COM 803 Hermeneutics and Communications

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Omega Graduate School

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Professor

Dr. James Strecker

**Content Questions**

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

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

of the residency. Be prepared to discuss and engage with other students during

the live sessions. 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).

**Faith-Integrated Hermeneutics: Reading for Worldviews**

One of the core essential elements from the course, COM 803 Hermeneutics and Communications, is what is described as a “Faith-Integrated Hermeneutics: Reading for Worldviews.” Hermeneutics is the method of understanding the meaning of texts and other utterances (Gilhus, 2021). It is “the study of understanding, of processes of meaning-making” (Henrickson & Meroño-Peñuela, 2022, p. 11), and affects how we assign meaning to what is written or spoken. When it comes to worldview, Rusbult (n.d.) states that “A person’s worldview is their *mental* model of reality, their system of *beliefs* (of *theories about the world* and how it works)” (para. 1). That is, “It’s a comprehensive framework of ideas-and-attitudes about self & others, values, and life” (Rusbult, n.d., para. 1). As such, our worldview informs our understanding and interpretation of things and realities. Faith-Integrated Hermeneutics is about considering the relationship between faith and knowledge in reading, understanding and interpreting texts. That is, reading for understanding and clarity, as well as with humility allows us to better understand what is written. It is a natural approach to learning about something as we approach texts and utterances without bias, prejudices, or attitudes that would otherwise dispose us to certain preconceived notions or ideas. This is challenging, but represents an element of humility critical to understanding texts as it is written and was meant to be understood. Hasker (1992) interprets this best when he states that it is “concerned with integral relationships between faith and knowledge, the relationships which inherently exist between the content of the faith and the subject-matter of this or that discipline; such connections do not have to be invented or manufactured” (p. 235). Each of us have a particular understanding of reality and the world in which we live based on our knowledge, experience, beliefs and so many other factors. Our very way to writing and expressing ourselves do not escape this worldview, and therefore, as we read and try to understand literature and texts, such also reveal worldviews of their authors.

**Works Cited**

Gilhus, I.S. (2021). Hermeneutics. In *The Routledge handbook of research methods in the study of religion* (pp. 314-323). London, England: Routledge.

Hasker, W. (1992). Faith-Learning Integration: An Overview. *Christian Scholars Review*, *XXI*(3), p. 235

Henrickson, L., & Meroño-Peñuela, A. (2022). The hermeneutics of computer-generated texts. *Configurations, 30*(2), 115-139.

Rusbult, C. (n.d.). What is a worldview? *American Scientific Association*. Retrieved August 17, 2024, from <https://www.asa3.org/ASA/education/views/index.html>.