PHI 805-22: Faith-Learning Integration and Interdisciplinary Studies

Cerita Buchanan

Omega Graduate School

August 19, 2023

Professor

Dr. David Ward

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.

**Interdisciplinary Research**

Though disciplinary studies may have its benefits, there are many factors for the emergence of interdisciplinary studies in modern day society.

Specialization and disciplinary focused study is important for authenticity and professionalization. Disciplinary studies promote a decisive epistemological position which validates knowledge through a community of scholars (Ward 2014). Traditionally some fields of study like medicine have been strong proponents of disciplinary study however increasingly the infusion of a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach have enhanced knowledge acquisition and practice based on the acknowledgment of the complex nature of human problems which are not just biological but also psychosocial, emotional, financial and a mix of other factors. Ward (2014) have purported that “the more disciplines specialized the more fragmented knowledge became” (p.30). This emphasizes the need for unity and connection of knowledge and knowledge development for understanding and solving complex human problems.

Adapting an interdisciplinary approach and looking at research problem/real world problem from multiple fields of knowledge and practice is considered superior and a thorough way of conducting research (Repko, Szostak & Buchberger, 2020). Repko et al (2020) have examined the impetus of interdisciplinary study and research and have highlighted five factors: the complexities of society and human beings, complexities of the globalized workplace with introduction of technology and big data which have introduced the need for new skilled and multi-skilled workforce, the “need for systems thinking and contextual thinking,” the need for university research to change and promote multiple interface in order to establish connections that are inherent in the job market and public interest and public policy requires multidisciplinary approach (Repko, Szostak & Buchberger, 2020, p. 5).

Omega Graduate School’s approval, approach and adaptation of interdisciplinary studies and research is encouraging, in particular as it inspires faith based practitioners to integrate Christian and theological thought for a more wholesome analysis and solution oriented focus as it equips its students to be world changers. This encourages the researcher, as this will allow for a multifaceted analysis of sociological, economic and faith analysis of work life and family balance in modern society.

WORKS CITED

Repko, A. F., Szostak, R., & Buchberger, M. P. (2020) *Introduction to Interdisciplinary studies*,

 3rd. Ed. Thousand Oaks, CA:Sage Publications, Inc.

Ward, D. C. (2014). *Interdisciplinary faith-learning integration for social change*. Journal of

 Interdisciplinary Studies, 26 (1/2). 29-56.