Research Design and Methodology III

Derrick Snow

Omega Graduate School

March 11, 2025

Professor

Dr. Taladay

**Assignment #4 – Course Learning Journal**

The journal is a written reflection of your learning journey while working on 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.

**Introduction**

This course of Research Design and Methodology III further guided students on the ethical considerations within social research, literature review process, and the OGS dissertation process and development. Research and statistics courses are very important to me as a sociologist, these are the tools of the trade we use to uncover and understand social phenomena. This course covered the topics, ethical research, sampling, collecting data, and the literature review outline.

**Personal Growth**

I have learned much about the dissertation process, in particular the OGS dissertation format and process. I think that it is good that OGS helps students with their dissertation format. I do wish I was learning more beyond the dissertation, such as development for journal article submission, and so forth. I know that I am a different kind of student than what OGS typically sees, and I understand that the OGS program was designed for the typical OGS student. One of the main things I sought from research and statistics courses is to help be a better sociologist in life, as I will be conducting social research on an ongoing basis, not just for a dissertation.

I do find that I have been able to develop as a sociologist, among the course work and things I am working on, on my own. I have been in the applied sociology realm and would like to develop as a professional sociologist, still doing applied work, but also academic publishing, larger research projects, and public sociology in the form of books, content delivery, and presentations. In addition to this development, I also seek to develop as a Christian sociologist, integrating faith into the work that I do. Sociologists are mostly thought of as professors teaching sociology courses and conducting research for peer journal article publications. Though I do teach sociology courses as an adjunct professor, sociology is so much more beyond the classroom. Sociology has often been thought of as the umbrella social science, because of the vast range of topics within the social world. It seems that since the 1990s sociology has lost its predominance to social science that impacts policy and everyday life, such as economics and psychology. In my journey, I seek to be part of the sociologists who take sociology outside of the classroom and into the everyday life of people as well as policy.

**Reflective Entry**

I have voiced my concerns about that I am not getting at OGS what I was expecting, I know that my criticism is not what OGS is typically hearing back from the students, and I don’t mean to be disrespectful or ungrateful anyway. I am just trying to voice my thoughts, not only for my benefit of a better education, but for the hope of future OGS students with a social science background that they will find a great place at OGS to further their career as a social scientist. The research and statistics courses are very important to people in the field of social science, but OGS’s research and statistics courses were designed with the non-social science student in mind, students who may have never taken a social research or statistics course in their life. As with the statistics courses, I believe that providing two different ways a student could experience OGS research courses. Where students with a social science background would enroll in the SS (social science) courses, while the other students would enroll in the regular courses.



The intent would be that the social science courses would allow for student flexibility to guide the learning that would better suit their needs, rather than those of the regular courses. This would provide a way for OGS to meet the needs of regular students and students with a social science background.

**Conclusion**

OGS does offer a unique education, where it is based on the Oxford tutorial method of education, which allows the students to work with their professors in a unique way. Students could drive their education based on their academic and vocational pursuits, and the professors are there to guide them in their pursuits. I think what would have been helpful for the research and statistics courses is that the professors meet one-on-one with the student to converse with the student to get to know their background and what they seek out of the courses. This would allow OGS Oxford tutorial method to better serve students with different educational backgrounds.

Students with a social science background have a different need than typical OGS students. Where they could be prepared to serve and make constructive social change in the area that they are within, among highly trained and skilled social scientists.