Transforming People Problems

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Professor

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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 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.

The design of OGS course 815, Transforming People Problems gives students an opportunity to think about actionable ways to influence society in biblical ways that will positively impact others. This can be done professionally, as leaders and change makers within an organization, business, and community.

Social media has complicated matters by influencing people, political stances, and highlighting extremes globally. The downside is many people do not fact check and change their opinions then spread misinformation. There is an increased sensitivity and greater vulnerability to fall prey to the wrong things, especially for the non-Christian.

Christians have an incredible opportunity to be salt and light in every aspect of their individual life, but we need to be firmly rooted in the Word and equipped to disciple. Faith at work has been around for a long time, but in my opinion “under the radar”. When I learned about this a few years ago, I was surprised to see there is a systematic organizational model at work. This is something I have embraced and incorporated as a component of my career development program.

This course and the motivating change essential element resonated with me. It and an understanding of this course are an important part of faith at work. This course prepares students to identify and assess challenges, as well as to train individuals in ways that increase individual performance that results positively impact outcomes for the embetterment of the job, team, organization/business.

The goal is to change behavior differently, which excludes professional counseling, which is refreshing. Having studied sociology and psychology as an undergraduate, but not becoming a professional, it never occurred to me that mental health would become such a major issue for society. I also didn’t anticipate the pandemic, which significantly impacted mental health. The refreshing biblically based approach of this course will be beneficial for students going out to become leaders and social changemakers. This approach to conflict resolution can and should be taught to be used outside the workplace as well.

There are several applications both personally and professionally where this will help me. Since I started my career as a grant writer and program developer, I used my undergraduate background to integrate psychology and sociology into my programs to persuade people in positive ways. It became a niche for me and served me well.

The foundational elements of this course align with my previous work. Adding the Christian perspective compliments where I am in life today. As such, incorporating biblical principles into my daily life is a part of who I am.

As a School Board Trustee, I look forward to serving the community and being a role model for the students. There is a need to ensure the schools are teaching the students. I see a huge focus on mental health and inclusion, which should be balanced with instruction and content.

There is a significant opportunity to train Christian business professionals and entrepreneurs to be changemakers. The “business” in BAM is built on biblical principles, whereas the “Mission” in BAM Focuses on faith at work principles, which Correlates to this course. As a Christian BAM (Business as Mission) practitioner I will be able to use this course content and what I’ve learned in my training programs.

Since my undergraduate years were 3 decades ago this course was helpful in reminding me of Maslow and methods that haven’t been read about recently. Also, learning to think and apply the Christian perspective is a newer skill for me, which made this course beneficial in allowing me to understand applications, assessments, and evaluations of people's problems more academically.

Through OGS, God has refined my scope and deepened my conviction to the need for my training program, and the many people groups that can use the program. Having been a Career Strategist since 2015 it has been amazing to help Christian students discover their godly design and how to use it. The students and parents I work with always praise the work, express gratitude, and state the need. Unfortunately, the church has not opened the door for us to provide this service. Reasons include cost to families and youth pastors not able to add this to their already overloaded plate.

This course and the OGS DSL program have already helped me see a different way to approach churches. Trusting the Lord and that I am understanding His direction correctly, I believe the door will open with my DSL project. First, surveys to collect data and provide analysis through evaluating what participants think about the need for and effectiveness of my training program. Having this to support my hypothesis that training will help students make better career decisions is one way to persuade pastors and churches to allow us to do a pilot study.

 Second, learning how to persuade and motivate people is part of this. What missionary or mission organization wouldn’t get excited about an opportunity to train people to better match them to tasks that will increase productivity? Effective communication and ways to collect data that shows positive results will be effective ways to build momentum for the training program.

 In conclusion, this course, like every course to date, exceeded my expectations. This DSL program, professors, and coursework are truly doing God’s work. Professionally, I cannot wait to work on the “meat and potatoes” of my DSL project. Personally, I am grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in my “second-half” of life. Just as I am hopeful for all the change makers working for Christ.