Assignment #4 – Course Learning Journal

PHI 805-22: Faith-Learning Integration and Interdisciplinary Studies

Donovan A. McFarlane

Omega Graduate School

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Professor

Dr. David Ward

**Introduction: Donovan, great job with your course learning journal for PHI 805! You wrote that it "included the application of a Christian worldview, along with a social science perspective, and critical thinking skills to discern social trends, issues, and problems in the students’ professional fields offer powerful opportunities for transformative positive influence in individual, familial, and institutional life." Donovan, you totally grasped the purpose of PHI 805, this was an accurate and concise grasp of its essence.**

**Personal Growth: I was moved by this heartfelt authenticity, "it reignited my passion for learning, especially one driven by the faith and belief that God has a purpose for me, and that part of this arrangement is Omega Graduate School. ... This reminds me personally that fate makes its arrangements according to God’s Will and that faith must remain steady. This course has helped me to recover some lost faith in my very difficult journey and tough life." Wow. Thank you for sharing.**

**Reflective Entry: I can see that it was eye-opening to see how much our view are influenced by culture, sometimes more than by our faith. That is a major reason why we teach sociological analysis from a Christian perspective. Most secular sociology is hostile to religion as reduces it to social influences and discounts the role that God has in the world through transforming the hearts of people of faith, and then He uses them for His purposes.**

**Great job with this foundational course, Donovan, I look forward to being with you in PHI 943 Orthodoxy and Orthopraxis!**

**Grade: A**

**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.

**Course Learning Journal**

**Introduction**

The course, PHI 805-22: Faith-Learning Integration and Interdisciplinary Studies, was a very interesting course that contributed to the richness of the DSL program at Omega Graduate School. The course communicated the value and importance of faith-learning integration in our knowledge and acquisition of understanding across various fields or interdisciplinary studies. There were several goals that the course set out to accomplish. These included the application of a Christian worldview, along with a social science perspective, and critical thinking skills to discern social trends, issues, and problems in the students’ professional fields offer powerful opportunities for transformative positive influence in individual, familial, and institutional life. The course communicated the positive influence of religious truths, values, and principles that can significantly affect our lives and expectations.

One of the accomplishments in PHI 805 was the analysis of trends, issues, and problems that need the transforming impact of Christianity applying a Christian worldview, social science, and/or critical thinking skills to clarify the nature and significance of questions at stake. For example, problems in our social and work life often leave us challenged, and our Christian worldview can act as an approach to dealing with problems and challenges we encounter in life. The Christian worldview was emphasized as vital to impacting how we approach and learn about different things. Vital to this was the development of interpretation skills related to Scripture, as well as to Christian tradition. Integrating biblical truths with knowledge to develop a Christian worldview was discussed. Several other goals of the course included contextualizing communication of Christian interdisciplinary research insights while evaluating Christian interdisciplinary research in order to identify new research questions evolving out of change. Finally, we conducted several activities designed to foster long-term understanding of faith-learning integration.

**Personal Growth**

The course, PHI 805-22: Faith-Learning Integration and Interdisciplinary Studies was very informative and introduced the concept of ‘faith-integration learning” to students. The course provided several strategies for integrating my faith into learning and reading. Moreover, it reignited my passion for learning, especially one driven by the faith and belief that God has a purpose for me, and that part of this arrangement is Omega Graduate School. A few years ago, I enrolled and did not continue the program, but returned a few years later and now making progress. This reminds me personally that fate makes its arrangements according to God’s Will and that faith must remain steady. This course has helped me to recover some lost faith in my very difficult journey and tough life.

**Reflective Entry**

 After having completed several readings and research on the topic of the integration of religion and society, the course re-oriented my understanding of how much we still depend on religious perspectives and faith in understanding and interpreting several phenomena. While I have not adopted a new worldview, several philosophical thoughts and ideas emerged. For example, when it comes to the influence of Judeo-Christianity on our views of sexuality, it made me wonder if it is worse for Christians to shun and discriminate against such individuals than to be tolerant. Are we to judge and reject others?

 Learning about how the perspectives on social issues changed over time with the importance and rise and fall of faith and religion gave me new perspectives on the intricacy of religion and social values in human life and society. I also learned that there is extensive disagreement on the degree to which the Bible condemns homosexuality, and that most of our views today have emerged from different eras and influences.

**Conclusion**

This course was very effective in achieving its established purpose and goals. With several important readings, I was able to explore diverse views on integration and society and religion. Particularly interesting were the many sources encountered on worldview, and on Christian worldview. The course has created an opportunity to better understand how much religion and faith cut across what we seek to know and understand in today’s society. From the course, I was able to gain new understanding on the concept of worldview, especially in the Alessiato reading on the definition and origin of the term.

**Course Readings**

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