COM 803-12: Hermeneutics and Communication

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Omega Graduate School

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Professor

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**Developmental Reading**

1. Create Developmental Readings from seminal sources and scholarly peer-reviewed

journal articles. For this course, use five of the seminal book readings in the

Course Resources folder and find at least two articles on a topic of research

interest. Review the instructions for Assignment #3, the course essential elements,

and course readings to identify selections of provided books and located journals to

create entries.

a. Refer to the "Student Guide to Developmental Readings" in the General

Helps folder for updated information on sample comments, the grading rubric,

and key definitions related to developmental readings.

The Need for Hermeneutics

**Source One:** **(**Dowling, 2004)

**Comment 1: “**The terms ‘hermeneutics’ and ‘phenomenology’ are often used interchangeably in literature, which results in confusion for the reader.” **(**Dowling, 2004).

**Quote/Paraphrase: “**In my opinion, the confusion is due to the difference in each terms definition whereas hermeneutics is the element of knowledge that addresses interpretation more so within literary texts or the Bible while phenomenology focuses on how situations appear within a first-person viewpoint. There is a significant need for hermeneutics because it is essential in interpretation of information within all forms of communication.” (Dixon, 2025).

**Essential Element:** The reading techniques for scholarly subject research course essential elements are demonstrated within this paraphrase.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** I believe the information within this source comment is variant regarding hermeneutics because there can be various hermeneutic interpretations of information within each topic.

**Contextualization:** My mother is seventy-four years old and a retired VAMC Registered Nurse with over fifty years of experience, and my grandmother is ninety-six years old and a retired License Practical Nurse. This assignment helped me understand why there were so many lengthy double and sometimes triple shifts my mother and grandmother endured throughout my childhood. When fellow colleagues did not interpret the employee handbook regarding promptly arriving, working, and making it easier on the upcoming shift, the likelihood of the nurse on shift was directly affected by such scenario. “There is a significant need for nurse researchers to explore clearly the philosophical underpinnings of hermeneutics.” (Dowling, 2004).

**Comment 2: “**Hermeneutics is likened to meaning interpretation.” (Schmidt, 2016).

**Quote/Paraphrase: “**There are a variety of ways to interpret texts whereas it is ideal to apply hermeneutics in accurate interpretations therein. For example, one could seem to be and possibly interpreted as exclaiming comments or questions when capital letters are utilized.” (Dixon, 2025).

**Essential Element:** Interpretive methods in social research course essential element is entailed within this paraphrase.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** I believe the information within this source comment is variant regarding hermeneutics because the layered interpretation entails additive and non-additive effects interpreters interpret in numerous professional specializations.

**Contextualization:** My interpretation of Omega Graduate School curriculum entails an excellent work-life balance whereas I can learn while I earn, and the level of faith-based professionalism, compassion, assistance, and overall feeling of belonging is unparallelled. **“**One interprets the law. The Supreme Court is supposed to interpret the Constitution of the United States. An actress interprets the role she must portray. A conductor interprets a piece of music. We are also aware of different interpretation theories.” (Schmidt, 2016).

**Source Two: “**Aristotle’s Poetics tells us how to interpret Greek tragedy; he even states some rules.” (Schmidt, 2016).

**Comment 3: “**Literary criticism has developed many theories for interpreting literary texts. It would seem we know more about hermeneutics than we thought.” (Schmidt, 2016).

**Quote/Paraphrase: “**In this comment, I notice hermeneutics entails constructive criticism regarding interpretation of information in communication whereas primary and subsidiary theories are formulated, analyzed, and sometimes implemented into the overall focal point of the actual topic therein.” (Dixon, 2025)

**Essential Element:** The course essential of interpretive methods in social research is entailed herein.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** I believe this comment is additive because it involves learning tasks information that can be added to the teaching and learning curriculum in various teaching models.

**Contextualization:** The hermeneutics interpretation herein conveys various elements that assist teaching and learning whereas confusion is likely to decrease while the actual teaching and learning become more effective**.**

**Comment 4:** “First, we can ask about the range of hermeneutics. Stop signs do not require interpretation. Either you know what it means when you see one, or you do not.” (Schmidt, 2016).

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “The interpretation of hermeneutics is not solely black or white because there is an ambiguous grey area that interpreters must interpret as well.” (Dixon, 2025).

**Essential Element:** The essential element demonstrated here is interpretive methods in social research.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** I believe this comment is additive because it entails both written and spoken communication whereas one compliments or contradicts the other.

**Contextualization:** I learned how the sole definition of a word like gravity can have multiple definitions while primarily being regarded based on the majority interpretation of the actual topic.

**Comment 5:** “Traditionally hermeneutics, as a set of rules for interpretation, has been used when a passage does not make sense.” (Schmidt, 2016).

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “This particular comment entails interpretation rules whereas potential confusion can quickly be resolved with accurate interpretation of such topics therein.” (Dixon, 2025).

**Essential Element:** Reading techniques for scholarly subject research is the essential element within this section.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** “I believe this is additive because it includes more than one subject within the actual interpretation which is additional to the initial interpretation.” (Dixon, 2025).

**Contextualization:** I learned how there can be numerous interpretations, especially when there are more subjects involved in the hermeneutics interpretation of any topic.

**Source Three:** “Hermeneutics is derived from the Greek word ερµηνευειν (hermeneuein), meaning to interpret, and its derivative ερµηνεια (hermeneia) meaning interpretation.” **(**Demeterio, 2001).

**Comment 6: “**It has a linguistic relationship with Hermes, the swift footed messenger of the Olympian gods, who necessarily had to master the language of the gods, understand and interpret what these immortal beings have in mind, and translate and articulate their intention to the mortal beings.” **(**Demeterio, 2001).

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “In my opinion, every word has multiple meanings, and the initial definition is the first layer or various layers of additional definitions that may or may not agree with one another.” (Dixon, 2025).

**Essential Element:** Interpretive methods in social research are the essential element entailed herein.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This is an additive analysis because there is more than one determinant in the interpretation process.

**Contextualization:** I learned there are different layers within the interpretation process whereas each layer serves as an element for the actual interpretation therein.

**Comment 7:** “Hermeneutics, as a praxis of interpretation, emerged very early in the history of civilizations.”  **(**Demetrio, 2001).

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “There is a very strong historical element to the art of hermeneutics interpretation that dates back to ancient times when communication first began being interpreted.” (Dixon, 2025)

**Essential Element:** Faith-integrated hermeneutics: Reading for Worldviews are the essential element applicable herein.

**Additive/Variant Analysis**: This is an additive analysis because it encompasses the various layers within interpretation of all therein.

**Contextualization:** I learned there are far more elements within hermeneutics interpretation than meets the eye whereas one must fully engage within the interpretation to find the true accuracy of the actual interpretation therein.

“The full development of hermeneutics, as methodology of interpretation, however, happened some more centuries later during the Renaissance period.” (Demeterio, 2001).

**Source Four:** “Hermeneutics is the study of interpretation.” (George, 2020).

**Comment 8:** ”Hermeneutics plays a role in several disciplines whose subject matter demands interpretative approaches, characteristically, because the disciplinary subject matter concerns the meaning of human intentions, beliefs, and actions, or the meaning of human experience as it is preserved in the arts and literature, historical testimony, and other artifacts.” (George, 2020).

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “There are various elements within hermeneutics that contribute to the initial, process, tentative final opinion, and potential debate of each conclusion of each interpretation therein.” (Dixon, 2025).

**Essential Element:** Interpretive methods in social research are applicable herein.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** I believe this is an additive analysis because it includes multiple disciplines of interpretation.

**Contextualization:** I learned there is a distinct difference between initial perception and other interpretations of any topic in hermeneutics.

**“**As a disciplinary area, and on analogy with the designations of other disciplinary areas (such as ‘the philosophy of mind’ or ‘the philosophy of art’), hermeneutics might have been named ‘the philosophy of interpretation.’” (George, 2020).

**Comment 9: “**Hermeneutics thus treats interpretation itself as its subject matter and not as an auxiliary to the study of something else.” (George, 2020).

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Hermeneutics is the focal point of the actual interpretation of the specific topic.” (Dixon, 2025)

**Essential Element:** Reading Techniques for scholarly subject research is applicable to this comment.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** “Due to how each element of interpretation interaction, I believe this is an additive analysis.” (Dixon, 2025).

**Contextualization: “**I learned the history of hermeneutics is still applicable in everyday life because it entails all the pieces of the interpretation puzzle. For example, once I interpret all sections of the syllabus in a course, I can interpret the information, directives, and templates more accurately to complete reflective assignments.” (Dixon, 2025)

**Comment 10: “**Schleiermacher characterizes hermeneutics as the art of interpretation, maintaining that this art is called for not simply to avoid misunderstandings regarding otherwise readily intelligible discourses.” (George, 2020).

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Hermeneutics is characterized as a form of art which makes a lot of sense in the process of interpretation of any subject because it involves a variety of interpretive methods therein.” (Dixon, 2025).

**Essential Element:** Interpretive methods in social research are applicable herein.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** “I believe this analysis is variant because it examines the impact of additive and non-additive effects.” (Dixon, 2025)

**Contextualization:** “I believe my current enrollment in the O.G.S. doctoral program is reflective of this contextualization because my intellectual aptitude is evolving to another level relative to everything I learn and interpret therein.” (Dixon, 2025)

**Source Five: “**Modern hermeneutics begins with F.D.E. Schleiermacher who systematized hermeneutics, developing it from a group of disparate disciplines meant to apply to different fields of discourse to a set of procedures applicable to all.” (Warnke, 2016).

**Comment 11: “**Schleiermacher insists on a methodical practice of interpretation including grammatical interpretation, which attends to an author’s language, and psychological or technical interpretation, which attends to an author’s intentions.” (Warnke, 2016).

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “The learning environment where interpretation occurs is prevalent in hermeneutics as an optimistic, pessimistic, or neutral situation.” (Dixon, 2025)

**Essential Element:** Reading techniques for scholarly subject research is applicable because it is a technique to ascertain the correct environmental situation is in place to interpret information.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** “This is additive because it entails the environment where interpretation occurs.” (Dixon, 2025)

**Contextualization:** “I learned the importance of the actual environment where interpretation occurs, and I can apply that to my own learning environment whereas a quiet office is a better situation for me to focus, learn, and accurately interpret data instead of noisy or distractive environments.” (Dixon, 2025)

**Comment 12: “**Reliance on interpretive method.” **(**Warnke, 2016).

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “No one should ever rely on one interpretive method.” (Dixon, 2025)

**Essential Element:** Interpretive methods in social research are applicable here.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This is variant because it entails additive and non-additive elements.  **“**We concentrate only or primarily on the intentions or thoughts behind an author’s or speaker’s expression, we fail to take their expressions up as possible insights or valid claims.”  **(**Warnke, 2016).

**Contextualization:** “I learned to pay attention to detail in the military, and all therein is very applicable in this section because the hermeneutics interpretation herein focuses on assuring attention to detail is a primary focal point.” (Dixon, 2025)

**“**We miss much of what we can learn about a subject matter if we look to intentions over content, and we miss much of what we can learn about ourselves if we look to method and forgo dialogue.” **(**Warnke, 2016).

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