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Omega Graduate School

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17/12/23

**Course Learning Journal**

The journal is a written reflection of your learning journey while working in each course and is an integration of 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 consistent with the Tutorial Methodology to express insights gained as a result of the course of study. Submit the course learning journal via DIAL. The course learning journal should be 5-7 pages in length, and should include the following sections:

**Introduction** – Describe the expectations of the graduate program and the campus residency component for that course. 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.

**Personal Growth** - Describe your personal growth–how the course stretched or challenged you– as well as your progress in mastery of course content and skills during the week and through subsequent readings – what new insights or skills you gained.

**Reflective Entry** - Add a reflective entry that describes the contextualization (or adaptation and relevant application) of new learning into your professional field. What questions or concerns have surfaced about your professional field as a result of your study?

**Future Expectations** - Continue the journal by addressing questions and concerns you now have relating to the graduate program expectations.

**Conclusion** – Synthesize the three body sections above, evaluating the effectiveness of the course in meeting your professional, religious, and educational goals.

The Organizational Dynamics during the Core B was interesting as it was my first completely asynchronous class at OGS and the first class I did with Dr Sorber under the new system that OGS implemented. Having done four previous cores with OGS, I was weary about what to expect as our core was condensed into one weekend. I realise that I missed the more in-depth discussion that would normally be had during the week of Core, where students would get to share their experience with the topics related to their particular field of interest, especially as my previous class with Dr Sorber included his real-world experiences that he would share with us. The course is appropriately placed in core five as it allows the student to practically think about and examine how they fit in their workplace and the issues they may encounter there.

Since coming to OGS I have noticed a trend where the topics I focus on in class becomes relavent to either my personal or professional life. This term was no different as I had to confront a coworker about how he treats with the other workers. He acts in the position of supervisory role but can be very crass when dealing with others, especially as we have a mostly female staff who may be more sensitive to his type of leadership. I previously would shy away from confrontation but I have become alot more assertive during my time at OGS.

This particular semester was tough. I struggled to keep up with the coursework submission, and I took longer to make the specific connections that I normally would when completing assignments. I also was not able to attend most of the meetups due to conflcting schedules so I misssed some of the interface with professors. Honestly, I am not a big fan of this new core except that we are no longer required to work through the Christmas break, but I am glad that the majority of my courses were completed in the previous dispensation. Working as a Youth Development Associate (YDO), I am one of the people working closely with youth in various communities. By nature of the job I become aware of different issues that communities face and the various way I have to navigate and assist. The course is a reminder of the work I do is not just a job but a vocation that I have been called to.I use a collaborative approach when I go into communities to assist youth-serving and youth-led groups. Various stakeholders are called upon depending on the project and particular needs of the community; community policing, guidance counsellors, psychologists, businessmen, and other community stakeholders are sometimes called on to assist, dependent on the objective of the project to be developed. The course would have reinforced the importance of considering the delicate dance that sometimes need to be made when interfacing with people of different socioeconomic or educational backgrounds. I have always preferred working on community level projects versus national projects, however in this season I am being assigned to many more national level projects and thus I am interfacing with alot more prominent influential people.I have began paying more conscious attention to group dynamics and personalities as I work on various comittes. The Lord is exposing me to bigger and increasing my appreciation for that level of impact, I have consciously stopped downplaying my work as just community-level work.

Currently in my church I am the the acting director for women's Ministries in my church as the previous director has moved on to another role. As little as five years ago I would not have thought that I would be so heavily involved in ministry.These new spheres have imprinted on me the need for for personal integrity as the Lord requires me to be a witness of him. As I navigate this role I also have to consider the different personalities of the women I serve, both the committee of women I work directly with and the women in the congregation who are of varying age groups. As a lot of community work and ministry work entails more intimate and less formal interactions, authenticity is appreciated by individuals, especially young people who are very discerning of ones character.

I hope that I continue to be an effective change agent who is able to impact communities that sometimes don't have an advocate on their side; in doing so I hope that ultimately I will be able to point people to Christ as they see the way in which I effectively perform my Job. One of the most rewarding occurrences I have had professionally is when a once rude and socially dysfunctional teenager meets you years later and greets you with respect and, through their interaction, lets you know that they are well on their way to being a fully functional adult. This change that is exhibited in young persons rarely occurs unless there is an intervention by adults in their lives who previously poured into them and invest their time in mentoring or guiding them. This mentoring process is able to occur in community work as hopefully the stakeholders are invested in the well-being of the youths and community at large.

As I come to the end of this course and begin my final Core of the Doctorate degree, I look forward to using what I have learned in previous cores to concretize my action research project. The Organizational Dynamics journal course allows for the Christian scholar-practitioner to gain an appreciation for their work as ministry and they ways in which we serve people with authenticity and integrity. I appreciated the self reflection that this class allowed that can be implemented in personal, professional and spiritual life. It allowed me to examine critically and take note of the work I do in communities and my interactions with both colleagues and clients, differing personalities can sometimes be a challenge to work with but with a understandying of the why I engage in the work that I do, I am better able to function in my calling.

Educationally OGS has exceeded my expectations. The coursework allows for insightful discussions and thoughts about our work and how it aligns with kingdom building. It encourages evaluation of your work and ways to implement it to ensure effectiveness. As Christians, we are responsible for working with excellence in whatever sphere we are called to.