

**Due Date & Time: September 10, 2010 at 12:15 PM**

Reading Assignment:

Seeds & Backman: Chapter 1: The Scale of the Cosmos  
Chapter 2: User's Guide to the Sky  
Chapter 3: Circles Around the Earth...

Instructions:

- The assignment needs to be typed, except for equations, calculations, etc. You may not “cut and paste” from any sources.
- All diagrams and figures that accompany the assignment should be hand drawn—no “cut & paste”.
- Late assignment will be marked down by 50%.
- No late assignment will be accepted beyond 7 days.

Problems:

1. Analyze the excerpted paragraph and explain why the investigation of the abduction phenomenon is not scientific. (500 words minimum) [40 points]

“Careful study of books written during the 1980’s clearly shows a progression of details lacking in earlier accounts. What they do *not* show is that most UFO researchers who wrote these books had little or no recognition that the hypnosis process often establishes a telepathic link between the hypnotizer and the person who is hypnotized. Many of these researchers act as the hypnotists themselves, or at least closely monitor the hypnosis sessions. Even those researchers who are well-educated and experienced do not seem to recognize the possibility that they might be retrieving information from their witnesses that fits into their *own* theories about the meaning of the UFO abduction phenomenon and the motives of the abductors. Thus, one veteran researcher would retrieve accounts of hybrid babies being produced to take over our earth and another would retrieve accounts that the abductors have the best of motives, as claiming to have been assigned by some vague “higher power” to help the human race evolve into greater spiritual consciousness.”\*

\* Excerpted from *How to Defend Yourself Against Alien Abduction*

Druffel, Ann. “How to Defend Yourself Against Alien Abduction.” Three Rivers Press: New York, NY. 1998.