PHI 805

Faith-Learning Integration and Interdisciplinary Studies

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Omega Graduate School

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Professor

Dr. David Ward

***Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements***

**1. Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:**

**a. Asynchronous Cores 2 and 4:** Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited sources) during the first week of the term. Post this discussion in DIAL Discussion Forum. Then, provide two peer responses of 100 words each (total of 200 words) in the Discussion Forum.

**b.** Professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

**Course Core Element: Interdisciplinary Research**

When presenting the course core element of Interdisciplinary Research, Allen Repko, et. al. (2017) assert that making a difference in the world using Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) “requires developing the skills to make connections, solve complex problems, develop leadership skills, engage in strategic thinking, and work collaboratively” (pp. 4-5).

IDS has become integrated into in higher education and business because, as the world has become more complex, there is a need for better understanding of disciplines outside of one’s own specialty. In the university setting, IDS has become an academic major in its own right in the hopes that interdisciplinarity will become more widely accepted.

In addition to interdisciplinarity, Repko introduces the concept of *transdisciplinarity*, which brings together both academic and nonacademic researchers to design and implement real-world policy (p. 75). Thus, it is the cooperative research of scholars, stakeholders, and field practitioners who join forces to solve problems that affect all of them. The ultimate combined goal is to tackle highly complex problems of shared interest. At the macro level, transdisciplinarians conduct their integrated research in hopes of ultimately affecting policymakers. Repko describes IDS as “a cognitive process by which individuals or groups draw on disciplinary perspectives and integrate their insights and modes of thinking” (p. 159).

While complex problems are the overarching drivers of interdisciplinarity, Repko is careful to maintain respect for each individual discipline, noting “the depth of analysis, and the expertise disciplines provide” (p. 159). Yet, with transdisciplinarity the greatest gift appears to be an enhanced and broadened perspective as the individual disciplinary research findings are brought together in the aggregate. As a way of contextualizing IDS, I intend to incorporate the practice into my DSL action research project to the extent that it is feasible.

WORK CITED

Repko, A. F., Szostak, R., & Buchberger, M. P. (2017) *Introduction to interdisciplinary studies*, 2nd.Ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc. (digital complete)