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

Assignment #4 Faith Learning Journal

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Omega Graduate School

Professor: Dr. David Ward

 (October 9, Fall 2023)

**Assignment #4 Faith 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.

1. **Introduction** – My learning and understanding of the courses is that one of the most significant stories in religious and cultural history is the story of GOD creating Adam and Eve. According to the Bible, GOD created them to live a happy life on earth and to take care of their beautiful home that Go had already provided. (Genesis 2:15) GOD endowed them with a measure of his own qualities. The first man and woman could explore the entire planet and enjoy everything on it. Their offspring would be born into perfect conditions, which is still the plan of God today for us and the entire world. This story teaches us that we are all connected to each other and to the planet we live on that holds all the resources that we need for any given time. We are responsible for taking care of the earth and all the living creatures on it as we still enjoy His creation. It also reminds me that we are all created with unique qualities and that we should cherish and embrace our individuality. By learning from the story of Adam and Eve, we can become more aware of the importance of taking care of our planet, and each other and treating each other with respect and kindness. The story also inspires us to embrace our own qualities and use them to make a positive impact on the world around us.

It is not just about including a Bible verse at the beginning of a lecture or having a devotional or prayer with the class, but rather a comprehensive approach that allows a Christian student to critically examine academic content through the lens of their faith. Faith Learning Integration is a vital component of a Christian classroom, which identifies how God’s brilliant design is found across all disciplines, helping to reveal the very nature of God, man, creation, purpose, redemption, salvation, and order. This integration is essential in a student’s search for truth, reason, morality, and academic, social, and spiritual development. According to researchers It involves examining academic content through the lens of a Christian student and identifying how God’s design is found across all disciplines. This approach could reveal the nature of God, man, creation, purpose, redemption, salvation, and order.

2. **Personal Growth –** The topic of faith-learning integration for social change is a subject that I have been pondering over during my personal growth. As someone who values both faith and knowledge, I have been wondering why it is so important to integrate the two. I have come to the realization that doing so not only helps us better understand the nature of our task, but also leads to better results. I believe that there is a single reality that is created by God and under His dominion, and it is our responsibility as His children and image-bearers to seek understanding of this reality by combining our faith with our scholarly pursuits. As a mature Christian scholar, I strive to let my scholarly thinking be infused with Christian attitudes and beliefs, while my Christian vision of God's world is informed by the best insights gleaned from scholarly activity. By doing so, I believe that I can avoid the task of "integrating" two seemingly separate bodies of knowledge and belief and instead embrace a unitary vision of truth that leads to better results.

**3. Reflective Entry** - As a pastor for nearly a century, I have carried the message of the cross without being involved in changing society's financial stabilities. However, my perspective has changed after taking some courses that have taught me that faith and knowledge are sisters. God created the world whole and missing nothing, including man, whom He placed in the garden that He had planted before creating him. This is clear evidence that God cared for man even before placing him in this world and had everything he needed. Poverty is not God's fault. I have begun to view the universe differently than before. Planting a garden is a challenging task, and God is known to be the first man to have done so. I have some experience with farming myself, having had a small farm of about three acres in Kenya. I would hire casual laborers to help me with the plowing, weeding, and harvesting, and always pray for rain after planting the seeds, having faith that we would reap a good yield come harvest time every four months. It was always comforting to know that my family could rely on the crops we grew. When I think about God planting a garden, certain truths come to mind. The first is the amount of preparation required, which involves clearing and plowing up the ground, deciding which plants will thrive in a specific location, and purchasing the best seeds available. Once the planting is done, it's important to protect the fledgling plants from bugs, animals, and storms, which means building a barrier or wall to prevent unwanted visitors and using fertilizer and water as needed. Then comes the challenging task of waiting patiently for the flowers to emerge on the plants, which ultimately become fruit. This is accompanied by pulling out weeds and pruning the plants to foster more growth.

Absolutely, the presence required is crucial. You cannot plant a garden and leave it alone to produce fruit on its own, which is why God partnered with man. He did the hard job of creating the garden but gave the easier job of caring for it to Adam. This story serves as a reminder that God provides for us so that we can live in abundance and prosperity. The universe has everything we need to make the world a better place for all, and it is up to us to care for it and cultivate it. We need to partner with God to fulfill His plans and purposes.

4. **Conclusion** – Evaluate the effectiveness of the course in meeting your professional, religious, and educational goals. Being here at OGS has been a great experience and especially having all these great selfish less Professors working with me one on one when help is needed. I have grown in my faith and am very humbled to be part of OGS. Am learning a lot, am now a totally different person and what have learned is right in my nostril, I have to be practical, am out of the “Christian” cave. I am passionate about developing my ability to think creatively and innovatively while coming up with solutions to real-world challenges and seizing available opportunities. At OGS academic institution, the different units that focus on various cultures and regions have played an instrumental role in my growth and development. Through these units of course, I have learned to identify and apply the best practices in different contexts, and I have gained a better understanding of the significance of diverse methods and ways to apply in different cultural background, and other perspectives in devising effective solutions to many challenges. I feel that my academic program has helped me to think critically and pay attention to the local details, and to recognize the variations not only across contexts but also within contexts. I am confident that the skills and knowledge that I have gained from my academic program will continue to benefit me as I embark on my professional journey to change my world as according the United Nation on Department of Economic and Social Affairs Sustainable Development, there is no country or person should be left behind on sustainability development.

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**Grace, I enjoyed reading your Course Learning Journal for PHI 805-22! Your reflections on what you learned in this course are meaningful.**

**In the Introduction you wrote: "It is not just about including a Bible verse at the beginning of a lecture or having a devotional or prayer with the class, but rather a comprehensive approach that allows a Christian student to critically examine academic content through the lens of their faith. Faith Learning Integration is a vital component of a Christian classroom, which identifies how God’s brilliant design is found across all disciplines, helping to reveal the very nature of God, man, creation, purpose, redemption, salvation, and order. This integration is essential in a student’s search for truth, reason, morality, and academic, social, and spiritual development."**

**Dr. Ward Feedback: This is an excellent synthesis of the importance of faith-learning integration!**

**In the Personal Growth section you wrote: "The topic of faith-learning integration for social change is a subject that I have been pondering over during my personal growth. As someone who values both faith and knowledge, I have been wondering why it is so important to integrate the two. I have come to the realization that doing so not only helps us better understand the nature of our task, but also leads to better results. ... As a mature Christian scholar, I strive to let my scholarly thinking be infused with Christian attitudes and beliefs, while my Christian vision of God's world is informed by the best insights gleaned from scholarly activity. By doing so, I believe that I can avoid the task of "integrating" two seemingly separate bodies of knowledge and belief and instead embrace a unitary vision of truth that leads to better results.**

**Dr. Ward Feedback: I appreciate your ability to make connections between ideas in ways that advance your own academic and professional goals.**

**Your Reflective Entry was very personal: "Poverty is not God's fault. I have begun to view the universe differently than before. Planting a garden is a challenging task, and God is known to be the first man to have done so. I have some experience with farming myself, having had a small farm of about three acres in Kenya. I would hire casual laborers to help me with the plowing, weeding, and harvesting, and always pray for rain after planting the seeds, having faith that we would reap a good yield come harvest time every four months. It was always comforting to know that my family could rely on the crops we grew."**

**Dr. Ward Feedback: The metaphor of farming you developed for ministry and scholarship showed a wonderful appreciation of the importance of integration!**

**The Works Cited section was not needed for the Journal because you did not cite any of the sources in the assignment, although you did use some of them in Assignments 2 & 3.**

**Keep up the great work! -- Prof. David Ward**