

LDR815 Transforming People Problems
PHI815, History of Integration of Religion and Society

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Professors

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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.

Learning Journal

This subterm I participated in two courses- PHI815 History of the Integration of Religion and Society and LDR815 Transforming People Problems. Both courses allowed me to further expand my thinking around my area of passion. It has been an intense eight (8) weeks with new learning, exposure and defining moments.

PHI815 History of the Integration of Religion and Society

This course taught me how to think critically about Integration of religion and society as we seek after God's purpose for our lives (the Joseph Calling). The intent of the course was to examine Christianity's influence on society (which is often unrecognized); to highlight how religion and society is integrated through examining the creation Fall and redemption i.e. Cultural and redemptive mandate; to examine historical methodologies in order to trace the development of society and its challenges along christian history and christian historical impact and to integrate these concepts through a society and religion analysis through our calling to world change.

This course is very relevant to the programme and it expands from an earlier course, PHI 805-22: Faith-Learning Integration and Interdisciplinary Studies, to be able to deepen the theological and sociological connection and divide through an understanding of Christian and other religious history in order to further cement our calling as Christian scholars.

Throughout the subterm I was stretched to read religious history that in which I had no prior experience beyond my bible classes at church; comparing religious worldviews, discerning the

critical worldview of authors as I read and made connection to cultural context of the time and how it connects to the modern and postmodern world. There are some new insights gained in particular from the article “The Kingdom: What is going on behind the Scenes of History” paper by Dr David Ward and Schmidt’s “How Christianity Changed the World” article. As a 1st time Christian scholar Ward takes us on an exploration of some historical code that defines the Kingdom journey through some Socratic questions and a journey of the parables. It was educational and critical for theological knowledge development. Schmidt’s article was also very useful and presented various societal challenges and how theology addresses these areas of focus. This was a useful paper that helped me expand my work life balance and gender inequality paper.

In the course I have achieved some level of mastery, in what at first appeared a daunting task.

The readings and guidance from Dr Ward were resourceful in my experience of the content.

There is more learning required but the journey has started. The course allowed me to assess and analyze my thinking within the work life balance discourse and how work and rest were conceptualized at creation and how we have strayed in this post modern iteration.

The course was effective in meeting my professional, religious and educational goals through the increase in knowledge of religion and society integration and how it relates to my area of social reform to change the world in my lifetime.

LDR815 Transforming People Problems

When I saw the theme of this course, immediately I thought how aligned this was to my years of training and experience. I am always open to gaining new knowledge about how to solve and transform social problems of society and so I was excited. In particular, how this can be achieved

through theological and christian scholarship (which was new to me), given that I was also exposed to the sociological and social work worldview. The course was intense as it aimed to cover some key areas in transforming social problems. The course analyzed leadership styles in particular transformative leadership as distinct from transactional leadership. It explored communication and conflict resolution and various methods and techniques to ensure effective practice. It also sought to explain motivating change and how this is critical for transformation and it introduced interdisciplinary perspectives on human behavior. This course is aligned with overall objectives of the OGS program, in particular it aligns with the outcome- “Transform people's problems in groups or organizations through applying personality assessment, conflict resolution, or coaching/mentoring skills.”

The course taught me some key things around people problems and our first class with Dr Davis was a great start. It presented us with the ICE method to treat strained relationships which I will not forget; Intentionally loving, Caring and Encouragement. The videos and reading list was very helpful throughout. In particular, the video on encouraging dialogue in critical conversation by Bertotti resonated with me based on my background in social work and the importance of dialogue and communication to solve problems. The video presentation on challenging conversations was also a good context for the course. I was pleased to see John Maxwell literature on the reading list, given his global context as an expert of leadership; it was easy to access as I have a number of his material in my library and have used his books as a resource throughout my leadership journey. The course had some crucial reminders from my own learning and experience for example the JoHari Window, the discourse on leadership styles and communication.

The content in this course reflects material that I use and will continue to use in my professional practice. It aligns with my leadership certification that I have completed prior in the United States and the training that I have in Social Work. Additionally, the material was able to help me analyze theological perspectives on work life balance which is an area of passion and purpose for me.

I look forward to continuing to expand my knowledge in transforming people problems as I step into my purpose as a Christian scholar and endeavour to change the world.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the growth process has been real and is ongoing. I look forward to the andragogical rigour of the courses that I will take in the next subterm. The subterm was met by some personal challenges that impacted my ability to balance and assimilate the material in a timely manner, but I am eternally grateful for all the new learning and knowledge resources which I will continue to build on.

