COM-803 Hermeneutics and Communications

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Professor

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Assignment

Assignment #4 – Course Learning Journal

The journal is a written reflection of your learning journey while working on 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.

Hermeneutics and communications are interconnected fields exploring interpreting and understanding texts, symbols, and messages. While hermeneutics focuses on the principles and methods of interpretation, communications examine the process of transmitting and receiving information.

In hermeneutics, interpretation involves a dialogue between the interpreter and the text, where the goal is to uncover the author's intended meaning. However, hermeneutics recognizes that meaning is not fixed and can vary depending on the interpreter's perspective. This recognition of the subjective nature of interpretation led to different hermeneutical approaches, such as historical, literary, and philosophical hermeneutics.

Conversely, communication focuses on conveying and receiving information through various channels, such as verbal and nonverbal communication, written texts, visual media, and digital platforms. It examines how messages are created, transmitted, and interpreted within different social, cultural, and technological contexts.

Understanding the process of interpretation is crucial for effective communication in the communications field. Interpretation involves not only the encoding of messages by the sender but also the decoding of messages by the receiver. The receiver's interpretation is influenced by their cultural background, knowledge, and personal experiences, which can sometimes lead to miscommunication or different interpretations of the same message.

**Personal Growth**

Personal growth is a lifelong journey of self-improvement, self-discovery, and self-actualization. It involves developing and enhancing various aspects of one's life, including emotional, intellectual, physical, and spiritual well-being. Personal growth is not a destination but a continuous learning, adapting, and evolving process. When I began this journey, I did not know what to expect. I know that is the typical cliche often used, but this has stretched my thinking intellectually, and more importantly, it has forced me to step outside of the comfort zone of my beliefs, whether based on tradition, training, or personal experiences. It has given me a better self-awareness and the ability to understand my strengths, weaknesses, values, beliefs, and emotions.

**Reflective Entry**

Being a police officer is a complex career path. As a young twenty-one-year-old leaving college and going into the police academy, I did not know to the extent that it would change me. From day one to when you are called home to God, you are a police officer. Most careers have downtime. As a police officer, there never is downtime: in training, it is instilled in you always to be aware of your surroundings to be always prepared to take action when needed, so in everyday life, when most people are aimlessly walking around, I am, and I would say that 99% of those that are police officers are still vigilant in their duties. Over the years, this has affected me as I see the world. It has caused an us versus them mentality; I sometimes judge a book by its cover, and in some cases, that preconception has influenced my response or actions. Surprisingly, this course has provided a better understanding of not just my world as a police officer but the world in general. It has caused me to take off my blinders and look around, listen to other perspectives, and reevaluate some of the preconceived values, ideas, and concepts that have been so ingrained in me over the years.

**Conclusion**

This course has provided me with a tool of self-reflection and mindfulness that I can utilize daily in my career and life. It has helped me develop self-compassion, self-acceptance, and a deeper understanding of myself and others.

God's grace is undeserved, limitless, and transformative force that enables me to experience spiritual growth and the ability to extend love and forgiveness to others. It is not just a one-time event but an ongoing process of receiving and responding to God's grace in one's life. It is a sign of personal growth which requires commitment, self-reflection, and a willingness to embrace change. By continuously seeking opportunities for growth and self-improvement, I can unlock my full potential and lead a more fulfilling and purposeful professional, religious, and educational life.