Full name of Course PHI 815-22: History of the Integration of Religion and Society

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### ****Learning Journal: Immigration, Health Care, and the History of the Integration of Religion and Society****

**Introduction**

A nuanced exploration of immigration, health care, and the historical integration of religion and society is the objective of this course. Students will learn about the challenges and opportunities within these domains through an interdisciplinary approach. Students gain insights into creating equitable systems that adhere to human dignity and compassion while considering cultural competence, ethical policy-making, and religious principles.

In this course, faith-based integration and interdisciplinary approaches are reinforced as vital components of the graduate program. Based on previous courses in ethics and public policy, this course sets the stage for more advanced applications in professional practice. Students are encouraged to apply theoretical insights to real-world issues, preparing them for leadership roles in addressing social justice concerns in their professions (Smith, 2021).

**Personal Growth**

I have grown personally and professionally as a result of this course, which challenged and stretched my perspectives on immigration and health care. A significant challenge was managing the ethical tension between restrictive immigration policies and the moral imperative to ensure that all individuals have equitable access to health care. In light of this tension, I was prompted to critically evaluate my own biases and assumptions regarding immigrants' access to health care.

In the course, I learned how cultural competence is an essential skill in health care. I developed practical strategies to address the unique needs of immigrant patients based on case studies and scholarly readings (Jones & Lee, 2020) by overcoming language barriers, respecting cultural and religious values, and fostering trust by empathizing with them. As a result of the course, I became more adept at analyzing policy frameworks from an ethical perspective, emphasizing the need for systemic reforms aligned with justice and compassion principles.

Studying community-based health initiatives yielded a number of valuable insights. Immigrants often benefit from these initiatives because they can navigate the complexities of the health care system and overcome obstacles such as financial limitations and discrimination. In my professional practice, I have been able to implement a number of strategies based on this knowledge, enhancing my ability to serve diverse populations effectively (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2023).

**Reflective Entry**

As a health care professional working in an interdisciplinary setting, the lessons I learn from this course have a broad range of implications. Public health policy that integrates theology with social justice emphasizes each person's inherent value and dignity, regardless of his or her situation. I have been strengthened by this perspective to advocate for vulnerable populations and work towards the equitable delivery of health care (Brown, 2019).

The application of faith-based values involves addressing the spiritual and emotional needs of immigrant patients as well as their medical needs. Immigrant communities often depend on religious traditions to shape their values and coping mechanisms. Health outcomes can be improved by recognizing and respecting these traditions.

As a result of this course, important questions emerged regarding the practical application of interdisciplinary solutions. Undocumented immigrants need health care access, so how can faith-based organizations collaborate effectively with public health institutions? The provision of health care to certain populations may be limited by legal and systemic restrictions. How can health care providers balance their professional obligations with these constraints? In seeking innovative, sustainable solutions to these challenges (World Health Organization, 2022), these questions have sparked further exploration and reaffirmed my resolve.

**Conclusion**

Overall, this course has advanced my professional, religious, and educational goals. During this course, I gained a deeper understanding of immigration and health care issues, as well as practical strategies for addressing these issues through interdisciplinary collaboration. Specifically, advocating for justice and compassion has reinforced my commitment to integrating faith principles into my professional practice. As an educational tool, it has helped analyze and address health care inequities.

I have gained a deeper understanding of how I can combine learning, faith, and professional practice in this course. My newfound insights and skills will continue to guide me as I pursue my goal of making a meaningful contribution to the field of health care for immigrant populations.

WORKS CITED

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