Hermeneutics and Communications

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Dr. Schmidt

Dr. Professor’s Name

Course Assignments

All assignments will be evaluated for the following structure:

1. Download the "OGS Course Assignments Template" template OR the "Developmental Reading Assignment Template" template from the General Helps folder in DIAL to create the following pages:

Example Header for OGS Assignment

2. Title Page (not included in page count).

3. Instruction Page: Copy and paste the assignment instructions from the syllabus, starting on a new page after the title page.

4. Start the assignment on a new page after the Instructions Page. Follow all APA 7th edition guidelines for documentation and style.

5. Works Cited: Include a separate Works Cited page, formatted according to APA style, 7th edition (not included in page count).

6. Submit all assignments in DIAL.

Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements

1. Write a three-paragraph essay responding to the following question:

When have you noticed your pre-judgments influencing your interpretations? How have you experienced a "fusion of horizons" in your learning experiences?

I am sure that I have had several cases that I had pre-judgments that influenced my interpretation. I am going to use a current case, a strange case. The topic is unidentified flying objects, UFOs and alien beings. I do know that the interest in space, rocket ships and alien beings have captured people’s interest for quite some time, at least since the 1940’s and have since then with many movies produced about life beyond the earth, such as Buck Rodgers, Star Wars, ET, Predator, etc. Now growing up I enjoyed watching these films but thought those who really believed in aliens and flying saucers were, well had some type of mental issue. Considering the multiple accounts and pictures of UFOs that do not appear to function based on earth-derived technology, I have begun to second guess my pre-judgment. The heavens are vast and are unknown to us, a mystery for sure. We get ideas, and concepts from what is written in the scriptures, but nothing that would lead me to believe there were beings beyond human beings, angles, demons, and God. It seems clear that God has created humans for a special relationship with Him and no mention of others ‘out there’.

My original thoughts on this, my judgments had led me to hold that aliens, UFOs or physical life beyond earth had not and does not exist. I understood that some things were unexplainable phenomena, such as large ancient carvings in the earths ground that could only be ascetically seen through the air, and that there were UFOs, unidentified flying objects, such as unidentified planes, jets or military. This comprised of my horizon, it was the limits of my understanding, and I was satisfied with my horizon and thought that was the correct horizon, it was a sound, logical horizon. Besides, the skeptic community claims UFOs are explained by such things as” natural phenomena, human technology, delusions, or hoaxes” (Simeon, 2022)

Am I having a mental break down? Am I going crazy because I am questioning my pre-judgments on this issue? Perhaps, but perhaps, I am just questioning my original held beliefs based on additional information, even though that new information is unclear. I have not seen proof of alien spaceships or aliens, but the UFOs photos taken by many different people show a unidentified flying object that does not look like a human aircraft. What am I to believe? I don’t know, it is just like I am looking at my horizon and thinking, is there something beyond that I am not seeing, a further horizon to view and to know?

I know this is an odd topic, but I thought it would be a good example of the limits of knowing and not knowing, the pursuit to see further horizons. I am not saying I believe in alien UFOs and aliens. I am just saying that I am unsure if my prior holdings were really correct, that I whole heartly believed. Since God is the creator of all things, it is possible He created lifeforms on other planets. I don’t see any evidence of the scriptures inform that there are other created beings beyon earth, but it also does not say that there is not. An Astronomer and Methodist theologian thought Christians ought to exercise curiosity (Peters, 2023).

WORKS CITED

Peters, T. (2023). Muslims, Christians, Scientists, and Extraterrestrial Aliens. *Theology and Science,* 21(3), 345-347.

Simeon, J. O. (2022). UFOs and human: understanding the relevance, purpose and humofunctional implication. *International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews,* 3(9), 1304-1308.