**Loretta, excellent work on your Worksheet for PHI 805-22! This is a model worksheet! I would like to use it as a Sample! You made a good case for the need for the research. It must be inspiring to see the impact of your coaching people on finding their calling and seeing work in relation to God as part of your calling. You did a great job in Step 2 in finding relevant scholarly literature to support your research questions! Your interdisciplinary suggestions on the contributions of sociology, psychology, and economics added a breadth of perspective to reflecting on work. In Step 3 you did a good job identifying key insights to develop a “Christian worldview perspective” on work. In Step 4 you succinctly synthesized your research purpose and converted a research problem into a hypothesis: "People who see their employment as a job are more stressed, dissatisfied, and purposeless than those who see it as a calling." In Step 5 of Contextualization you showed the superiority of a Christian calling view of work over a means to an end economic perspective. In Step 6 you showed personal application to your practice of coaching people in finding their calling and seeing work from a spiritual perspective. Your Step 7 Evaluation showed the value of what you learned through the process and how it inspired you to continue further research in the program about this vital issue. In your Works Cited note comments on APA style in the use of sentence case versus title case with article and book titles. Grade: A**

**Keep up the excellent work, Loretta! -- Prof. David Ward**

**Faith-Learning Integration Worksheet**

Loretta Evans

PHI--805

September 28, 2024

**Date:**
September 27, 2024

**Name of Scholar-Practitioner:**
Loretta Evans

**Educational Background:**
Bachelors in business management, masters in business, doctor in religious studies.

**Social Profession:**
Minister since 2015

**Other Pertinent Information:**
Certificate in Honor Society.

**Step 1: Observations Raising the Need for Inquiry**

**What is the subject/problem that prompts the need to integrate faith and learning and do Christian interdisciplinary research?**

Christians consider labor as a calling from God, whereas non-Christians see it as a route to prosperity. Many people endure sadness, lack of motivation, or burnout because secular people view work as a compulsory and often unpleasant part of life. Christians view labor as part of God's plan for human growth, unlike secularists. To answer this, Christian interdisciplinary research must investigate work and religion.

**a. Why is the topic of interest to you given your profession or personal history?**

This is a fascinating issue since it appeals to everyone's desire to make a difference at work. I understand how a person's professional mindset influences their mental health as a mental health advocate. A goal-oriented or transactional view of work can cause worry, stress, and unfulfillment. This makes me wonder how religious ideas may assist us understand our jobs, improving our well-being and giving our lives significance.

**b. Why is there a need to research this subject/problem?**

This study is relevant because modern perceptions of work as mundane tasks cause job discontent and disengagement. More people are complaining about work-related mental health issues, burnout, and purposelessness. Studies that connect faith and employment may help people find meaning and fulfillment by matching their vocation with their calling (Mighty, 2023). This perspective can boost mental health and happiness.

**c. What various disciplines or perspectives need to be brought to bear to adequately address this subject/problem?**

To address this issue comprehensively, multiple disciplines must be considered:

* **Theology**: to explore how biblical principles shape our understanding of work and vocation.
* **Psychology**: to examine the impact of work on mental health, motivation, and job satisfaction.
* **Sociology**: to understand work's role in shaping social identity, community, and individual purpose (Trye Jr, 2020).
* **Economics**: to contextualize work in terms of labor markets, productivity, and the financial implications of viewing work solely as a job versus a calling.
* **History**: to understand the historical evolution of work from pre-industrial societies to modern capitalist economies, which has shaped current attitudes toward work.

**d. How might faith-integration and interdisciplinary research yield better answers than either exclusively religious or exclusively academic research might provide?**

Secular researchers may miss faith-integration's larger picture. Sociological and psychological research on employment's influence on self-esteem and happiness typically disregard the spiritual component that may help people find purpose in their job (Purper et al., 2023). Economics tends to ignore the metaphysical, spiritual, and emotional sides of labor in favor of the material and productive. Faith-based research addresses job unhappiness more comprehensively by including all of these factors. It emphasizes that following God's plan may assist others and fulfill oneself.

**Step 2: Literature Review - Hermeneutical Inquiry of Natural/Social Sciences and Humanities/Historical Traditions**

**What are the different perspectives on the subject/problem from the relevant contemporary natural or social science disciplines as well as cultural trends and ideas?**

**a. How has the subject/problem developed in relevant contemporary natural or social science disciplines?**

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs' emphasis on economic survival and self-actualization helps psychologists comprehend work. Many job satisfaction studies have focused on autonomy, mastery, and purpose.
Sociologists say a person's employment best reflects their social position. Depression, burnout, and social isolation are more likely in people who say their job has little personal or social consequence.
Work has been associated with efficiency, productivity, and survival in economics. Recent notions like "ethical labor" and "corporate social responsibility," encourage firms to regard their employees as people whose experiences and opinions matter to the public.

**b. How has the subject/problem developed in cultural trends/history?**

Workers' emotional engagement evolved from artisanal and rural to industrial revolution-era mechanical, repetitive jobs (Trye Jr, 2020). Employees lost interest in their employment after this move, which Karl Marx hated. This trend is still affecting post-industrial workers who see their occupations as a means to an end rather than an opportunity to express themselves.

**c. What disciplines have developed which have addressed the subject/problem?**

* **Theology** has long explored work as a calling or vocation, emphasizing the role of work in serving others and glorifying God.
* **Psychology** has addressed the intrinsic motivations that drive work satisfaction, with theories focusing on purpose and personal fulfillment.
* **Economics** has explored work primarily through productivity, labor markets, and income, but recent shifts emphasize human capital and well-being.
* **Sociology** has examined how work influences identity and social status, often critiquing the alienation brought about by modern capitalist structures (Moyo & Pali, 2023).

**Are there different schools of thought?**

Yes, there are:

* **Classical economics**: views work through the lens of utility, cost, and productivity.
* **Humanistic psychology**: views work as an avenue for personal growth and self-actualization.
* **Marxist sociology**: critiques the capitalist system for alienating workers from the fruits of their labor, viewing work as exploitative under capitalism (Mighty, 2023).
* **Theological perspectives**: which view work as an essential part of human existence and a way to fulfill God’s mandate to steward the earth and serve others.

**Step 3: Faith-Learning Integration Inquiry with Christian and Scientific Sources**

**a. How does Scripture speak to this issue?**

God put Adam in Eden and commanded him to "work it and take care of it," hinting that labor was humanity's initial design in Genesis 2:15. Genesis 3:17–19 shows that work gets harder after the Fall. Work is necessary for God's purposes, yet sin has made it difficult (Moyo & Pali, 2023).

**b. Are there any developments in biblical thought from the Old to the New Testament?**

The New Testament glorifies God and serves people via work. Colossians 3:23 instructs Christians to labor "with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." The New Testament emphasizes salvation via purposeful service rather than physical labor (Trye Jr, 2020).

**c. Are there any developments in Christian thought since biblical times?**

Martin Luther and John Calvin, among other Christian thinkers, stressed the importance of vocation, the idea that all workers have a divine calling. Protestant work ethic ideas of self-discipline, purpose, and hard work shaped contemporary Western labor (Purper et al., 2023).

**d. What principle can be extrapolated from a clear biblical teaching?**

Work should glorify God and serve others. This concept can change how people perceive their everyday duties from burdensome to opportunities to show God's love and stewardship.

**e. Which contemporary natural or social sciences address this subject/problem?**

Psychology, sociology, and economics cover this. Psychology studies job happiness and purpose, sociology studies work's social roles and identity, and economics studies production, labor, and profit.

**f. How do religious and scientific perspectives interact or integrate in providing a more comprehensive account of the subject/problem?**

When religious and scientific ideas are united, work is better understood. Sociologists and psychologists investigate how work impacts people and communities, while Christians consider their profession as a calling from God and find more joy. Economics can help us comprehend the financial sides of work, but it risks disregarding the spiritual and psychological factors that improve work-life balance, whether we incorporate theology or not.

**Appendix 4B: Interdisciplinary Research Worksheet** based on the topic *Work as a Job*:

**Date:**

September 27, 2024

**Name of Scholar-Practitioner:**

Loretta Evans

**Educational Background:**

[Insert details about your academic history related to your field of study, such as your degree, major, and specific courses you've completed that are relevant.]

**Social Profession:**

[State your current profession, e.g., "Mental health nurse" or any other relevant position.]

**Other Pertinent Information:**

[Any additional information that may provide context for your perspective on the topic, such as volunteer work, religious involvement, or personal experiences related to work as a job.]

**STEP 4: SYNTHESIZED INTERDISCIPLINARY FORMULATION (WITH SOCIAL RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS)**

**How would you synthesize what you have learned to this point into a statement that describes the problem you want to address?**

I aim to help people overcome the common divide between work and meaning. Many people see their work as chores rather than opportunities to grow and progress. This gap raises questions about societal values, mental health, and workplace religion.

**CONVERTING TO A FORMAL SOCIAL RESEARCH PROBLEM AND HYPOTHESIS**

**Research Problem: How would you state your research problem in a declarative sentence about what is not known that the research will clarify?**

The influence of viewing employment as a career rather than a calling or passion on mental health and well-being remains unknown.

**Research Hypothesis:**

People who see their employment as a job are more stressed, dissatisfied, and purposeless than those who see it as a calling.

**Significance: What difference would the research make to change the world?**

This study may help us appreciate the necessity of rethinking work and pushing for workplaces that allow people to live their values, beliefs, and life's purpose. Understanding how one's viewpoint influences work may improve mental and emotional wellness, which is essential for success at work and in life.

**STEP 5: CRITICAL (APOLOGETIC) AND CONTEXTUAL COMMUNICATION**

**What critical reasons (apologetic) can you give for why your interdisciplinary Christian perspective should be accepted?**

Christian work is a holy purpose to serve others and glorify God. This approach supports human flourishing and well-being since it provides more than financial gain (Nwabuisi, 2021). This holistic view of work may help solve workplace stress and unhappiness by placing labor within a greater good.

**a. How will you answer the contrary perspectives to your view?**

Working is either a means to an end or the only way to make ends meet for some. I disagree. Studies show that calling one's job a vocation improves health, productivity, and happiness. Religious beliefs and empirical evidence help me balance my argument.

**b. Are there any objections or criticisms from variant views that should be anticipated and preempted?**

It may be argued that not everyone gets to choose a job they truly love. In response, I want to emphasize that, from a Christian viewpoint, it is possible to find significance in any kind of work—from manual labor to service to others—by viewing it as a means to accomplish God's will (Moyo & Pali, 2023).

**c. What cultural conditions might cause resistance or misunderstanding of an approach to the subject/problem which sociologically integrates religion and society?**

Integration of religious practice with paid job may seem superfluous or offensive to others, especially in secular states that value church-state separation. Some workplace cultures value profit and efficiency over employee happiness, making them resistant.

**d. What social conditions need to be changed in order to sociologically integrate religion and society with regard to the subject/problem?**

To respect holistic work that considers material, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being, a shift in viewpoint is needed (Mighty, 2023). Organizational policies should promote work-life balance, mental health, and job satisfaction.

**e. What can you do to make your proposal more persuasive in order to “change your world”?**

I would use faith-based and secular data to show that seeing work as a calling improves mental health, productivity, and job happiness. I would also highlight successful firms that blend purpose and spirituality into their working environments.

**STEP 6: ETHICAL & SOCIAL ORTHOPRAXIS (i.e. LEADERSHIP ACTIONS)**

**What practical implications does your interdisciplinary Christian perspective have for your orthopraxis or leadership for world change?**

My comprehensive Christian worldview holds that leadership should be based on equality, justice, and purpose. Good leaders make people feel respected, have meaningful job, and can tie their work to larger ideas.

**a. What applications for your orthopraxis/leadership need to be made to your personal or family life?**

In my personal and family life, I would view employment as a chance to serve others and reflect God's purpose. I would demonstrate this by assisting family members find their job callings.

**b. What applications for your orthopraxis/leadership need to be made to your church life?**

As a churchgoer, I would support work theology talks that illuminate how people's daily activities may constitute worship. Vocational discernment courses may assist parochial members blend religion and work.

**c. What applications for your orthopraxis/leadership need to be made to your work or community life?**

If I were in charge, I'd provide locations where people could learn about their work's professional and community benefits. To that aim, mentorship programs that assist employees balance work and life or faith-based contemplation sessions in the workplace may be useful.

**STEP 7: REFLECTIVE EVALUATION**

**a. How well did the research satisfy the original need for inquiry? Were there aspects of the problem left unanswered in the research design?**

The main study issue was whether and how workers' job views affected their mental health and job satisfaction. Individual situations and socioeconomic aspects are complicated, thus further research may be needed to fully comprehend.

**b. Did the findings spawn new ideas that need to be taken through the interdisciplinary process?**

Yes, the findings suggest the need for deeper research into how specific work environments or industries affect the perception of work as a calling. Further exploration into the role of faith-based initiatives in secular workplaces could also be valuable (Nwabuisi, 2021).

**c. Did the attempts at orthopraxis surface any gaps between your position in Step 4 and the adequacy of its ethical and/or social orthopraxis/leadership? Why?**

Research did an excellent job setting the groundwork for understanding labor as a profession, but they may have overlooked institutional hurdles that impede people from enjoying their jobs. This division shows we need more comprehensive leadership solutions to solve these issues.

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