will help people work to improve their financial condition, but God also designed each of us for a specific type of missional work. Prior to this course, I expected to rely on those gifted in teaching to share the gospel. God showed me the “M” in BAM is for people to use their spiritual gifts for the Kingdom. For example, a project manager could develop a food bank program at their church or work. God could use this to outreach to the community and lead someone to Christ. This shift in my mindset helped me see that my Career Coaching can shine light on how people can use their gifts not just for work, but to also bless others. I also look forward to adding a spiritual gifts assessment to my coaching.

 This course has been transformational in bringing the Spirit into more of my life. Additionally, I believe I am more compassionate towards others, realizing their experiences have shaped who they are and how they respond. Today’s societal culture, in part due to social and the mainstream news media, has a secular twist that is often so subtle we do not even know we are being unequally yoked with sin. Being in the Word and having a solid foundation that integrates mature moral development, strong biblical worldview, and positive-redemptive self-concept are a must for everyone, especially Christian leaders.

 In Mike Rovner’s book *Supernatural Business: A Better Plan (2020)*, he shares his complete dependence on God, the success of his business, and the call to share Christ in the workplace (i.e., missional work). Today, he leads a free training program equipping business leaders to do the same. This is a huge gain for BAM and one that I will align with.

 During this course, God showed me a new way to integrate spirituality (i.e., “M” in BAM) into the BAM Training Program that I am developing. He also opened a new door for me professionally, which is why I fell off the horse with my assignments. I see personal and professional growth in myself as a Christian leader that fuels my drive to end poverty and reach people for Jesus even more. Fitting the puzzle pieces together with the new level of maturation experienced through this course will make me a better instructor of BAM, as well as a better Kingdom servant.

 As a Christian Business Leader, I want trainees to understand the “B” and the “M” in BAM; and to see greater opportunity to help others. Not only will they be trained to use their Godly design in business, but also to use their spiritual gifts in conjunction with their job, church and community for the Kingdom (e.g., teaching ESL or starting a bible study at work).

 I look forward to researching this aspect of BAM to either expand or establish this area; and to share this through the BAM Training Program. All of what I am doing and have wanted to do professionally are coming together in the new position I was offered a few weeks ago. Thankful God led me to OGS to pursue a doctoral degree and to learn from Christian Leaders.