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IDS 300w

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April 26th, 2023

Self Assessment

1. Using each course objective listed in the syllabus, identify and describe your level of skills and knowledge as you (a) entered the course and (b) completed the course.

- Know and understand the interdisciplinary nature of learning

A. I understood that interdisciplinarity was a concept, but did not know the extent of it or the role it played in learning.

B. I now understand that learning itself is often completely interdisciplinary. Even in potential cases where some could argue it is not, it's very likely that by including principles of interdisciplinarity into these cases, you could increase the proficiency and efficiency of the learner anyway.

- Know and understand the relationship between critical thinking and interdisciplinary learning

A. I thought of interdisciplinarity as likely a great complement to critical thinking but did not know the details.

B. I now understand that the two are not only good complements but effectively rely on each other. It's hard to now imagine a scenario where one could become a good critical thinker while keeping from any form of interdisciplinarity. Likewise, to practice interdisciplinarity effectively, you would surely need to employ critical thinking, or else you would likely just practice a disciplinarity together with disiplinaryity, in an ineffectual way to tie them together.

- Know and understand the world of work from an interdisciplinary perspective

A. Similar to the previous objective but even less knowledgeable. I knew they likely had a connection but did not know anything about it.

B. I, now much more clearly, understand how work and interdisciplinarity are integral to each other, especially when both are successful.

- Be able to apply an interdisciplinary approach to studying a problem related to the world of work

A. I probably could do this, but would likely not know the theory behind it, only able to drum up an on the fly solution

B. I now more clearly understand how important taking interdisciplinarity into account is when studying a problem. Often if one took a non interdisciplinary approach, you would more easily fall into a simplistic or one sided narrative, and reach inconclusive results.

- Develop effective skills in the use of online discussion and electronic assignment submission

A. I believe I was likely able to do this beforehand.

- B. I believe I am still capable of this, but just might have a bit more of an appreciation and understanding of discussion and learning thanks to the further study in interdisciplinarity.
- Be able to effectively use critical thinking skills in dealing with workplace Issues
 - A. As with another objective I believe I could do this, but perhaps I wouldn't know the details of why.
 - B. I feel that I am more able to do this, and now understand more of the principles as to why this works and how to employ it in the future.

2. Identify and describe for each course objective your remaining questions and areas for Growth.

- Know and understand the interdisciplinary nature of learning
I don't believe I have any specific remaining questions, I think for this objective I just need to improve my understanding through lifelong learning, and continue to understand how to apply that learning to my daily life.
- Know and understand the relationship between critical thinking and interdisciplinary learning
I believe I would like to know more about specific critical thinking strategies related to interdisciplinary learning on the micro level.
- Know and understand the world of work from an interdisciplinary perspective

I believe I would like to know more about the history of how the wider scholarship grew to fully embrace interdisciplinarity, and the challenges in implementing the results of that scholarship on the wider public.

- Be able to effectively use critical thinking skills in dealing with workplace Issues

I think I will still need to grow and develop in problem solving and dispute diffusing practices.

- Be able to apply an interdisciplinary approach to studying a problem related to the world of work

I think I still need to develop more rigorous studying skills.

- Develop effective skills in the use of online discussion and electronic assignment submission

Perhaps I just need to be better at communication skills.

3. Identify and describe how you will use your learning in the workplace.

I think one important way in which my potential workplace performance has developed is through better understanding the importance of how interdisciplinarity will appear within the real world. Throughout many quotes, discussions, and real studies, it would seem as if interdisciplinarity was an unstoppable force. It seemed to display itself as something that will always happen, even if it wasn't intended. It would seem though in my studies that the most innovative or influential ideas, studies, and efforts I would find though would just be the ones that use interdisciplinarity the best. This makes it seem as if interdisciplinarity is a tool or another force in our lives. It isn't just some project to be "promoted" it will show itself no matter

your intentions. Thinking about it this way reminds me that since it is inevitable, we must endeavor to improve our proficiency in it. For instance, if you are in a workplace that seems very regimented or hierarchical, interdisciplinarity will still happen, it will just be very inefficient. So then why not try to promote a culture that employs interdisciplinarity intentionally. In personal use, I think it means that I should be mindful about coworkers or management and their fields of expertise. Each person may be on a path where their expertise in a certain field far surpasses my own, and shutting them down or putting up barriers to cooperation would only harm my proficiency in utilizing the interdisciplinarity inherent in work. Likewise, I may myself have more expertise in an area when compared to another coworker, so I should be more proactive to share my own expertise to promote interdisciplinarity in that way as well.