History of the Integration of Religion & Society

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Omega Graduate School

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Professor

Dr. Ward

**Quinton, I am very impressed with your Course Learning Journal for PHI 815-22! Your reflections on what you learned in this course are deep and meaningful. I especially appreciate your ability to integrate concepts across courses and make connections between ideas in ways that advance your own academic and professional goals. The following quote from your journal sums up for me that this course served its intended purpose in your progress through the OGS program: "In conducting my research, I always explore all the essential elements to capture a broadminded view before deeply diving into one or more than a few of them. During this session, I spent nearly equal time researching all four before deciding to (primarily) write on two: social reform and Christianity’s influence on society. Social reform piqued my interest since social reform calls for a social reformer, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, or Florence Kelley. My goal is to become a reformer in addressing poverty, racism, and inequality, especially as it pertains to youth and the lasting negative effect it is likely to have on them.**

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

**Grade: A**

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PHI-815 History of the Integration of Religion & 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

a cultivation, 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?

From my perspective, the course was intended to accomplish two things: to get me thinking about what subject matter I’d like to do extensive research on while studying some topics that have been researched before. The course fits well with Omega Graduate School’s curriculum structure, exposing me to a few action research possibilities. As of now, I often get lost in my research, spending hours reading about things related to my subject and, at times, things that pique my interest. Now that an action research project is being considered, my research efforts are viewed differently. To be clear, I have not selected a specific topic, but I better understand what interests me.

A significant component of my personal growth can be tied to research, particularly research associated with the essential elements.

The course's essential elements were as follows:

* Social Reforms
* Religion & Society Integration Models
* Christianity’s Influence on Society
* Historical Methodologies

In conducting my research, I always explore all the essential elements to capture a broadminded view before deeply diving into one or more than a few of them. During this session, I spent nearly equal time researching all four before deciding to (primarily) write on two: social reform and Christianity’s influence on society.

Social reform piqued my interest since social reform calls for a social reformer, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, or Florence Kelley.

My goal is to become a reformer in addressing poverty, racism, and inequality, especially as it pertains to youth and the lasting negative effect it is likely to have on them.

Recently, I was invited to an intimate lunch meeting with the President of Boys & Girls Clubs of America and two other top Chief Executive Officers from my region. During the three-hour meeting, we discussed numerous topics, including poverty here in America and how it has a long-lasting impact on the youth residing in underserved communities where we provide services. Although we could not develop a viable solution to the problem, as mentioned earlier, we have it on our radar and are working towards possible solutions.

My time at Omega Graduate School has been challenging and rewarding. The courses have been great, and the support of the Professors and faculty has been second to none. As has been customary, the location of this course, as it pertains to the overall doctorate program, makes a lot of sense. I must admit that I thought I had the system down, and the outline for the essay had me stumped. Nonetheless, I could plow through and embrace the process to construct an essay that hits all the marks.

Lastly, my professional workload ebbs and flows. Just when I thought there was adequate time to do my homework, an unforeseen life or work challenge seemed to surface, but I vow to work through any obstacles to finish this process and implement my learning to make this world a better place.

In terms of evaluating the effectiveness of the course in meeting my professional, religious, and educational goals, please see the following:

**Professional goals:**

This program helped shine some light on a few things that really matter to me: underserved youth and their families and racism and inequality. In my professional life, I have the opportunity to deal with the situation mentioned by connecting people to the services they need to make ends meet and by educating them on how to navigate through systems that may be perceived as racist or biased.

**Religious goals:**

This course made me do a lot of soul-searching, which caused me to have an ongoing “revival with my bible.” Any course that drives me to have a stronger connection with the Word meets my expectations!

**Educational Goals:**

The coursework was fascinating; I loved researching, analyzing, and contextualizing my learning. The developmental readings are a novel idea that has profoundly enhanced my understanding of various subjects; the work associated with that portion of the course is well worth the (extensive) time and effort. Overall, the learning in this course and the others has been magnificent; I am more excited about the program than ever before.

The programs at OGS have been great, challenging timewise, but significant.

WORKS CITED