Sociological Methodology: Interpreting Changing Cultures

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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 intent of this course is to learn how to integrate a Christian worldview with sociological research. This fits into the graduate program by guiding the development of a research topic to analyze a social problem. This is an excellent point in the program for this class and Comm 822. The relevance is that these courses are in a sequence similar to advancing to the next level.

**2. Personal Growth -**

Since starting at OGS, what I planned for my doctoral project has changed and become more refined. What is interesting as the topic evolved, each change presented another avenue for research.

There has been significant personal growth as a result of researching different topics and concepts. Learning about the Christian worldview with regards to work and how to integrate it with sociological theory provided good practice for developing both secular and non-secular programs.

It was challenging to find scripture, but I enjoyed learning more about the bible including that there are over 2000 verses pertaining to finances. Now, I will study and integrate scriptures on finance with teaching biblical principles of work.

 The new insight over the course of this class is the staggering increase in deconversion since 2011 and the need for something like the proposed career paradigm to help students, society, and the world.

**3. Reflective Entry -**

I came to this class with the intent to develop a new career paradigm to support Business As Mission. Originally, the career development paradigm was to help BAMers discover their vocational design. Over the course of this class, the significance of 70% of students losing their faith in college became a burden that I strongly believe can be drastically changed by the proposed new career development paradigm. The original program I envisioned will still be developed and researched, but the focus of my doctoral project will be the new career paradigm.

As research goes, God is moving in the BAM area. Since it is a newer field, it seems there is an opportunity for my research. I look forward to developing a study for the new career paradigm; and will reach out to Dr. Ward to inquire.

Reflecting on this session, I must share the professional opportunities that God opened up to me during this session. The Cypress Elementary School District appointed me as the Trustee for the remainder of the school year. It will require that I run for re-election, but if elected I look forward to serving a four year term. Additionally, there are secondary and post-secondary opportunities that may allow me to conduct an actual study for the proposed new career development paradigm. Only God knows what the future holds, but the synergy between school and my career has me feeling very positive.

**4. Conclusion –**

 This provides context for the immediate future and will require that I meet with OGS faculty to chart my course for the remainder of my doctoral program. Strategic planning will help with time management since I needed several extensions this last semester.

I look forward to going back through material that I should review again. It will be helpful to do that this summer before classes start in August. For the remainder of my time at OGS, I will work on staying on track when the next session starts. This is especially important because I missed several opportunities to connect with classmates.

There never seems to be enough time, but I have immense appreciation for the mindfulness that OGS staff and faculty have put into this program. Splitting up the semester into two sessions has allowed me to complete the first year of my program. The quality of the instruction has elevated my cognitive ability, which is appreciated after spending 20 years raising three amazing boys.

As I reflect on my experience with OGS, it is very apparent how my degree will enrich my career goals. That is important at every level. Getting a job in your field rarely happens, but with the new career paradigm, the goal is to change that outcome.

WORKS CITED

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