Hermeneutics and Communication

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Assignment

### *Developmental Readings*

Review Assignment #3, the course essential elements, assigned readings, and recommended readings to identify selections of books and scholarly articles to identify and select developmental reading sources and entries.

* Refer to the “[Student Guide to Developmental Readings](https://drive.google.com/file/d/161V_FaYR2BnNGCSFUlWPjUSIQzcH04Hq/view?usp=share_link)” for updated information on sample comments, rubrics, and key definitions related to developmental readings.

**Source One:** Allen, J. (2022). Group flow in the secondary school steelband [Doctoral dissertation., Trevecca Nazarene University]. In *ProQuest Dissertations and Theses*. <https://www.proquest.com/docview/2769599084/abstract/96CB2A5ED33045E6PQ/1>

**Comment 1:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“The police were dismissive of Steelband performances as just noise, and the pan men knew was a cultural bias due to their association with violence and fighting.” Allen, 2022, p. 25)

**Essential Element:**

This quote is associated with Principles of Hermeneutics

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

This quote is additive and variant. It represents a turning point. If the police had played a role in curbing the noise caused by violent individuals playing steel drums, the instrument would not have been as famous as it is today. The evolution of steel drum music might not have occurred, thereby preventing Trinidad and Tobago from attaining worldwide acclaim as the birthplace of this extraordinary instrument.

The creation of steel drums played a significant role in putting Trinidad and Tobago on the world map. Since the 1957, the American university system introduced steel drum education into their curriculum. (Allen, 2022). The steel drum musicians embraced various music genres. Hence, the music found a place in jazz ensembles and classical music. Fortunately, cultural bias died and separated the music and the instrument from the association with violent incidents, thanks mainly to the support of Dr. Eric Williams, the first Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago (Allen, 2022).

**Contextualization:**

When my mother took me to the city to see the carnival celebration in the 1970s, I witnessed the aftermath of some violent outbursts from steel band musicians. I vividly recall grabbing my mother's hand and fleeing the bottle-throwing men fighting for territory.

Hence, I perceived the steel drum players, commonly known as "pan men," as individuals residing in the impoverished slums of Trinidad. Regrettably, society frequently linked them to lower class status and elevated crime rates. Further, the prevailing culture in Trinidad then afforded minimal opportunities to those the public regarded as worthless.

Over the summer, I discovered a steel drum artist at a local restaurant frequented by my family. His music intrigued me because he used the steel drum to incorporate Latin and African music into the scintillating sound of the steel drums. Naturally, I felt compelled to introduce myself as a Trinidadian and a fan of pan music. The encounter served as a reminder of the enduring power and beauty of the steel drum, a musical treasure that continues to captivate hearts and bridge cultures.

**Source Two:** Hurt, S. (2016). *Clinical risk factors for substance abuse: The potential effects on treatment outcomes*. [Master’s Thesis, Western Carolina University]. <https://libres.uncg.edu/ir/wcu/f/Hurt2016.pdf>

**Comment 2:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

 “Based on these results, they suggested implementing substance use education and early intervention in the workplace for adolescent substance users.” (Hurt, 2016.p.33)

**Essential Element:**

This quote is linked to the Approaches of Hermeneutics

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

This quote is additive. Using inferential analysis, researchers concluded that early intervention at workplace substance use disorder (SUD) in young people.

Hence, adolescents will become more productive by gaining support rather than coping with an illness in isolation. They will be able to focus more on their jobs. Adolescents will also benefit from the interventions since they can gain referrals to social programs outside the workplace.

Working on adolescents' maturity level will allow them to understand the problem they suffer, be less likely to become peer pressured into the harmful habit, and appreciate the knowledge of the dangers of SUD.

Implementing SUD introduction, according to statistical language, allows the rate of relapses to decrease, making adolescents less likely to reintroduce substance usage in their lives. Early intervention in the workplace is proven to help young people with substance use disorder. Employers support adolescents' well-being and promote their productivity by addressing substance use disorders. Because of maturity level, working adolescents are less likely to succumb to peer pressure and are more aware of the dangers of substance use disorder. Additionally, they can gain access to social programs outside the workplace for further support.

**Contextualization:**

I used inferential analysis as a method of hermeneutics to create a plan to solve a social problem. Last semester I used personal communication from individuals working in the IT industry to gain information on how their stress level stemmed from their specific managerial style.

Through the method of hermeneutics, I was able to determine that employees or subordinates under a Laissez-Faire style of leadership suffered consequences of stress as much as those under Transactional leadership. Although the laissez-faire leadership style leaves a vast space for the subordinate to work independently, the employee works better with more direction, and avoid further stress.

I plan to use more inferential data in my final research project. I intend to incorporate personal communication to find cases of young adults who use substance abuse to cope with depressive symptoms. Currently, I use scholarly research online, which allows me to utilize statistical language already implemented by scholars to progress in solving the problem of substance use disorder related to mental illness.

**Comment 3:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

“Both found that both variations of Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT), when compared to either standard inpatient substance abuse treatment or a traditional Twelve Step Facilitation therapy (TSF), were linked to more stable symptom reduction for both depression and substance use. Both of these studies suggest that the longitudinal relationship between depression and substance abuse disorders is important, and that both can be improved using evidence-based treatment such as CBT” (Hurt, 2016. p.16)

**Essential Element:**

This quote is associated with Interpretive Methods in Social Research

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

This quote is additive. Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) can effectively reduce symptoms of drug addiction and depression. Many young individuals turn to drugs as a means of coping with depressive symptoms, unaware that it can lead to an addiction. Indeed, based on a recent study by approximately 76% of cannabis users employ the drug as a means of self-medication for alleviating symptoms of depression. (Wallis (2022),

Hence, this article promotes the compelling evidence supporting the integration of cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) in addressing underlying conditions and dependency. By adopting this comprehensive approach, these disorders can be effectively treated, yielding substantial benefits.

**Contextualization:**

The context of my research revolves around understanding why young individuals resort to illicit drugs as means to cope with mental health challenges like depression and anxiety. By employing hermeneutical methodologies and scholarly techniques, I am able to maintain an objective stance as a scholar, conveying my message through persuasive evidence. It is clear that some young people are gravitating towards negative coping mechanisms. Thus, my research aims to shed light on this phenomenon.

**Source Three:** Henry. F, Plaza. D (2019*). Carnival is woman: Caribbean studies series.* University Press of Mississippi. [https://www.amazon.com/Carnival-Woman-Feminism-Performance-Caribbean-ebook/dp/B082FP45X3/ref=sr](https://www.amazon.com/Carnival-Woman-Feminism-Performance-Caribbean-ebook/dp/B082FP45X3/ref%3Dsr)

**Comment 3:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

“In 2010, Bunji Garlin sang a calypso entitled “De African.” This song followed a long line of twentieth-century calypsonians who regularly paid homage to Africa’s struggles for independence and the positive African influence on the culture of Trinidad” (Henry & Plaza, 2019. p.438).

 **Essential Element:**

This quote recommendsReading Techniques for Scholarly Research

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

This quote is variant. While this calypso identifies the singer's African ethnicity with the phrase "De African," the lyrics deviate from honoring the struggles and contributions of the African heritage in Trinidad's culture and quest for independence. Instead, the lyrics seem to justify the singer's African identity by emphasizing his appeal to women, explicitly arousing the curiosity of white women regarding his sexual prowess.

The lyrics also highlight the singer's talent for jump dancing, a popular dance form during the vibrant rhythms of Soca music in Trinidad. However, it is worth mentioning that the singer openly acknowledges misbehavior and misconduct, attributing them to his repertoire and African heritage.

**Contextualization:**

Listening to music has always been a cherished part of my upbringing, given my musical family background. While I didn't learn to play any instruments like my brother and father, who flawlessly mastered four-stringed instruments by ear, I still had the privilege of immersing myself in the enchanting melodies from a young age.

For me, song lyrics hold a special fascination. Interpreting the true essence of a song—uncovering the songwriter's intended message—is akin to deciphering the authorship of a book. While a few words or the title of a song may offer hints about its theme, the complete meaning can only be grasped by examining the lyrics.

In biblical theology, people often cherry-pick verses to support their own biases—a tendency we all have, to some extent, when trying to reinforce our beliefs.

The key takeaway is that understanding the meaning of text, whether it comes through a song or a book, requires engaging in scholarly reading. This approach prompts the reader or listener to discern words that betray partiality. As an interpreter of lyrics, one must recognize that the songwriter or singer, in this case, uses the term "African" with a double meaning—a characteristic that pervades the genre of calypso music and contributes to the cultural fabric of the Trinidad music industry.

**Comment 4:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

“They criticize the behavior of the women in their scanty costumes who seem only intent on enjoying themselves, and who therefore do not tell a story. What is missed in this form of criticism is what the players of today, mainly women, signify and symbolize in this form of mas’, that is, their own newly discovered empowerment as females and their resistance to the older cultural norms of male oppression” (Henry & Plaza, p.71)

**Essential Element:**

This quote employs the Interpretive Methods in Social Research

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

This quoted is Variant. Some argue that the criticism stems from masqueraders perceived indecency and association with alcohol-induced actions. The initial inspiration for the skimpy costumes was derived from the Brazilian carnival masquerade, but over time, the lack of creativity and originality became a point of contention for traditionalists who yearn for the innovative experiences of previous years.

It is important to note that the costumes, regardless of gender, embody historical characters from various cultures, such as Egyptian rulers, Roman royalties, and African kings and queens. Traditionalists argue that the limited costume options restrict the creativity of masquerade designers, allowing cultural constructs to stifle the true essence of the celebration.

**Contextualization:**

This has helped me grasp the significance of hermeneutics in interpreting behavior and attire, allowing for different meanings depending on individual agendas. Having experienced traditional and modern masquerades, I cannot entirely agree with the contemporary trend that revealing carnival costumes symbolizes women's empowerment.

 In this 21st-century cultural landscape, a prevailing notion exists that less represents more – less clothing, less decency, and less moral conduct are seen as greater freedom from societal constraints. Undoubtedly, everyone seeks the freedom to express themselves in their unique way. However, we must acknowledge that relativism challenges our role as spiritual leaders. Cultural relativism ultimately aims to undermine the traditional values deeply rooted in biblical theology.

I perceive relativism as an opportunity for Christian leaders to demonstrate their cultural intelligence. Christian leadership must engage with the diverse world around them actively. Rather than engaging in political battles or relying on legislation, Christians should embody the scriptural teachings and exemplify the gospel message through their actions and way of life. (Brook, 2019).

**Source Four:** Zimmermann, J. (2015). Hermeneutics: *A very short introduction*. OUP Oxford. [Seminal] [https://www.amazon.com/Hermeneutics-Very-Short-Introduction-Introductions-ebook/dp/B014LB0E2W/ref=tmm\_kin\_swatch\_0?\_encoding=UTF8&qid=](https://www.amazon.com/Hermeneutics-Very-Short-Introduction-Introductions-ebook/dp/B014LB0E2W/ref%3Dtmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=)

**Comment 6:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

“Take science and religion, for example. For centuries, science and religion had been harmonized through the interpretive framework of ‘two books. The belief that God had authored both the book of nature and the Bible meant that science could never be the enemy of religion” (Zimmerman, 2015. p.761)

**Essential Element:**

This quote recognizes the History of Hermeneutics

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

This quote is additive. Both science and religion seek to explain the existence of God. However, opponents of theology argue that science, founded on human wisdom, undermines religion and challenges the concept of a supreme being who created humanity and the universe.

Some secular scientists use science to discredit the notion of a higher power, emphasizing human wisdom as separate from a supreme being. According to Giem (Ashton, 2000), science does not inherently conflict with religious texts. In fact, the intricate workings of the natural world, as revealed by scientific inquiry, serve as a testament to the existence of a supreme God.

**Contextualization:**

While hosting high school foreign exchange students, I had the pleasure of interacting with individuals who strongly believed in the wisdom of Confucius and humanity's potential to unravel the world's mysteries. Their discussions inspired me to embark on a journey of exploration in apologetics. Intrigued by their perspectives, I explored various resources, including a book titled "In 6 Days," which intricately presented the insights of 50 esteemed creationist scientists.

Fascinated by its content, I shared this intriguing read with one of my students. However, the book remained in the United States upon the student's return home.

 Nevertheless, this book is valuable to the conversation on the coexistence of science and religion. For me, it serves as an intriguing piece of extra-biblical evidence, reinforcing the belief that both disciplines stem from the divine creation of God.

**Source Five:** Grondin, J. (2003). Faith in the nominalist age? The possible theological contribution of hermeneutics.

**Comment 7:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

“How is faith seen from a Nominalist and modern point of view? One of the many differences between the contemporary Nominalist reading of faith with that of earlier epochs resides in the fact that faith is now mostly seen as an option that the subject can espouse or not. You either have faith or you do not (as if the issue were black or white; it is not!) and whichever option you choose, this is your sovereign, plebiscitary decision” (Grondin, 2003. p.7).

**Essential Element:**

This quote incorporates Faith-Integrated Hermeneutics

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

This article is additive and variant.

Each person holds their own unique faith, influenced by their desires, feelings, and biases- subjective faith. However, biblical faith, or objective faith in God, is grounded in facts. Thus, while interpretations may differ, the essence of faith remains a significant force in peoples’ lives.

Gillan (2010), asserts that, “faith is a "reliance: a firm trust in the risen Jesus, grounded in rock-solid truth, and his promises.” Faith comes from the supreme calling of God, not earned but given to believers as a gift. Objective faith is the significant force available to all who believe in God, regardless of their own merit.

**Contextualization:**

Prior to embracing my Christian faith, I demonstrated my beliefs through religious activities and my interpretation of faith in God. However, today I have come to understand that true faith is a gift from God, bestowed upon us through the sacrifice of Christ, and which no human effort undertake- save us from eternal damnation.

By having faith in God's promises, are called to embrace leadership roles and serve others. Greenleaf (1991) asserted that true leaders are defined by their commitment to service, a role model who actively seeks solutions and contributes to the betterment of society.

**Comment 8:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“It would be a complex story to explain Heidegger’s misgivings about the vocabulary with which Christian faith was expressed, but there is no doubt that he was wrestling with his own theological upbringing, which was framed by the Catholic Church and the doctrine of Thomism, which, like him, extolled the question of Being” (Grondin, 2003.p.3).

**Essential Element:**

This quote incorporates Faith-Integrated Hermeneutics

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

This quote is additive and variant. It explores the concepts of Thomism and Catholicism, which both affirm the existence of a divine God and the tri unity of the Godhead. “On the other hand, a Catholic signifies the true Deity when he says that there is one God” (Aquinas, 2010, p. 66).

However, due to humanity's sinful nature, the inclination to interpret God's truth through cultural and familial lenses hinders individuals from attaining a deeper understanding of who God truly is, an understanding that can only be derived from biblical texts that reveal his self-proclaimed identity. This struggle, evident in Heidegger's philosophical debates, often leads to intellectual justifications for one's beliefs. The concept of a "God" in the New Age is not a moral Being, worshipped as supreme. Instead, God is democratized, giving all a possession of some divinity. (Groothuis, 2016.p. 211).

**Contextualization:**

Grounded with faith in Christ apart from my family, I embrace the responsibility of Christian apologetics. As a follower of Christ, my calling begins by offering answers rooted in exegetical principles, induced with compassion, humility, patience, and love.

As a change agent, my mission is to address the needs of young people who suffer from depression and anxiety, opting for negative alternatives like substance abuse. Our dependence on God compels us to make a positive impact on the lives of others. The plight of the marginalized and mentally ill individuals burdens my heart, urging the knowledge of Christ who transform lives

My recent capstone research focused on the healing of young people with mental illnesses, combining the power of Christ with natural therapies. However, I pose a vital question: How can we effectively combat the devastating issue of illicit drug addiction that plagues many young individuals, leading them towards suicidal thoughts and tendencies?

**Source Six:** Carter, H., Hussey, J., & Forehand, J. W. (2019). Plagiarism in nursing education and the ethical implications in practice. *Heliyon*, *5*(3). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2019.e01350>

**Comment 9:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

“Plagiarism is not as clear-cut as its definition states. Whether intentional or unintentional, the use of another’s words without proper acknowledgment and paraphrasing only covers the surface of the act of plagiarism” (Carter et al., 2019. p.2)

**Essential Element:**

This quote recommends APA Style to prevent plagiarism.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

This quote is additive. Scholarly writers must use vigilance to avoid stealing others' ideas. However, writing does not occur in isolation. To prevent plagiarism, scholars must focus on deciphering the intended meaning of the writer, rather than merely summarizing their words.

Hermeneutics and communication promote this art form as the discipline facilitate critical reading and writing by analyzing the author’s idea behind the composition. Scholarly writing aims to reach a broad audience to address societal issues. Therefore, researchers must delve deeply into the prose to determine the essence and intentions of the author. This allows scholars to utilize the resources to expand their knowledge or critically analyze and contest the author's claims.

Citing sources using APA or MLA style, as per the university's requirements, is crucial to avoid plagiarism. Neglecting to do so hinders the development of these skills and undermines the integrity of one's work.

**Contextualization:**

Since I rejoined academia at the highest point of education, I have developed a tendency to over-reference the sources I use. In my last paper for my capstone project, my professor complimented the extensive resources I utilized to authenticate my research.

However, I find myself constantly sourcing every word or idea out of habit, which sometimes consumes more of my time than necessary, in my opinion. Although I strive to avoid the accusation of plagiarism, I would rather allocate my time to editing, and appreciating my own ideas. Yet, academic papers commonly list one source per line, promoting clarity and organization for easy referencing.

On the other hand, I do make it a habit to read other writers' works with the intention of emulating their writing styles. I have found that this practice not only helps me become a better writer but also enhances my overall scholarly abilities.

**Comment 10:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

“Resources such as student guides to writing APA papers may provide step by-step instructions on how to format written work. In addition to guides, most universities have writing centers available to assist students in writing and citing in APA style. This style of writing may be intimidating to students who have not been exposed to it before; which, unfortunately may lead to unintentional plagiarism acts, such as parenthetical citation errors and improper referencing of sources utilized” (Carter et al., 2019. p.3

**Essential Element:**

This quote is associated with Scholarly Writing Techniques

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

This article is additive. Academic writers strive to have their work published and cited by as many people as possible, as the significance of research lies in its dissemination. Even unexpected findings contribute to the body of knowledge, making them valuable for others to understand (Kairinos, 2022).

 Proper adherence to citation styles like APA facilitates the creation of engaging papers that attract readers interested in addressing social issues raised by academics (Kairinos, 2022). Authors hold the responsibility of appropriately citing and referencing the supplementary resources utilized during their research endeavors.

**Contextualization:**

One of my professors recommended I submit my paper for publication due to its significance and the need to reach a wider audience. Although the Journal advised publishing in a denominational journal, I felt discouraged and disheartened by the rejection.

However, individuals must persevere by exploring other publications that might appreciate the paper. (Kairinos 2022). In other words, I intend to resubmit the manuscript to other scholarly journals, as it addresses the crucial issue of young people drifting away from the church just when their guidance is vital for leading others toward God's kingdom.

**Source Seven:** Kearney, R., & Treanor, B. (Eds.). (2020). *Carnal hermeneutics*. Fordham University Press. <https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C47&q=What+Is+Carnal+Hermeneutics%3F&btnG=>

**Comment 11:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

“It is not a question of reading into something but of reading from (à partir) something. We are solicited by the flesh of the world before we read ourselves back into it. Carnal attention is as much reception as creation” (Kearney & Treanor, 2015.p. 19.).

**Essential Element:**

This quote delves into the realm of interpretation through the Principles of Hermeneutics.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

**This quote is additive and variant.**

Although it's common for humanity to judge others based on their appearances, it is important to recognize the problems with prejudging someone's social status solely on superficial grounds. This behavior perpetuates stereotypes.

A study revealed that individuals' appearances and how they present themselves can significantly influence how others perceive their social status. Physical attributes, such as attractiveness and dominance, sways to status judgments and correlate with self-reported social standing. It is worth noting that these factors can impact how society treat individuals and shape the perception of their social standing (Rahal et al., 2021).

Consequently, categorizing people unfairly can inflict emotional harm. While it may be challenging for flawed human nature to abstain from passing judgement based on outward appearances, Scriptural guidance calls upon believers to assess behaviors according to the authority of God. “But the Lord said to Samuel, “Don’t look at his appearance or how tall he is, because I have rejected him. God does not see as humans see.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+sam+16%3A7&version=GW#fen-GW-7600a)] Humans look at outward appearances, but the Lord looks into the heart” (God’s Word Translation,1995/2010, 1Sam. 16:7)

**Contextualization:**

 When I first arrived in the United States, I encountered negative judgments based on my ethnicity and my emigrating from a developing country. I remember when my husband introduced me to his grandmother; upon learning that I came from the Caribbean, her first question was whether the government provided running water. Without hesitation, I responded that Trinidad, my home country, produces oil, so obtaining running water is inevitable.

On another occasion, when I visited some friends whose husbands owned a small boat, the wife asked me if I had ever been aboard a boat. In my reply, I calmly explained that I had leisured on a super yacht before so I could manage aboard a fishing boat.

 Unfortunately, society discriminates through judgmental remarks and, in my experience, derogatory questions. However, it is essential to acknowledge that we are all guilty of using our yardstick to determine the standing of others.

**Comment 12:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

“In short, carnal hermeneutics covers a wide spectrum of sense, both sacred and profane, as it ranges up and down—in ascending and descending spirals—from the most elevated cyphers of the divine to the lowest probing of tooth and claw, from gods to dogs and back again. While hands reach up, feet reach down. But the point is that no matter how high or low experience goes, it still makes sense” (Kearney & Treanor, 2015. p.4)

**Essential Element:**

This quote is associated with Interpretive Methods in Social Research

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

This quote is additive. Interpreting language, text, and senses is a skill that resonates with both the interpreter and the writer/speaker. However, to truly master the art of interpretation and understand its underlying principles, one must engage in critical thinking.

 Critical thinking involves expanding existing knowledge through reflexive and scholarly reading, asking thought-provoking questions, challenging assumptions, and identifying biases and preferences.

The truth is that everyone engages with hermeneutics. However, comprehending the nuances of how and why hermeneutics unfolds provides the best approach to deciphering a message. Hermeneutics aims to make sense of a situation by interpreting its true meaning (Zimmerman, 2015),

**Contextualization:**

Every time I prematurely assess someone's character based on my initial impression; I now know I am applying carnal hermeneutics. It is as if a person's countenance emanates a negative energy, signaling that they might not be someone amenable.

I recall a particular job interview where I immediately sensed a lack of compatibility with one of the employees because of her demeanor. She strongly resembled someone I once encountered with a negative experience. It was as if this employee mirrored that person to such an extent that I concluded the job would not fit me well. Moreover, all of this experience I solely based on her countenance, even before she uttered a single word or displayed any actions towards me.

In essence, we tend to pre-judge both positively and negatively, forming conclusions solely through our senses before we allow people to speak or show their personality.

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