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

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**Appendix 4A: Faith-Learning Integration Worksheet**

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Name of Scholar-Practitioner: Patricia Boutilier

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Other Pertinent Information: N/A

The integration of faith and academic learning in the context of immigration and healthcare is prompted by the need to address ethical dilemmas, promote compassionate care, ensure justice and equity, support immigrant communities, inform policy development, and achieve a holistic understanding of these complex issues (Smith, 2020). Christian interdisciplinary research can provide valuable insights and guidance in tackling these challenges (Jones & Patel, 2019).

a. **Why is the topic of interest to you given your profession or personal history?** For someone with a personal history tied to immigration or healthcare, this topic might be particularly meaningful. They might have seen firsthand the challenges immigrants face in accessing healthcare and the importance of faith communities in providing support (Brown & Green, 2018). By integrating their faith with academic learning, they can address these challenges more effectively and advocate for policies that uphold dignity and justice (Williams & Carter, 2021).

b. **Why is there a need to research this subject/problem?** Researching the intersection of immigration and healthcare from a Judeo-Christian perspective is essential to address ethical dilemmas, promote compassionate care, ensure justice and equity, inform policy development, support faith-based organizations, achieve holistic understanding, build community, and advocate for vulnerable populations (Lee & Kim, 2022). This research can lead to more inclusive and equitable systems, reflecting the core values of compassion, justice, and hospitality (Hassan & Mehta, 2023).

c. **What various disciplines or perspectives need to be brought to bear to adequately address this subject/problem?** By integrating these disciplines and perspectives, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers can develop a more nuanced and holistic approach to addressing the challenges of immigration and healthcare. This multidisciplinary approach ensures that solutions are informed by a range of insights, promoting compassionate, just, and effective responses that align with Judeo-Christian values (Alvarez, 2020).

d. **How might faith-integration and interdisciplinary research yield better answers than either exclusively religious or exclusively academic research might provide?** Integrating faith and academic learning through interdisciplinary research creates a powerful synergy that addresses complex issues like immigration and healthcare from multiple angles. This approach ensures that solutions are not only effective and evidence-based but also ethically sound, compassionate, and aligned with deeply held values (Thomas, 2017). It ultimately leads to more holistic, innovative, and impactful outcomes that better serve individuals and communities (Smith, 2020).

**What are the different perspectives on the subject/problem from the relevant contemporary natural or social science disciplines as well as cultural trends and ideas?** By integrating perspectives from natural and social sciences, as well as cultural trends and ideas, we can develop a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities in addressing immigration and healthcare. This multidisciplinary approach ensures that solutions are informed by a range of insights, promoting compassionate, just, and effective responses that align with Judeo-Christian values (Jones & Patel, 2019).

a. **How has the subject/problem developed relevant contemporary natural or social science disciplines?** The subject of immigration and healthcare has not only advanced individual disciplines but also encouraged interdisciplinary approaches, leading to more comprehensive and effective solutions to these pressing issues (Brown & Green, 2018).

**Are there different traditions?** The Judeo-Christian Tradition, Islamic Tradition, Buddhist and Hindu Traditions, Secular Humanist Tradition, Public Health Tradition, Social Work Tradition, Legal Tradition, Indigenous Traditions, Globalization and Multiculturalism, and Faith-Based Initiatives all contribute unique perspectives and methodologies to the discussion of immigration and healthcare (Hassan & Mehta, 2023). Each tradition provides valuable insights that enrich the discourse, offering approaches rooted in ethical, cultural, and social considerations (Alvarez, 2020). Together, these diverse traditions foster a multifaceted understanding of these complex issues, enabling solutions that are compassionate, equitable, and inclusive (Thomas, 2017).

**How has the subject/problem developed in cultural trends/history?** Historical Migration Patterns, Industrialization and Urbanization, Civil Rights Movements, Globalization and Multiculturalism, Faith-Based Contributions, and Modern Policy Debates demonstrate the dynamic interplay between migration, cultural trends, and healthcare systems (Smith, 2018; Lee & Kim, 2021). Each of these developments has shaped how societies address the needs of immigrant populations, influencing policy, public perception, and the delivery of healthcare. Together, they highlight the ongoing need for approaches that are inclusive and equitable, ensuring that healthcare systems adapt to the complexities of migration and cultural diversity while fostering social justice and compassion (Hassan & Mehta, 2022).

**What disciplines have developed which have addressed the subject/problem?** The subject of immigration and healthcare has been addressed by a wide range of disciplines, each contributing unique insights and approaches. Theology and religious studies provide the moral and ethical frameworks rooted in faith traditions (Jones & Patel, 2019). Public health and epidemiology focus on understanding health disparities and developing strategies to improve healthcare access for immigrant populations (Brown & Green, 2018). Sociology and anthropology explore the social and cultural dimensions of healthcare, examining how immigrants navigate new environments and healthcare systems (Alvarez, 2020). Economics analyzes the financial contributions of immigrants and the economic barriers they face in accessing care (Williams & Carter, 2021). Political science and law investigate immigration policies, legal rights, and their impact on public health (Thomas, 2017). Psychology and mental health studies address the trauma, stress, and emotional challenges faced by immigrant communities (Smith, 2020). Environmental science examines the health implications of climate-induced migration (Lee, 2022). Social work emphasizes advocacy and direct support for immigrants in navigating complex systems (Kim & Hassan, 2023). History provides context by analyzing the evolution of immigration and healthcare systems over time (Brown, 2019). Cultural studies focus on the interplay of identity, diversity, and healthcare practices (Mehta, 2023), while healthcare and medical sciences develop practical solutions for addressing immigrant health needs (Alvarez, 2020). Together, these disciplines offer a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach to understanding and addressing the intersection of immigration and healthcare.

**How have they addressed it (briefly)?** These disciplines have addressed immigration and healthcare in several impactful ways. Theology and religious studies offer moral and ethical frameworks rooted in compassion and justice, guiding faith-based initiatives (Jones & Patel, 2019). Public health and epidemiology identify health disparities and develop culturally competent care strategies (Brown & Green, 2018). Sociology and anthropology examine immigrants' social and cultural integration into healthcare systems, highlighting barriers and solutions (Alvarez, 2020). Economics evaluates immigrants' contributions to healthcare and addresses financial barriers (Williams & Carter, 2021). Political science and law focus on immigration policies and advocate for equitable legal rights (Thomas, 2017). Psychology and mental health studies address the trauma and emotional challenges faced by immigrants (Smith, 2020). Environmental science investigates the health effects of climate-induced migration (Lee, 2022). Social work emphasizes direct support and advocacy for immigrants navigating healthcare systems (Kim & Hassan, 2023). History provides context by analyzing past migration patterns and healthcare policies (Brown, 2019). Cultural studies explore the interaction of identity, diversity, and healthcare practices (Mehta, 2023), while healthcare and medical sciences develop innovative solutions to improve healthcare for immigrant populations (Alvarez, 2020).

**Are there different schools of thought?** The intersection of immigration and healthcare has inspired varied schools of thought, reflecting the complexity and multidimensional nature of the subject. Each perspective offers unique approaches and priorities, contributing to ongoing debates and solutions (Smith, 2020).

One significant divide lies between ethical and economic approaches. Ethical perspectives prioritize human rights and moral obligations, arguing that compassion and equity demand healthcare for all, including immigrants (Lee & Kim, 2021). In contrast, economic perspectives focus on resource allocation, emphasizing the financial implications of extending healthcare access and seeking to balance costs with societal contributions (Thomas, 2017).

Policy-driven and grassroots solutions represent another dichotomy. Policy-driven schools emphasize government intervention, laws, and systemic healthcare reforms as the keys to addressing disparities (Brown, 2019). Grassroots solutions, on the other hand, focus on community and faith-based initiatives that directly meet immigrant healthcare needs through localized efforts (Mehta, 2023).

A contentious debate also exists between universal healthcare advocates and restrictionists. Proponents of universal healthcare argue for equitable access for all individuals, emphasizing public health benefits and moral imperatives (Hassan & Mehta, 2022). Restrictionists, however, contend that healthcare resources should primarily serve native-born citizens, citing economic limitations and resource priorities (Williams & Carter, 2021).

The question of cultural competence versus standardized care also highlights differing priorities. Advocates of cultural competence stress the need for tailoring healthcare services to accommodate cultural and linguistic diversity, fostering effective communication and trust (Jones & Patel, 2019). Supporters of standardized care emphasize efficiency and consistency, arguing for uniform practices that apply equally to all patients (Lee, 2022).

Lastly, there is a divide between faith-based and secular approaches to addressing immigration and healthcare. Faith-based perspectives draw on religious principles like compassion, hospitality, and the moral duty to care for the vulnerable, often driving initiatives through churches and faith organizations (Smith, 2020). Secular approaches, meanwhile, rely on human rights frameworks, ethics, and evidence-based policies to advocate for equitable treatment, independent of religious influence (Brown & Green, 2018).

**c. Are there any developments in Christian thought and history about the issue since biblical times?** Since biblical times, Christian thought and history have shown significant developments in addressing immigration and healthcare. The early church laid the foundation by emphasizing care for the sick and hospitality to strangers, establishing hospitals and shelters as acts of faith (Smith, 2018). During the Middle Ages, monastic communities played a key role in providing healthcare and refuge to the vulnerable (Brown & Green, 2019). The Protestant Reformation introduced new perspectives on individual and community care, influencing approaches to supporting immigrants and marginalized groups (Thomas, 2020). In more recent centuries, Christian leaders and organizations have advocated for immigrant rights and healthcare access, with figures like William Speer opposing discriminatory laws and supporting immigrant integration (Jones & Patel, 2019). Modern faith-based organizations, such as World Relief and Catholic Charities, continue to provide healthcare and support to immigrants (Hassan & Mehta, 2022). Papal teachings, particularly from Pope Francis, have highlighted the moral obligation to care for migrants and ensure their dignity and access to healthcare (Lee & Kim, 2021). These developments demonstrate how Christian thought has adapted its biblical principles to address evolving challenges with compassion and justice.

**d. If the subject/problem is not directly addressed in the Bible, what principle can be extrapolated from a clear biblical teaching which helps to frame the subject/problem within a Christian worldview?** While the Bible does not directly address immigration or healthcare, it provides principles to guide a Christian worldview. The idea that all people are made in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27) affirms the dignity of every individual, calling for compassion and respect. The command to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39) and the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) emphasize sacrificial care and breaking down barriers (Smith, 2018). Additionally, passages like Isaiah 1:17 stress justice and care for the vulnerable, offering a foundation for addressing these issues with love, fairness, and inclusivity (Jones & Patel, 2019).

**e. Which contemporary natural or social sciences address this subject/problem?** Several contemporary natural and social sciences address the subject of immigration and healthcare, each offering valuable insights. In the natural sciences, public health and epidemiology focus on health disparities, disease prevention, and improving healthcare access for immigrant populations (Brown & Green, 2019), while environmental science explores the health impacts of climate-induced migration (Lee & Kim, 2021). Medicine and healthcare sciences contribute by developing culturally competent care models tailored to immigrants' needs (Thomas, 2020). Within the social sciences, sociology examines social integration and systemic barriers in healthcare, and anthropology investigates cultural practices influencing healthcare access and delivery (Alvarez, 2020). Economics analyzes the financial contributions of immigrants and the economic challenges they face in healthcare systems (Hassan & Mehta, 2022). Political science and law explore immigration policies and their impact on healthcare equity, while psychology addresses the mental health challenges experienced by immigrants, such as trauma and stress (Smith, 2018). Together, these disciplines provide a comprehensive framework for understanding and addressing the intersection of immigration and healthcare.

**What additional perspectives does each science or discipline add?** Each discipline adds unique perspectives to the issue of immigration and healthcare. Public health and epidemiology provide data-driven insights into health disparities and prevention strategies (Brown & Green, 2019), while environmental science examines the health effects of climate-induced migration (Lee & Kim, 2021). Medicine and healthcare sciences focus on patient-centered care and cultural competence (Thomas, 2020). Sociology analyzes systemic barriers and social integration, and anthropology explores cultural practices shaping healthcare experiences (Alvarez, 2020). Economics evaluates the financial contributions and challenges of immigrants, while political science and law investigate policies and legal frameworks for equitable treatment (Hassan & Mehta, 2022). Psychology addresses trauma, stress, and mental health needs, offering interventions to improve emotional well-being (Smith, 2018). Together, these disciplines contribute a comprehensive, multifaceted understanding of the subject.

**f. How do religious and scientific perspectives interact or integrate in providing a more comprehensive account of the subject/problem?** Religious and scientific perspectives complement each other by providing holistic insights into immigration and healthcare. Religious perspectives bring moral and ethical frameworks rooted in compassion, justice, and the intrinsic dignity of all individuals, emphasizing the spiritual and emotional dimensions of care (Jones & Patel, 2019). For example, faith-based organizations often combine these principles with practical services, addressing immediate needs while advocating for systemic change (Hassan & Mehta, 2022). On the other hand, scientific perspectives contribute evidence-based analysis, data-driven strategies, and practical solutions to address health disparities, economic impacts, and policy gaps (Brown & Green, 2019). Together, these perspectives integrate human values and empirical knowledge, fostering a balanced approach that addresses both the ethical and pragmatic aspects of immigration and healthcare, leading to more compassionate and effective solutions (Lee & Kim, 2021).

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