**Brian, I am very impressed with your Course Learning Journal for PHI 805-22! 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. My favorite insight was this one: "Looking back, I realize that my true calling has been a protector." That synthetic self-realization tied together all of the growth and learning I saw through your work in this foundational class. It seems like it had a transforming effect that I pray will empower you in your calling going forward! It has been an honor to have you as a student!**

**Dr. Ward**

**Grade: A**

PHI 805-12 Faith-Learning and Interdisciplinary Studies

C. Brian Diggs

Omega Graduate School

Date: October 5, 2024

Professor

David Ward, Ph.D., Th.M.

**Assignment #4** – Course Learning Journal The journal is a written reflection of your learning journey while working on 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, incorporating new ideas into your existing knowledge of each course. This is also an opportunity to communicate with your professor insights gained because 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, 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 course's effectiveness in meeting your professional, religious, and educational goals.

Integrating faith, learning, and interdisciplinary studies significantly impacts education, research, and societal change. Faith-learning integration involves merging our faith with the learning process to connect our beliefs with academic pursuits, encouraging exploring how our values and ethics influence our understanding of various subjects. Interdisciplinary studies combine knowledge and methodologies from different disciplines to address complex issues, promoting a holistic understanding of topics and encouraging collaboration across fields to develop solutions to societal challenges. Understanding different worldviews is crucial in research, influencing how questions are framed, data is interpreted, and conclusions are drawn. Worldview literacy allows us to identify biases and assumptions, leading to more inclusive and comprehensive studies. Learning to change the world emphasizes how social responsibility and ethical leadership can empower us to impact our communities positively and beyond, involving the development of critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a solid moral foundation.

**Personal Growth**

Engaging in interdisciplinary studies has allowed me to explore various fields through the lens of my faith. This exploration has deepened my understanding of my spiritual beliefs and how these beliefs intersect with different areas of knowledge. Integrating my faith with diverse disciplines has encouraged critical thinking. By applying my faith to these discussions, I can develop an ethical framework that informs my decision-making and actions in both personal and professional contexts. Working across disciplines often involves opening up and collaborating with others with different beliefs and values. This course has enhanced my communication skills, adaptability, and openness to diverse viewpoints. Integrating faith and interdisciplinary studies has challenged me and made me more curious and open to exploring new ideas outside my comfort zone.

**Reflective Entry**

Throughout my life, I have been dedicated to a single career path: law enforcement. However, I have always pursued a variety of extracurricular activities. Looking back, I realize that my true calling has been a protector. From a young age, my guiding principle has been to ensure the well-being of those around me. Despite being one of the smallest members of my family and not the biggest person in school, my values, goals, and motivation centered on looking after newcomers in school, sports teams, and the neighborhood. This innate drive led me to believe that my purpose in life was to become a police officer. The desire to improve the world has been ingrained in me since childhood and continues to drive me today. I am committed to contributing to something greater than myself, whether my family, community, or society.

The beliefs and values that stem from faith play a crucial role in guiding individuals to find their purpose in life. These guiding principles help determine what holds significance and meaning, ultimately shaping one's goals and ambitions. This course has been instrumental in deepening my understanding of how my faith intersects with my knowledge. It has empowered me to identify numerous ways to positively impact society while staying true to my values and effectively pursuing my career without inner conflict. My faith has significantly influenced my sense of purpose and calling, shaping how I perceive myself and my role in the world. It acts as a guiding force, directing my decisions and actions as a police officer toward fulfilling my perceived purpose. While I have taken an oath to protect and serve and am bound by policies and procedures, my faith has deeply influenced my perspective on my work. Over the past year, the courses at OGS have provided me with a perspective that has elevated my career to be viewed as a true calling. They have shown me how to integrate my knowledge of law enforcement with my faith-based values. Law Enforcement can be challenging in my line of work, and there have been times when I felt disheartened by what I was doing. However, by integrating the OGS courses, I have learned how my faith instills resilience and hope, especially during challenging times in fulfilling my purpose and calling. Through introspection, my worldview has transformed into that of a police officer. I believe that I am not just here to enforce laws but to contribute to my community by promoting social justice that aligns with my faith and sense of purpose.

**Conclusion**

Faith-learning integration can lead to more meaningful inquiry as I reflect on how my beliefs influence my work. It encourages ethical considerations and a commitment to social justice. Personal growth in faith integration and interdisciplinary studies not only enriches my life but also equips me to make meaningful contributions to my community and the world at large. By intertwining these concepts, I can cultivate a more engaged, thoughtful, and impactful approach to learning and inquiry. My faith can significantly enrich the understanding of my purpose and calling, providing guidance and a framework for ethical living. It can transform ordinary pursuits into meaningful endeavors that align closely with my values and beliefs.