**Appendix 4A: Faith-Learning Integration Worksheet**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2023

Name of Scholar-Practitioner: Katherine Blanc

Educational Background: BA – Visual Communication; MA – Creative Writing; Certificates – Gerontology, Nonprofit Management, and Therapeutic Recreation

Social Profession: Volunteer Director: Bear Valley Community Hospital Foundation

Other Pertinent Information: Full time family caregiver

**Tips for the SR805 100-Day Assignment Faith-Learning Integration Worksheet**

See the published article about this process (*Interdisciplinary Faith-Learning Integration for Social Change*, JIS, V26 (2014)- Dr. David C. Ward). The article is much more detailed than the syllabus, because the method has refined in as a result of the growth in understanding each stage of the process, as a result of interaction with the methods standard in the national interdisciplinary studies movement. This is seen in the article.

**Steps 2, 3, & 4 ought to have some sources to back up the process because it is an academic process in Steps 2-4, and a practical process in Steps 5-7**. In my article describes this approach to faith-learning integration and interdisciplinary social change is described as "***Learning***... [in such a way as] ***to Change Your World***."

**Step 1** **Research Problem/Question-** In the Syllabus it is an assigned topic: i.e. work as job, profession, career, or calling. *But you can select a topic based on your interests, especially if it is related to your sense of calling in some aspect.* I am interested in how you work through the process. Please e-mail the professor your topic ideas and receive feedback about your topic idea at the beginning.

**Step 2** **Hermeneutics/Literature Review**- can be whatever disciplinary sources are relevant; also, at this early stage in the program you can include in this stage any social research done on your subject, for example, if you found articles reporting research done on multi-generation businesses. As seen in Dr. Ward’s article, and by the dissertation stage of the OGS program, Step 4 is where your own social research project goes.

**Step 3** **Faith-Learning Integration**-is where faith-integrated sources (Scripture, tradition [i.e. if theologians have addressed the topic or Christian worldview/theological truths involved in applying a Christian worldview to the topic], reason [if Christian businessmen have written on the topic-if it was a business topic, etc.], and experience [this is where personal Christian reflections guided by prayer and the Holy Spirit would come in].

**STEP 1: OBSERVATIONS RAISING THE NEED FOR INQUIRY**

**What is the subject/problem that prompts the need to integrate faith and learning and do Christian interdisciplinary research?**

Faith-learning integration balances objectivity and subjectivity. My assertion is that, without theological subjectivity, lasting *constructive* social change cannot take place.

**a. Why is the topic of interest to you given your profession or personal history?**

The integration of healthcare, faith communities, and social change.

I face a big challenge in that I cannot overtly integrate faith into my secular volunteering environment. Therefore I have decided that the best way to proceed (without violating state and federal laws prohibiting the integration of "church and state") will be to view my volunteer work and research as a form of PERSONAL MINISTRY.

In addition to public protections, my personal beliefs are also protected by law. Thus I can remain compliant policy-wise while maintaining and upholding my inner spiritual growth.

In my work within a secular public agency, I want to frame my work as a form of personal “ministry” in ways that support my beliefs while avoiding violation of state and federal laws.

**b. Why is there a need to research this subject/problem?**

I believe that interdisciplinary faith-integration is of value in social research and application because religion still plays a major part in many sociocultural contexts. Of particular note, I will explore how faith-based practitioners play a major constructive role in community healthcare.

**c. What various disciplines or perspectives need to be brought to bear to adequately address this subject/problem?**

Medicine

Social Sciences

Theology

**d. How might faith-integration and interdisciplinary research yield better answers than either exclusively religious or exclusively academic research might provide?)**

In light of my particular situation, exclusively religious research would be unwarranted because the answers would not fit the needs of the secular public agency.

Exclusively academic research could provide empirical, concrete data and answers but would be unable to adequately address subjective personal meaning and purpose.

**STEP 2: LITERATURE REVIEW- HERMENEUTICAL INQUIRY OF NATURAL/SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES/HISTORICAL TRADITIONS**

**What are the different perspectives on the subject/problem from the relevant contemporary natural or social science disciplines as well as cultural trends and ideas?**

Perspectives vary within my Developmental Readings sources. Some sources argue for a strictly faith-based approach to changing the world, while others favor a balanced approach that welcomes other disciplines and perspectives to participate in world-changing.

1. **How has the subject/problem developed relevant contemporary natural or social science disciplines?**

My literature review made me realize that there is global concern for the state of society. And while I narrowed my research to articles and books bridging the topic of faith-integration, I could sense that both disciplines (social sciences and religious studies) share similar concerns. Thus a clear “bridge” appeared to me.

**Are there different traditions?**

The traditions I most frequently encountered were the Christian perspective. But I also noticed recurring sociological approaches, so perhaps those could be called sociological “traditions?”

1. **How has the subject/problem developed in cultural trends/history?**

History proved important: I observed and learned about the historical Christian tradition of promoting health care. I could not ascertain a social science historical perspective specific to world-changing.

1. **What disciplines have developed which have addressed the subject/problem?**

Faith community interventions have benefitted health care. The social sciences also address health concerns, but these tend to focus on socio-demographic trends such as health inequity. The social science perspective is broad and – in my opinion – emphasizes research findings over social action.

**How have they addressed it (briefly)?**

Faith communities have taken hands-on action to make a better world, whereas social sciences take on more of a data-collection and reporting position. I found very little evidence of social scientists rolling up their sleeves and working to bring about change.

**Are there different schools of thought?**

Within some faith communities there are strict dogmatic guidelines pertinent to certain denominations. Other faith communities are non-denominational and tolerant of personal interpretation of religious texts. As for the social sciences, I found references to various “isms” but they did not provide clear guidance on how to create positive social change.

**STEP 3: FAITH-LEARNING INTEGRATION INQUIRY WITH CHRISTIAN AND SCIENTIFIC SOURCES**

**How does Scripture speak to this issue? Realize that many issues that are a result of modernity or technological advances will not be directly addressed by the Bible, but Scripture may provide a parallel or precedent with a similar issue or subject, or the topic may be addressed through extrapolation.**

1. **Are there any developments in biblical thought about the issue from the Old Testament?**

While I researched and read a great deal of scholarly literature that addresses modernity/post-modern humanism, they were not of use in my situation because they tended to argue for Christian-based policy reform, and I must adhere to the separation of church and state in the governmental setting.

b. **Are there any changes in biblical thought about the issue from the Old to the New Testament? Are there any developments in biblical thought about the issue in the New Testament?**

I have researched and read many biblical passages and verses. However, the discipline of theology is beyond my scope of knowledge at the deep level. Therefore, I have concentrated on gathering sources that (for the most part) are additive to my area of interest for my DSL studies.

c. **Are there any developments in Christian thought and history about the issue since biblical times?** While I have read biblical passages and verses, the discipline of theology is beyond my scope of knowledge or interest as a deep discipline.

d**. If the subject/problem is not directly addressed in the Bible, what principle can be extrapolated from a clear biblical teaching which helps to frame the subject/problem within a Christian worldview?** The Christian worldview promotes care of the sick and weak. THIS relates to my interest as it will pertain to my final DSL Action Research Project.

1. **Which contemporary natural or social sciences address this subject/ problem?**

Social science attempts to analyze trends and areas in which society is failing its citizens.

Natural science attempts to replicate experimental observations in order to solve problems that adversely impact the physical body and physical world.

**What additional perspectives does each science or discipline add?**

Social science or discipline excels in the gathering, analysis and reporting of data.

Natural sciences also collect and analyze data; however, these sciences additionally attempt to solve problems through the development of new technologies to fix or amend damaging natural processes.

1. **How do religious and scientific perspectives interact or integrate in providing a more comprehensive account of the subject/problem?**

I will say that the religious perspective keeps the *human experience* in the forefront, so that it doesn’t get overshadowed by data or the sole pursuit of empirical evidence.

Scientific inquiry provides *evidence-based* data that help to point faith organizations toward areas of social need. This is why I believe in the benefits of interdisciplinarity.

**Appendix 4B: Interdisciplinary Research Worksheet**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2023

Name of Scholar-Practitioner: Katherine Blanc

Educational Background: BA – Visual Communication; MA – Creative Writing; Certificates – Gerontology, Nonprofit Management, and Therapeutic Recreation

Social Profession: Volunteer Director: Bear Valley Community Hospital Foundation

Other Pertinent Information: Full time family caregiver

**Tips for the SR805 100-Day Assignment Faith-Learning Integration Worksheet**

**Step 4** **Converting Your Synthesized Topic to a Formal Social Research Problem and Hypothesis:**

See excerpt from *Empirical Research in the Social Sciences* by Richard Walters, pp.25-26.

At this stage of the program, Stage 4 (at he beginning of the Interdisciplinary Research Worksheet) is described as a synthesizing step. This is where to use sources on your subject written by Christians who are farther along than you, and who have done the faith-integrating work for you, and who have proposed Christian approaches to your topic.

You then need in this stage to ***imagine a hypothetical*** social research project. Assume you collect and analyze data (do not worry about how, it is too early in the program for that yet). Assume the project was completed (written in past tense) and that research findings supported the educated guess that produced your Research Problem and Hypothesis. See below:

*Example Problem:* It is not known whether teenagers abuse drugs or alcohol to escape from negative thoughts about themselves.”

*Example Hypothesis:* Drug abusing teenagers will score higher on the I Feel Worthless Inventory than non-drug abusing teenagers.

*Hypothetical Research Results* (this is what you project in STEP 4): The drug abusing teenagers scored higher in statistically significant measures on the I Feel Worthless Inventory than non-drug abusing teenagers.

You need to articulate a research discovery worth sharing before you figure out how to communicate it (Step 5, and then you influence with it through leadership application of “So What” change your world strategies to enact in Step 6).

**Step 5** **Contextualization-** Who is the target audience you want to influence with this research project? How can you package your results to be persuasive with them? This stage and Stage 6 you work through as a hypothetical, kind of as a plan in the future tense. My target audience is XXXXX and they have these characteristics 1), xxxx, 2) xxxx, etc. Therefore, to adapt my findings to communicate persuasively with them, I can emphasize the following benefits, and use the following venues (??? research report, multimedia presentation, trade journal article, etc. ???), AND SO ON...

**Step 6** **Orthopraxis/Leadership**- Also, for ease of understanding, Step 6 moved in the article from being called orthopraxis to leadership. Leadership is all about applying truth and solutions within groups, whether they are in the context of any kind of human organization in family, church or society, as the OGS world changer mission statement states.

**Step 7** **Evaluation (of the Process)**- Make this Journal-like, i.e. here is what I learned from this process, and here is how, if I did follow through in practice with Steps 5 & 6, that I could assess the effective of the results.

**STEP 4: SYNTHESIZED INTERDISCIPLINARY FORMULATION (WITH SOCIAL RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS)**

**How would you synthesize what you have learned to this point into a statement that describes the problem you want to address? One or two sentences should be adequate to the describe the problem you would use interdisciplinary social science research to address (i.e. you would need to collect and analyze real world data to test how you address the problem). What is the subject/problem that prompts the need to do Christian interdisciplinary research?**

Interdisciplinary faith-integration is of value in social research and application because religion still plays a major part in many sociocultural contexts. Each discipline brings its gifts and strengths. For example, the sciences emphasize the *empirical*, while theology emphasizes the *ethereal*.

**CONVERTING TO A FORMAL SOCIAL RESEARCH PROBLEM AND HYPOTHESIS:**

See excerpt from *Empirical Research in the Social Sciences* by Richard Walters, pp.25-26.

How would you state your research problem and reframe it as a testable social research hypothesis?

**Research Problem: How would you state your research problem in a declarative sentence about what is not known that the research will clarify?**

Example: “It is not known whether teenagers abuse drugs or alcohol to escape from negative thoughts about themselves.”

My Research Problem: “It is not known whether interdisciplinary faith-integration affects constructive social change in community healthcare.”

**Research Hypothesis: How could you communicate your research hunches as predictions?** A social research hypothesis asserts an educated guess about how two conditions or social phenomena are related so that it makes a comparison that can be tested by collecting real world data and analyzing it to see if the hypothesis is supported/confirmed.

Example: Drug abusing teenagers will score higher on the I Feel Worthless Inventory than non-drug abusing teenagers.

My Research Hypothesis: In community healthcare, interdisciplinary faith-integration will be proven to affect constructive social change.

**Significance: What difference would the research make to change the world?**

If the integration of faith and social disciplines creates constructive social change at the community level, perhaps such integration can be “scaled up” so that it is recognized at the public policy level.

**STEP 5: CRITICAL (APOLOGETIC) AND CONTEXTUAL COMMUNICATION**

What critical reasons (apologetic) can you give for why your interdisciplinary Christian perspective should be accepted?

The religious perspective keeps the *human experience* in the forefront, so that this experience doesn’t become overshadowed by data or the sole pursuit of empirical evidence.

a. How will you answer the contrary perspectives to your view?

I will answer them with consideration and fairness.

b. Are there any objections or criticisms from variant views that should be anticipated and preempted?

Yes, and these variant views have been addressed in my Developmental Readings.

How do you need to contextualize your perspective to influence your culture/context where it applies?

1. What cultural conditions might cause resistance or misunderstanding of an approach to the subject/problem which sociologically integrates religion and society?

Contextualizing to my situation serving our Healthcare District, I would face great resistance if I attempted to bring biblical references directly (overtly) into my communication with employees, volunteers, or the community.

1. What social conditions need to be changed in order to sociologically integrate religion and society with regard to the subject/problem?

There is presently a growing social attitude (fed by humanist-dominated popular media) that organized religion attempts to force a judgmental and narrow ideology on nonbelievers and thus should be combatted forcefully.

In my opinion, the best way for religious organizations to “keep the door cracked open” is through showing – by example rather than dogma – religion’s emphasis on compassion and care of the poor, the sick, and the weak. Intolerant actions (including hate crimes) will only push religion further away from acceptance by nonbelievers. The Christian church, in particular, must accept that judgmental intolerance is an *unsustainable* strategy for social change!

1. What can you do to make your proposal more persuasive in order to “change your world”?

I can address religion’s historical and ongoing service as it has benefitted, and continues to benefit, society.

**STEP 6: ETHICAL & SOCIAL ORTHOPRAXIS (i.e. LEADERSHIP ACTIONS)**

What practical implications does your interdisciplinary Christian perspective have for your orthopraxis or leadership for world change?

If I can demonstrate that the integration of faith and social disciplines creates constructive social change at the community level, perhaps such integration can be “scaled up” so that it is recognized at the public policy level.

1. What applications for your orthopraxis/leadership need to be made to your personal or family life?

I do not intend to apply orthopraxis/leadership to my personal or family life, as they are not my area of interest in my DSL research.

1. What applications for your orthopraxis/leadership need to be made to your church life?

One day, when I join such a community, I hope that my studies at OGS will have broadened my perspective and given me greater leadership skills which I can use as a volunteer.

1. What applications for your orthopraxis/leadership need to be made to your work or community life?

I will explore how faith-based health practitioners and leaders practitioners play a major constructive role in community healthcare.

**STEP 7: REFLECTIVE EVALUATION**

1. How well did the research satisfy the original need for inquiry? Were there aspects of the problem left unanswered in the research design?

The research fully satisfied my need for inquiry as it pertains specifically to this course.

1. Did the findings spawn new ideas that need to be taken through the interdisciplinary process?

No.

1. Did the attempts at orthopraxis surface any gaps between your position in Step 4 and the adequacy of its ethical and/or social orthopraxis/leadership? Why?

No.