COM 803-22: Hermeneutics and Communication

PHI805-22 Faith Learning Integration and Interdisciplinary Studies

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Professors

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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.

**Learning Journal**

This subterm I participated in COM 803-22: Hermeneutics and Communication and PHI805-22 Faith Learning Integration and Interdisciplinary Studies. It has been an intense eight (8) weeks with new learning, exposure and defining moments.

**COM 803-22: Hermeneutics and Communication**

For the hermeneutics and communication course the intent was to engage with the science and methodology of hermeneutics to be able to apply its concepts and techniques to the literary research and communication process by critically examining my prejudices and subjectivity that affect my interpretation of various theological and sociological literature.

This course is a good addition to the DSL programme as it helps in the process of development of arguments to be able to communicate interpretive processes as I approach the dissertation research.

The course was intensive and it challenged me to think critically while examining my prejudices and look at written work and artifacts through a new lens and interpret from my own worldview and cultural experiences in contrast to the author’s own context. There is much more to be gained and learned from hermeneutical methods and though the course is done, the process of learning will continue. The assimilation and acculturation of the material will take its course as I engage in my profession and work in higher education. My theological thinking will expand as I make connections in my course of study.

I was particularly enlightened by the “fusion of horizons” concept by Gadamer and that has helped with contextualization of my experiences and others in order to model decisive interpretations.

When I reviewed the Peace Child trailer at the beginning of the term, I found it was a very interesting anthropology documentary and I reflected on the issues of class, race, ethnicity and language that were themes emanating from the piece based on my hermeneutical analysis from my worldview and interpretivist standpoint. It was astonishing how the tribe and missionaries were able to communicate, interpret language and actions and ultimately understand each other.

Hermeneutics is very useful due to the cultural ideologies and understanding of pre-judgements and preconceived notions as an important part of knowledge development and interpretation. This will be useful for my research on work-life conflict and balance and examining how social research can interpret culture through interpretive methods.

**PHI805-22 Faith Learning Integration and Interdisciplinary Studies**

In the faith learning integration and interdisciplinary studies course, the intent was to be able to combine faith learning Christian scholarship with sociological principles and research into interdisciplinary research that will use theological and sociological epistemology and methods to address complex realities and social problems for world change. This is important at OGS as a place for Christian scholars to learn to change the world.

This is a key course to the andragogical approach at OGS as it engaged my colleagues and I in robust critical thinking and analysis of faith learning interdisciplinary research while using hermeneutic literary concepts to interpret the discourse.

The growth process has been real and is ongoing. In particular, the skills gained in doing assignment 3 (faith learning worksheet) was enlightening and will be useful throughout my studies and beyond. The article by Ward (2014) was very useful in learning about interdisciplinary studies. Though it is a concept heavy paper to assimilate, it has enriched my understanding of how to integrate faith learning to my sociological imagination. Repko’s (2020) work on interdisciplinary research was also quite useful as it highlighted the usefulness and advantages of interdisciplinary studies. I particularly liked Repko’s conception of transdisciplinary work, where academics and non-academics come together to address complex real world problems and draft policy to change the world. Though I have experience writing and researching from a sociological and social work context and perspective, faith and Christian research is very new to me and so the learning process continues in relation to integrating the disciplines (theology, sociology and social work). I look forward to the andragogical rigor of formulating my dissertation research using some of the learning from the course.

In my literature search for my topic of interest, work-life balance, I was able to unearth some rigorous academic peer reviewed literature on theology of work and I intend to search further to find more sources that examines theology of work and theology of rest and how this can be integrated in the sociology of work and leisure conception. I am inspired to continue the literature search and analysis.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, the sub term was met by some personal challenges that impacted my ability to balance and assimilate the material in a timely manner, but I am eternally grateful for all the new learning and knowledge resources which I will continue to build on.

WORKS CITED

Knotts. (2014). *Readers, Texts, and the Fusion of Horizons: Theology and Gadamer’s*

 *Hermeneutics*. Acta Universitatis Carolinae. Theologica, *4*(2), 233–246. <https://doi.org/10.14712/23363398.2015.6>

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.