History of the Integration of Religion and Society

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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.

**1. Introduction:** The History of the Integration of Religion and Society allowed me to research the history of work both from a biblical and secular perspective. It wasn’t until grad school at Hope International University that I had a course that integrated Christianity. I am so thankful for the opportunity there and now at OGS. Researching Christianity and work was enlightening.

It took me a long time to see how God wanted me to use this course for my graduate program. I see how the church today has veered off course, not teaching biblical principles of work, faith at work, or work as a mission field. This is my purpose for this class. The history supports the need to add the secular and Christian work perspective; and develop a program to fill the gap between secular vocation and Christian vocation.

The result is My apologies for the significant delay in completing these assignments. The position of this course in the curricular sequence, like each class taken to date, is perfect. I’ve been working on what I want to do for the DSL project, but needed the historical perspective to explain the change from Adam’s work in the garden to today.

**2. Personal Growth:** As mentioned, this course required reading through course material and working on Assignment #2 - Developing Reading for God to show me my path. It however, narrowed my path in preparation for Core 2 Session B courses.

New insights gained include how to share with the church. Pointing to The Great Commission and seeing my own roadblocks to sharing the gospel prevented me from being open about my own Christianity. In planning “The Great Commission and Vocational Calling” Program, I see the need to equip students to share Christ and to teach them how to use their spiritual and vocational gifts in their mission field.

**3. Reflective Entry:** I will be adding this new program to the other two envisioned on this doctoral journey. As the CEO of VRG, I am able to reach out to churches, Christian schools, and ministry organizations. I have also defined three groups that these programs apply to - Jr & Sr’s in high school, transitional adults that have lost their job or are in the wrong field, and retirees. I can see myself teaching others and working with researchers to grow the fields of BAM and Calling. Thank you Dr Ward for our conversations and the resources. I can’t wait for that opportunity. In the meantime, I hope to share my programs with churches around the world. We can create our own 15 minute cities around the church on behalf of the Kingdom.

**4. Conclusion:** Loved the course! Initially, I was getting discouraged because I didn’t see an application. As I continued to read and pray, God showed me what he wanted me to see and use this course for.

The assignment response starts on the third page.

WORKS CITED