Clinical and Applied Sociology

Quinton Egson

Omega Graduate School

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Professor

Dr. Joshua Reichard

**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, 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.

**Introduction:**

The course was **designed** to provide a comprehensive understanding of sociology, focusing on clinical and applied sociology. This field, which studies human behavior, is influenced by a myriad of factors, such as the environment, ethnicity, race, and gender. A vital aspect of the course is the practical application of these sociological principles to real-world issues.

Commenting on how the course **fits** in the program, I would say, “The program is essential to the Doctor of Social Leadership (DSL) program because it enthused and enthralled me about applied and clinical sociology.” Furthermore, participating in this program encouraged me to start researching the process of becoming a certified clinical sociologist.

In terms of the program’s **relevance of position** in the overall positioning, as it pertains to the entire program, I think it’s located in the perfect place. I am not sure I would have been as enthusiastic to learn so much more about the subject matter as I am now if it were to be located earlier in the program. Having it later would not have given me the time to start researching the possibility of becoming a certified clinical sociologist.

**Personal Growth:**

To begin with, doing research and writing an essay on gun violence shined some light on one of the pressing American societal epidemics that needs immediate intervention. My study of guns and gun violence will continue, and moreover, I plan to be an advocate and do my part to bring awareness to the issue and work to help implement a viable solution. We should not be losing people to gun violence, especially innocent children.

Secondly, as has proven customary for all of the courses I have taken at Omega Graduate School (OGS), this course enlarged my knowledge base by requiring me to lean into the essential elements of:

* Applied Sociology and Sociological Practice
* Clinical Sociology (which piqued my interest)
* Sociological Interventions
* Applications for Sociological Research

Substantiated in my developmental readings, I researched all four essential elements. I also analyzed and contextualized comments to better understand each subject matter. Furthermore, practicing good research habits is more valuable than learning about the crucial aspects so that I am better suited to know about anything.

What is evident to me based on my research on societal challenges, etc. It is a fact that people need access to the same opportunities, and often, the decision-makers fail to make decisions based on what is good for the order. Instead, according to my research, they frequently make decisions based on political influence or self-preservation. Making positive social change should be the motor that drives our communities from where they are to someplace better.

Also, I have learned that the study of sociology and the role of a sociologist are invaluable in the constructive designing/building of a better world. Furthermore, this class lit a fire within me to look at accepted societal norms through a (somewhat) subjective lens to see where I can have the most impact in doing my part to make this world a better place for those I can influence. Lastly, I was introduced to a term called “digital sociology.” In short, digital sociology studies human behavior, societal relations, and culture influenced by social media.

**Reflective Entry:**

On our (OGS) website, Dr. Reichard contrasts applied and clinical sociology. In summary, applied sociology involves utilizing research to make informed problem-solving decisions, whereas clinical sociology deals with interventions to facilitate change. Applied and clinical sociology are methods geared towards driving constructive social change/improvements; therefore, although they may work individually from one another, I believe they can work in harmony to strengthen each other. In layman’s terms, applied sociology is discovering/acquiring “sociological knowledge” via credible research, whereas clinical sociology is putting that knowledge into action. In speaking of putting knowledge into action. I have and will continue to work with organizations to assess their policies, procedures, and practices to help them build a better organization. My four-step process includes the following. I help them determine where they are, facilitate a process to help them figure out where they want to go, devise a plan to help them get there, and work with them to implement the plan. Upon taking this course, I have considered methods (best practices) to improve my four-step process.

**Conclusion:**

As inferred in earlier reading, the program met my overall goals/expectations on a high-level basis, particularly regarding **educational objectives**. The material was stretching enough while not being overwhelming. That good balance is encouraging as opposed to being discouraging. As a professional in a good position, embarking on a discouraging program is not worth my time, money, or effort! Furthermore, I like the overall structure and consistency of the courses. The material was great, and essential elements caused me to research subjects that stretched my bandwidth to learn and grow. The developmental readings, which I used to dread but now look forward to, are the most essential piece of the program. My only request is that the professors record more lectures.

Participating in this course helped me achieve my **professional aspirations**, which are stated in the reflective section of this document, where I mentioned improving my (4-step) methods while on consultant assignments.

Regarding meeting my **religious goals**, the staff's professionalism, kindness, and moral astuteness speak for themselves. People can profess to be anything, but their actions tell who they are.

I feel honored and blessed to be a part of the OGS family. Although I work full-time and am a dad and husband, the sacrifice required to attend this program is well worth it!

Finally, Sociology, often called a 'soft science,' is fascinating. When applied with care and responsibility, it can significantly improve society for all humankind. Therefore, I want to learn and help others be a part of the solution instead of causing societal problems.