COM803-12 - Hermeneutics and Communication

Acep Loi

Omega Graduate School

March 16, 2025

Professor

Dr. James Strecker

**Course Learning Journal**

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.

**Learning Journal**

1. **Introduction**

The course Hermeneutics is an important part of my graduate program. I believe the administrator intentionally placed it as the first course for new students. At first, I was surprised by the course title, Hermeneutics, because I was familiar with the term from my undergraduate theology courses. However, as I worked through the assignments, I gained a new understanding that hermeneutics applies to a broader context. It helps interpret texts from any book we read, considering the context, the text itself, the author’s intent, and how to apply the message. Moreover, this course has taught me to think carefully and analyze information more critically. It has become the foundation of my action research writing. In my daily professional work, learning hermeneutics helps me improve my communication by listening carefully and responding thoughtfully.

1. **Personal Growth**

This course has helped me think more deeply. The first challenge in working on my first assignment was determining the essential elements of the course to use as my essay’s topic. While working on the assignment, I had to read more materials to gather information for references. Assignment #2 was particularly challenging because some of the reading materials were difficult to understand at first. For that assignment, I used seven books as references and analyzed twelve quotations. It took a lot of energy and time, not only to find relevant quotations but also to provide additive or variant analysis and contextual insights. At first, it was difficult to make contextualized comments on the quotations. I struggled to create smooth and practical comments based on their context, and even choosing the first words for my comments required effort. For assignment #3, my main challenge was ensuring a smooth flow between sentences and paragraphs. Additionally, I need to learn more about properly citing sources to support my statements and truth claims.

My progress in mastering the course content and skills grew throughout the week and through subsequent readings. As I engaged with more materials, I became more confident in interpreting texts and applying hermeneutical principles. Moreover, my writing structure and flow improved. While my writing is not yet perfect, I have become better at organizing my thoughts and expressing them clearly and effectively. Working on all the assignments, along with the support from my professor during the pre-assignment meeting, helped deepen my understanding in many areas. The first assignment provided a strong foundation by helping me grasp the meaning and purpose of hermeneutics. Then, the developmental reading and essay writing assignments strengthened my ability to read critically, analyze information, and summarize texts effectively.

There are many new lessons I learned through the process. I learned that hermeneutics is not just about reading books. It is also about understanding information and using it in real life. This skill is helpful for my job because I need to read and analyze educational research and policies. It also helps in my chapel preaching every two weeks at my school. Understanding hermeneutics helps me interpret Bible verses more deeply by considering their context and applying them to modern life.

1. **Reflective Entry**

The knowledge I gained from this course is very relevant to my professional field. As a school director, I need to analyze educational research, policies, and leadership strategies to make informed decisions. Hermeneutics helps me think critically and understand the deeper meaning behind texts instead of just reading them at face value. It also helps me communicate better with teachers, students, and parents by making sure I understand their perspectives before responding.

In my leadership role, I often have to navigate complex discussions, resolve conflicts, and make strategic plans. Applying hermeneutical principles allows me to evaluate different viewpoints carefully, ask meaningful questions, and interpret the underlying concerns behind conversations. This skill is especially useful when developing school policies, as it helps ensure that decisions are fair, well-reasoned, and aligned with our mission. Additionally, understanding hermeneutics has improved my ability to assess the effectiveness of curriculum materials, ensuring that they are not only academically strong but also culturally and ethically appropriate for our students.

Additionally, this course has strengthened the way I prepare for my chapel preaching every two weeks. I was already familiar with interpreting Bible verses, but learning hermeneutical principles in a structured way has deepened my understanding and made me more confident in my approach. Now, I am more intentional in considering the historical and literary context, the author’s intent, and the broader message of the text before applying it to modern life. This has helped me refine my sermons, making them clearer, more accurate, and more impactful for my employees.

Another area where this course has been useful is my research writing. Understanding hermeneutics has helped me read scholarly literature more effectively. I am now more careful when analyzing sources, ensuring that I understand their meaning before using them as references. This will be very helpful for my future academic work, including my action research project.

1. **Conclusion**

This course has been a valuable part of my learning journey. At first, I thought hermeneutics was only related to theology, but now I see that it applies to many areas of life, including my work in education, leadership, and research. The assignments were challenging, but they helped me grow in my ability to think critically, analyze information, and write more clearly.

I am very grateful for the professor’s openness in answering questions and providing feedback on each assignment. The feedback was very helpful in guiding me to improve my understanding and writing. The professor’s willingness to explain concepts and clarify difficult points made the learning process smoother. Each response encouraged me to think more critically and refine my work. This support has been invaluable in my academic growth, and I truly appreciate the patience and dedication shown throughout the course.

I believe this course has prepared me well for my graduate studies. It has also improved my communication skills and my ability to interpret texts carefully. Most importantly, it has strengthened my ability to teach and preach with a clearer understanding of biblical texts. As I continue my studies and professional work, I will keep applying the principles of hermeneutics to make better decisions, communicate more effectively, and lead my school with wisdom.

**WORKS CITED**