**Assignment #4 – Course Learning Journal**

Loretta Evans

Omega Graduate School

COM 803-12: Hermeneutics and Communication (Spring 2024)

Professor: Dr. Ken Schmidt

February 7, 2024

**Introduction**

COM 803-12 has been a key part of my graduate program sojourn, offering an extensive analysis of the dynamic interaction between hermeneutics and communication. This course resides within the curriculum in such a way that it lays bare both the philosophical basis of the interpretative approach and its wide range as one recognizes how broadly interpretation has permeated all strains among students. Through looking into the Basics of hermeneutics Pluralist perspective, students learn to understand both how they are influenced by interpretation and what becomes possible through different communication practices. Using in-depth, self-sustained study and analysis this course prepares learners with the right tools to confront post-modern communication patterns which would enable systematic debate on issues embedded in many shades and dimensions of meaning.

**Personal Growth**

Taking part in COMP540-12 activities has truly been an intense learning curve that challenged my intellectual levels while calling out of me deep personal progress. From the beginning, I engaged in concepts that first appeared confusing but ended up being incredibly gratifying to contend with. Every week meant more complicated problems as I explored hermeneutic subtleties and their dynamics concerning communicating practices. Perhaps the most gratifying aspect of this adventure has been to be able to subject various hermeneutical approaches critically. By interrogating the field’s theoretical underpinnings and interpreting my experiences critically, I was able to articulate a more supple depiction of how distinct interpretive frameworks are employed in constructing meanings about communication processes. Along with theoretical knowledge, my analysis skills have substantially developed while working on this process as now I am fluent and confident in dealing with complicated texts or cases.

A major developmental feature for me has been the realization of communication as essentially interpretative. Historically speaking, I was dealing with different complications of meaning-making. The context and perspective are crucial to the understanding of communication phenomena. This understanding, in turn, has led me to engage in practices of communication anew – reflexivity that brings forth the constant questioning and interrogation for basic assumptions as well as biases behind our interpretations. In addition, this course has pushed me to reflect on the ethical connotations of interpretation in communication. Navigating through discourses of power relations in the operations of communication processes, I become sensitized to matters regarding ethical obligation that underlies interpretation. This acute perception has more than made me understand the importance of ethical communication practices but also influenced my mind to be answerable for what I practice professionally.

**Reflective Entry**

As the principles in COM 803 -12 have been revealed to be remarkably applicable and revolutionary, they revolutionized my world of marketing and public relations. With this in mind, hermeneutics and communication seem to evoke various philosophical undertones as I have tried by the crisscrossed horizons but these thoughts are at their uppermost levels and reflect on what one would identify that plan of strategy through real audience engagement. Learning that audiences may have a wide array of perspectives about communication messages constitutes one of the most essential insights I acquired in this course. With the world of marketing and public relations being such a rapidly changing landscape, comprehending these diverse viewpoints proves crucial in formulating successful messaging strategies. Through the implementation of hermeneutic ideals precisely in my strategic communication planning, I am likely to predict much better and deal with a wide range of audience interpretations. Additionally, this insight has encouraged me to look at ethics involved in the influence and meaning of public discourse from a critical perspective. As communicators, we have the power to influence perceptions and attitudes with our messages. But this is a power with an obligation to ensure that our interaction is worth the name of being true communication, and opinions proffered by individuals come from different schools.

One of the central questions that has emerged for me is: Therefore, as a human society that tends to preserve the integrity of everything verbal how do we negotiate for interpretive gulf greets with the other side? The whole challenge is in the moral ambiguities of communication practices that messages did not do anything but widen a gap between information and opinion, creating conditions that bred polarizing rhetoric. As communicators, we have to make our best possible if not impossible even ) total efforts may be needed so always respect ethical standards given the numerous possibilities which originate out of different interpretations by those who perceive or read them. In this respect, such a solution to the problem is represented by clear communication practices with authenticity. If we unite our intentions, philosophy, and respect for the audiences who actively participate in communication this can help us create trust. Also, by developing diversity-minded communication processes we can make our means of rendering separated opinions to be respected. Furthermore, we require perpetual reflection and evaluation of our communication practices to preserve ethical integrity. Continuous evaluation of the messages and responses from different stakeholders is vital so that we can detect weaknesses to which our efforts on improvement are being targeted.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, The mentioned above coursework COM803-12 has greatly contributed to the widening my perspective on communication practices I have also learned more about what comprises qualitative and procedural aspects of strategic communications. By analyzing hermeneutic principles in close detail and their relation to the communication process, I can obtain important knowledge that proves useful not only for my academic development but also professional career in marketing and public relations. In this aspect, with the concepts gained concerning strategic communication planning; I will ensure that they stay clear in my head as I proceed further-seeking messages represented against different perceptions invested by disparate classes and a constant commitment to ethical dignified. Restored consciousness and accountability for the evolution in my praxis, I am very much sure that what stayed with information from COM 803-12 would add to it.