PHI 805-22 Faith-Learning Integration and Interdisciplinary Studies

Obed Alcime

Omega Graduate School

January 26, 2025

Professor

Dr. David Ward

Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements

1. Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:

a. Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited sources) during the first

week of the term. Post this document in DIAL.

b. Professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade

assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

  **Interdisciplinary Research and Faith-Learning Integration**

Interdisciplinary research is essential for making connections across different fields, helping to solve complex issues with a well-rounded perspective. As one who operates in diverse roles, such as an adjunct professor in healthcare, a church elder, and an organizational leader, bringing different disciplines together is more than just an academic or professional exercise. It is a way to create meaningful, faith-based solutions to real-world challenges. A necessary marriage between the core elements of faith-learning integration and interdisciplinary research is needed for my professional context because my work requires both spiritual and academic perspectives.

**The Interdisciplinary Approach**

When tackling complex problems, a single-discipline approach may often fall short. Repko, Szostak, and Buchberger (2017) emphasize that interdisciplinary research combines insights from different areas of study, leading to a more comprehensive grasp of the subject. This approach allows theological perspectives to intersect with scientific and professional fields, creating an exchange of enrichment and ideas. Concurrently, faith-learning integration is not about inserting religious beliefs into another field, it is about merging scriptural wisdom with evidence-based knowledge. Harris and Goheen (2003) highlight the importance of recognizing God’s influence in all spheres of learning. Interdisciplinary research makes it possible to apply faith-based principles to fields like healthcare, leadership, and ethics; offering more holistic perspectives.

 For instance, in healthcare education, incorporating theology into discussions of medical ethics provides students with a moral foundation for their work. This has proven evident in the many class meetings where I have had to discuss sensitive topics such as euthanasia, abortion, and women’s health. In my business leadership, biblical principles like humility and servant leadership have often informed my decision-making, leading to more ethical and compassionate management practices (Hillman, 2017). By merging these disciplines, I am developing a well-rounded level of expertise that is both practical and spiritual.

**Conclusion**

As an adjunct professor, I constantly engage in interdisciplinary thinking, merging medical knowledge with ethical considerations and theological insights. In my role as a church elder, I integrate psychology, sociology, and scripture to provide more effective pastoral care. As an organizational leader, I rely on research from both faith-based and secular sources to build

strong frameworks for leadership. These roles require me to think across disciplines every day, making interdisciplinary research and faith-learning integration not just an academic concept but a daily practical necessity.

 WORKS CITED

Harris, R. A., & Goheen, M. W. (2003). *The integration of faith and learning: A worldview approach*. Wipf & Stock Publishers.

Hillman, O. (2017). *The Joseph calling: 6 stages to discover, navigate, & fulfill your purpose*. BroadStreet Publishing.

Repko, A. F., Szostak, R., & Buchberger, M. P. (2017). *Introduction to interdisciplinary studies* (2nd ed.). Sage Publications.