

UFOs: A Collection of Papers Written by Western Oregon University Honors Students

In the spring of 2025, I taught a unique course in the Honors Program at Western Oregon University called “UFOs: Government Officials Go on the Record.” While the topic raised some eyebrows from skeptical colleagues and administrators, the class was a smash hit with the 18 students who participated. Looking back, our time together was filled with unforgettable moments: We marveled at the fantastic images being sent back from the James Webb Space Telescope, had mind-expanding discussions about our small place in the vast cosmos, and took time to appreciate the breathtaking beauty of life on this pale blue dot called Earth.

In one memorable class we had a guest speaker who recounted how, as a teenager in the Belgian city of Leuven, she saw a triangular craft with glowing red lights hover outside her bedroom window during the legendary 1989 “Belgian Wave” of UFO sightings. On another occasion a local ufologist came and talked with great excitement about what UFO research means for the evolution of human consciousness. But the undisputed highlight was when we piled into a university van and took a field trip to the annual UFO Festival in nearby McMinnville, Oregon, where we watched a documentary film about the 1950 Trent Family UFO sighting and spent the day with costume-clad enthusiasts from all over the country.

Toward the end of the course, I asked the students if they cared to contribute some of their work in order to create an open education resource on UFOs. Those who took me up on the offer donated their papers, which are collected here and offer a sampling of the subjects that we examined during the 11-week spring quarter. To my mind, these writings represent the enormous interest that young people have in Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) and Unidentified Submerged Objects (USOs), which are now collectively called Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAPs).

In the meantime, much has happened in the UFO disclosure movement. High-ranking government officials have acknowledged that there are unknown objects flying around in our skies and that they may be otherworldly. Navy pilots are talking openly about seeing mysterious phenomena that defy the laws of physics. The U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense has an All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office and the U.S. Department of War is cautiously releasing UAP videos and documents. Films like Dan Farah’s *The Age of Disclosure* and Steven Spielberg’s *Disclosure Day* have reached mainstream audiences. Indeed, it appears to be a significant point in human history—one in which we are taking UFOs more seriously than ever before and realizing that we are not alone in the universe.

Eliot Dickinson, Monmouth, Oregon, 12 June 2026

One Very Determined Portuguese Man Versus The Entire European Union:

Francisco Guerreiro, The European Union, and UAP Reporting Protocol

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HNR 300

Dr. Dickinson

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One Very Determined Portuguese Man Versus The Entire European Union: Francisco Guerreiro, The European Union, and UAP Reporting Protocol

The phenomenon of UFOs, flying saucers, UAPs, and whatever else they may be called has popularly been considered to be events isolated in the United States. With the United States government making recent public announcements about UAPs, recent internet fads around the secrets of Area 51, and increasingly recent unexplainable sightings hitting American news, it has grown hard to imagine that any other country has also had run-ins with the unexplainable. In reality, Europe claims a longer history with UAPs than the United States does, but despite this, the European Union does not have any substantial protocol or documentation on UAPs. In the face of this, in the last three years, a storm has been kicked up by Portuguese European Parliament member Francisco Guerreiro, who has been calling for an amendment to this situation.

Guerreiro is the most notable advocate for discussions of UAPs in the European Parliament and offers the most queries and comments on European Union space legislation about the necessity of monitoring for UAPs at the continental level. In August of 2023, Guerreiro first asked the European Commission if the European Defence Agency (EDA) had any reports of UAPs and if they had any protocol for reporting these events.¹ Not much later, on 20 March 2024, Guerreiro led an assessment and debate of the European Union's handling of UAPs. One of the central reasons for doing so was to, "decrease the stigma associated with the topic inside important sectors of our society, such as civil aviation, the military, journalism, but also politics."² Later in the same conference, after a presentation given by Andre Joel, who is the

¹ Francisco Guerreiro, "UAP monitoring and reporting in the EU Space Law," *European Parliament*, August 10, 2023, Parliamentary question E-002375/2023, https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-002375_EN.html.

² *UAP: Reporting and Scientific Assessment in the EU. Exchange of Views in the European Parliament*, 2024, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5AUs1hzhc8>.

current secretary of UAP Coalitie Nederland,³ Guerreiro briefly intercepts the discussion before handing it off to the next speaker. “If you want to applaud, you can applaud,” he says. “Feel safe to applaud. It’s okay!”—he laughs—“Don’t be tense. You’re free to do whatever you want. Don’t worry.”⁴ The small insert, though seemingly inconsequential, articulates the exact reception he is trying to support. In the larger context of the social and political stigma of UAP sightings, his gentle, earnest support for positive reactions to the subject holds far more weight.

Despite increasingly prevalent calls by Guerreiro and many citizens across the European Union for UAP reporting protocol, the Union still does not have any framework for reporting UAPs. In a response to Guerreiro’s August 2023 query given by Commissioner Thierry Breton in November of the same year, it is articulated that the “[European Defence Agency (EDA)] does not have specific protocols on this matter as it falls outside the remit of EDA’s engagement with the Member States.”⁵ Breton further articulates that any events that pose a threat to European airspace fall under the jurisdiction of the lengthily titled “Regulation (EU) No 376/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 on the reporting, analysis and follow-up of occurrences in civil aviation”⁶ which, after a thorough review, has no specific language pertaining to UAPs.

Unsatisfied, Guerrerio pushed for more answers after Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced in her September 2023 State of the Union address the intention to create an EU Space Law. In a comment made to the Commission in January of 2024, Guerrerio posed that

³ UAP Coalitie Nederland, “The team,” *UAP Coalitie Nederland*, accessed April 19, 2025, <https://uapcoalitienederland.nl/en/about-us/the-team/>.

⁴ *UAP: Reporting and Scientific Assessment in the EU. Exchange of Views in the European Parliament*.

⁵ “Answer given by Mr Breton on Behalf of the European Commission,” European Parliament, November 9, 2023, https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-002375-ASW_EN.html.

⁶ *European Union*, Regulation (EU) No 376/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 on the reporting, analysis and follow-up of occurrences in civil aviation, amending Regulation (EU) No 996/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Directive 2003/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Regulations (EC) No 1321/2007 and (EC) No 1330/2007 Text with EEA relevance, 122 OJ L § (2014), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/376/oj/eng>.

the framework for the EU Space Law has “a gap that needs to be filled in the pillar of security. Specifically the EU, currently lacks a harmonised and scientific system for the reporting of unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAP).”⁷ Once again, Breton was tasked with responding to the determined Portuguese representative. In a response that reads as nothing short of a professional “piss off,” Breton describes alternative programs that are unaffiliated with the European Union, such as France’s Group for Study and Information on Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena (GEIPAN), as programs where UAP reporting would be most appropriate.⁸ With every response, the Commission grows increasingly annoyed with Guerreiro’s persistence.

Commissioner Adina-Ioana Vălean also responded to a different query of Guerreiro’s after he pushed for UAP amendments to “Regulation (EU) No 376/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 on the reporting, analysis and follow-up of occurrences in civil aviation,” which was the regulation cited by Breton against the need for UAP protocol.⁹ Vălean, like Breton, firmly shut down Guerreiro’s mission to work UAP protocol into European Union regulation. She rounds the issue of UAPs into issues of other aircraft, citing specific articles that are completely lacking in any language about UAPs in an effort to appease Guerreiro.¹⁰ Needless to say, Guerreiro was hardly satisfied.

Through listening to Guerreiro’s discussion of UAPs and hearing his voice, tone, and earnestness, the issue of UAPs runs far deeper than government recognition and European Union

⁷ Francisco Guerreiro, “UAP monitoring and reporting in the EU Space Law,” *European Parliament*, January 31, 2024, Parliamentary question - E-000318/2024,

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2024-000318_EN.html.

⁸ “Answer given by Mr Breton on Behalf of the European Commission,” *European Parliament*, April 23, 2024,

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2024-000318-ASW_EN.html.

⁹ Francisco Guerreiro, “Update of the EU regulation on Civil aviation to include UAP reporting,” *European Parliament*, January 31, 2024, Parliamentary question - E-000314/2024,

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2024-000314_EN.html.

¹⁰ “Answer given by Ms Vălean on Behalf of the European Commission,” *European Parliament*, April 11, 2024,

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2024-000314-ASW_EN.html.

regulation. Edoardo Russo is a founding member of Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici (CISU)¹¹ and was a featured speaker in Guerreiro's 20 March 2024 European Parliament assessment of UAPs. In his speech, where he was tasked with the contextualization of UAPs in European history, Russo takes a brief tangent into the deeper significance a UAP sighting can have on an individual. "There are social side effects, which have been the object of academic studies by psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists," Russo explains. "We are left with a great number of people wondering what they— So millions of people who have a right to an answer—if there is one—but cannot find anyone officially charged to give one to them and are crushed between those telling them "you were drunk" and those believing it's just extraterrestrial visitors."¹² Russo and Guerreiro, by the end of the first thirty minutes of a two-hour conference, firmly articulate the problem with the European Union's relationship with UAPs, and it is not limited to the fact that there is no protocol or regulation in place.

UAP legislation, for Russo and Guerreiro, extends beyond protocol. For the Italian and Portuguese men, it is about bringing peace of mind to those who have seen the unexplainable. In his speech, Russo commends private organizations for working toward what the federal level will not. "It's only the private organizations—the volunteers—that take charge of these people—of their testimonies—trying to find and offer those answers to witnesses," Russo explains. Not much later, he praises the regional private organizations such as the British UFO Research Association founded in 1964, a Spanish organization of similar purpose founded in 1958, and a Danish organization founded in 1957.¹³ In addition to these, there is the French Group for Study and Information on Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena (GEIPAN) that was

¹¹ Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici. "Edoardo Russo." *Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici*, February 26, 2023. <http://www.cisu.org/edoardo-russo/>.

¹² Francisco Guerreiro Multimedia, "UAP: Reporting and scientific assessment in the EU. Exchange of views in the European Parliament."

¹³ *UAP: Reporting and Scientific Assessment in the EU. Exchange of Views in the European Parliament.*

mentioned by Breton, Russo's Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici (CISU), and Joel's UAP Coalitie Nederland.

Despite Guerriero's initial shunning by the European Commission, Europe is still on a march for a future of cooperation and a future of discussions about UAPs. Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom are the twelve European nations to declassify their military files on UAPs.¹⁴ Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, New Zealand, the Philippines, the United States, and Uruguay are another non-European lot to do the same.¹⁵ The stigma is breaking down, and governments are coughing up what they cannot explain.

Francisco Guerreiro no longer serves in the European Parliament, joining the Volt Europa party to further Portuguese environmental goals.¹⁶ Despite his departure from the European Parliament, his legacy remains, and he was a vital turning point for the discussion of UAPs in the European Union. Given the recency of these discussions, the outcomes are yet to be seen, but it would not be surprising to see that in the years to come, discussions are taken up once more and that Guerreiro's name becomes intrinsically embedded in these conversations.

¹⁴ *UAP: Reporting and Scientific Assessment in the EU. Exchange of Views in the European Parliament.*

¹⁵ *UAP: Reporting and Scientific Assessment in the EU. Exchange of Views in the European Parliament.*

¹⁶ Rita Penela, "Eurodeputado eleito pelo PAN anuncia filiação no Volt no final do mandato europeu," *Observador*, Accessed April 19, 2025, <https://observador.pt/2021/10/17/eurodeputado-eleito-pelo-pan-anuncia-filiacao-no-volt-no-final-do-mandato-europeu/>.

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Looking for a Sign of Life:
World War II's "Foo Fighters"

Claire McCann

HNR 300: UFOs: Government Officials Go on the Record

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Foo fighters are more than just Dave Grohl's post-Nirvana rock band. The name was derived from that of unknown flying objects seen by pilots during World War II—a real phenomenon observed numerous times throughout the war.¹ Reports of this phenomenon demonstrate that unidentified flying objects are neither a new occurrence nor one observed strictly by ufologists. Though these sightings were ultimately dismissed as harmless, there was never a definite answer to their identification.² Multiple explanations have been proposed, but none are proved with certainty or agreed upon by pilots who witnessed the phenomenon. Though the U.S. Government has publicly dismissed foo fighters as unknown but benign, everyone else is left wondering which explanation is the truth.

UFOs have been observed around the world for as long as history can attest.³ As one can imagine, frequent fliers, such as pilots, see more than the average person. During war times, it's easy to assume unknown objects in the sky are enemy planes or other weapons. During World War II, many UFOs were seen and reported, and many still have no known explanation. In his book *It Didn't Start With Roswell*, Philip Rife presents many accounts of UFO sightings around the world that took place before the 1947 Roswell incident.⁴ He details many sightings from the World War II years, saying that 1939-1945 saw, "... a major increase in UFO sightings worldwide," and that the origin of such things are still debated.⁵ Due to the ongoing war, initial assumptions were that the UFOs were new enemy planes, but, even now, no one has claimed ownership.

¹ReelinInTheYears66, "Foo Fighters • Interview (Name/Songwriting/Nirvana/Touring) • 1999 [Reelin' In The Years Archive]", November 16, 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxXByZGvESo>

² John Greenwald Jr, "The Black Vault," Accessed May 2, 2025, <https://documents.theblackvault.com/documents/ufos/robertsonpanelreport.pdf>

³ George M. Eberhart, "UFO and Intelligence: A Timeline," May 4, 2025, <https://cufos.org/PDFs/pdfs/UFOsandIntelligence.pdf>

⁴Philip L. Rife, *It Didn't Start With Roswell*, Writer's Club Press, 2001, <https://archive.org/details/it-didnt-start-with-roswell-50-years-of-amazing-ufo-crashes-close-encounters-and/mode/2-up>

⁵ Rife, *It Didn't Start With Roswell*, 54.

One of the most famous sightings, and widely regarded as the first "foo fighter" sighting, occurred near the end of the war on November 29, 1944.⁶ Lieutenants Ed Schlueter, Fred Ringwald, and Donald J. Meiers of the 415th Night Fighter Squadron were flying over the Rhine Valley near the French-German border.⁷ With Lt. Schlueter piloting their aircraft, Lt. Ringwald noticed a row of eight to ten orange lights glowing over a hill and flying at a high speed, a sight Lt. Schlueter noticed reflected off of the plane's wing.⁸ The plane that the three were in was the only one registering on ground radar, as well as Lt. Meiers' in-plane radar.⁹ Under the assumption that the lights were coming from a new, unseen German air weapon, Lt. Schlueter turned the plane in preparation to fight, only for the lights to disappear.¹⁰ For fear of ridicule or punishment, the three did not mention the sighting when they returned.¹¹ However, more sightings from other pilots proved that their experience was not unique and not a hallucination.¹²

Since no one knew exactly what they had seen, members of the 415th began referring to the phenomenon as "foo fighters,"—a name that stuck and was adopted by other pilots after numerous other encounters.¹³ The term came from the comic strip "Smokey Stover," where a catchphrase is "where there's foo, there's fire."¹⁴ On New Year's Eve, members of the 415th were

⁶ Dirk de Klein, "Foo Fighters WW2 UFO's," June 14, 2016, <https://dirkdeklein.net/2016/06/14/foo-fighters-ww2-ufos/>; Eberhart, "UFO and Intelligence."

⁷ Adam Janos, "Mysterious UFOs Seen by WWII Airman Still Unexplained," *History*, last updated February 18, 2025, <https://www.history.com/articles/wwii-ufos-allied-airmen-orange-lights-foo-fighters>; History, "Project Blue Book: Declassified – The True Story of the Foo Fighters | History," March 2, 2019, Video, 2 min., 21 sec, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vf41CD5INGU>

⁸ Janos, "Mysterious UFOs."; Zoe Krasney, "What Were the Mysterious 'Foo Fighters' Sighted by WWII Night Flyers?," *Smithsonian*, August, 2016, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/air-space-magazine/what-were-mysterious-foo-fighters-sighted-ww2-night-flyers-180959847/>

⁹ Jo Chamberlin, "The Foo Fighter Mystery," *The American Legion Magazine*, December, 1945, <https://www.project1947.com/articles/amlfoo.htm>

¹⁰ Chamberlin, "The Foo Fighter Mystery."; Janos, "Mysterious UFOs."; Krasney, "Mysterious 'Foo Fighters.'"

¹¹ Chamberlin, "The Foo Fighter Mystery."; Janos, "Mysterious UFOs."

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Jeffrey A. Lindell "The Real Foo Fighters." *Skeptic Magazine*, 2012. <https://research.ebsco.com/c/ptznvp/viewer/pdf/6d47aicrv5?route=details>

¹⁴ Chamberlin, "The Foo Fighter Mystery."; History, "Project Blue Book."; Janos, "Mysterious UFOs."

interviewed about their strange sightings and were reported in newspapers the following day.¹⁵ In January of 1945, *Time Magazine* ran a story about foo fighters in their science section, calling it "... the most puzzling secret weapon that Allied fighters have yet encountered."¹⁶ The story in *Time* reported that, for over a month, pilots had been seeing or followed by bright, unknown "balls of fire."¹⁷ Physical descriptions vary, but reports converge in their claim that the lights followed closely at high speeds for miles but displayed no clear motive.

According to Lieutenant Colonel Jo Chamberlin, who interviewed the 415th about their foo fighter encounters, sightings in Germany ended when Allied forces captured the area east of the Rhine.¹⁸ In what Chamberlin claims is the last instance with the 415th, the pilot turned to face the lights as soon as he could, only for them to still disappear as they did in other sightings. Also like the other encounters, nothing other than the pilot's plane appeared on radar. Later, he saw lights again. He maneuvered through a cloud and watched the lights emerge after him as well before disappearing. While Chamberlin's December 1945 article cites that as the end of the foo fighter mystery, his article focused on the 415th's experiences—the most famous ones. Similar sightings were reported, before and after the 415th, by various other pilots from other squadrons, other nations, and in other airspaces.¹⁹ Though the term "foo fighter" originated and was primarily used by the 415th squadron, it was eventually used to describe any UFOs from the time.²⁰

All these sightings yet, still, no solid explanation. That has never stopped people from presenting possibilities. The initial thought by most pilots was that they were encountering new

¹⁵Chamberlin, "The Foo Fighter Mystery."; History, "Project Blue Book."; Janos, "Mysterious UFOs."

¹⁶ Time. "Foo-Fighter." *Time Magazine*, January 15, 1945, 70.
<https://time.com/vault/issue/1945-01-15/page/72/>

¹⁷ Ibid. 70.

¹⁸ Chamberlin, "The Foo Fighter Mystery."

¹⁹ Krasney, "What Were the Mysterious 'Foo Fighters'"; Rife, *It Didn't Start With Roswell*.

²⁰ de Klein, "Foo Fighters WW2 UFO's."

enemy planes.²¹ This belief is why reports were taken as seriously as they were—pilots needed to be prepared if they were going to go up against new aerial weapons.²² As previously mentioned, the ongoing war put pilots on high alert. The most reasonable assumption was that anything flying that wasn't theirs was an enemy. However, when attacks never came, they were left scrambling for other answers. Even now, no nation has taken credit for the reported foo fighters.²³ A common proposed explanation is St. Elmo's fire, which the 415th pilots vehemently rejected.²⁴ St. Elmo's fire is an electrical phenomenon that appears during stormy weather as lights or flames at the tip of objects—something pilots are familiar with and should be able to identify.²⁵ Supporters of this idea cite the absence of foreign aircrafts on radar, saying that, were a physical object creating real lights, radar would have picked it up.²⁶ Other explanations are more psychological, such as stress, fatigue, or intoxication. Combat fatigue is a common suggestion, arguing that war stress was effectively driving the pilots crazy and causing them to hallucinate.²⁷ Another suggestion is lingering effects of alcohol, which a majority of pilots interviewed by Jeffrey A. Lindall admitted to consuming within a 72-hour window before missions.²⁸ While none flew while inebriated, long-term effects of alcohol were not known at the time, meaning pilots would not be aware that they were affected at all.²⁹

Lindell also posits that autokinetic illusions had to do with sightings.³⁰ This is a phenomenon in which stationary lights appear to move and swing, which sounds like a solid explanation for the pilots' perceptions that the lights seemed to play and trick them. The U.S.

²¹ Chamberlin, "The Foo Fighter Mystery."

²² History, "Project Blue Book."

²³ Krasney, "What Were the Mysterious 'Foo Fighters.'"

²⁴ Chamberlin, "The Foo Fighter Mystery."

²⁵ Chamberlin, "The Foo Fighter Mystery."; Janos, "Mysterious UFOs."

²⁶ Krasney, "What Were the Mysterious 'Foo Fighters.'"

²⁷ Janos, "Mysterious UFOs."; Krasney, "What Were the Mysterious 'Foo Fighters.'"

²⁸ Lindall, "The Real Foo Fighters."

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

Navy didn't experiment with these illusions until February of 1945, meaning the 415th and other pilots at the time would have been unaware of this possibility and put full trust in their vision.³¹ There are other similar visual illusions that could have been at play that pilots would have been unaware of and uneducated about at the time. It is Lindell's opinion that a combination of these explanations are true when trying to debunk the foo fighter sightings.

The 1953 Robertson Panel consisted of experts in various scientific fields brought together by the CIA to investigate the UFO phenomenon as a whole and determine if they could be explained and if they were a threat.³² They examined photos and interviewed military officials, including Dr. J. Allen Hynek of Project Blue Book.³³ Foo fighters were cited as UFOs during the panel, but they were overall dismissed as "... unexplained but not dangerous."³⁴ They did present possible explanations already covered here, but eventually dismissed them as unimportant. The panel's final feelings are recorded as believing that the foo fighters have a reasonable, scientific explanation that is not beyond their present knowledge.³⁵

Like most UFO sightings, World War II's foo fighters are not free from scrutiny from the public. Based on the lack of attacks and no country taking credit for the aerial phenomena seen during World War II, it's reasonable to say they were not enemy planes or weapons. Further proving this is the fact that UFOs were seen by Allied and Axis powers in many countries, as well as in non-combat zones, throughout wartime.³⁶ With that established, the world is left wondering if the foo fighters were objects at all or if they were simply light reflections or illusions. While the pilots don't know exactly what they saw, they are sure that they know what

³¹ Lindall, "The Real Foo Fighters."

³² Seth Shostak. "unidentified flying object." Last updated May 3, 2025.
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/unidentified-flying-object#ref247540>

³³ Shostak, "unidentified flying object."; Greenwald, "The Black Vault."

³⁴ Greenwald, "The Black Vault."

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Rife, *It Didn't Start With Roswell*.

they *didn't* see, and many are sure that they were not light reflections or illusions. However, as Lindell argues, pilots were not educated on these illusions or psychological aspects, making it difficult for anyone to know for sure. It seems that the pilots themselves would not accept any answer that is not a physical object since they trust what they saw with their own eyes. That does not negate the fact that foo fighters could very well be illusions from fatigue or prior intoxication. Since the U.S. government has not investigated further than declaring them nonviolent and seeing no cause for further research, we may never truly know what all those pilots saw.

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Comparison of the Hudson and Belgium Waves

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May 14, 2025

Comparison of the Hudson and Belgium Waves

Reports of unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAP), or unidentified flying objects (UFOs) have been made for years. In the majority of instances when there has been a UAP sighting, there are not many people who witness the same phenomena. Usually it is just a small group of people who happened to be around the same area of the sighting or a singular person who had an encounter with a UAP. Even though this is the case with most of the documented sightings, there have been some instances where a large group of people have claimed to have witnessed the same UAPs. There are a few of these cases, but two well known examples are the Belgium Wave that happened in Belgium and the Hudson Wave, which occurred in the United States. These are two cases where a substantial number of people claimed to have witnessed the same event over an extended period of time, with many similarities between each of the reports that were given by witnesses.

These two waves are quite interesting because they were witnessed by hundreds of people over a time period of a couple of months. Both the Belgium Wave and the Hudson Wave have many similarities, yet they also have many interesting differences between them, which will be discussed and analyzed. Before analyzing the two UFO sighting waves, it is crucial to get some background information and context on each of the events so that we can understand what people witnessed and experienced during the waves.

Going in chronological order, the Hudson Wave happened a couple of years before the Belgium Wave. This mass sighting began during the summer of 1983 and continued for about one year until the following summer. During this time period, people near the Hudson River Valley in New York began calling the police with multiple reports about unidentified flying objects in the sky. The reports that people gave were all very similar, in that they each described

an object with a similar description. Taken from a clip of a New York Times newspaper article, New York resident William A. Pollard states, “I never believed in that stuff. But off in a field I saw this gigantic triangle with lights, about 30 feet off the ground - hovering” (1984). This quote from a UFO witness tells us that the aircrafts were triangular, with lights, and they could hover, which is not something that we can see in regular airplanes. Most of the other reports also described very similar characteristics, including the bright lights and that they were extremely large objects.

Following the Hudson Wave, just a few years later, people experienced the Belgium Wave. This phenomenon began in the late fall of 1989 in Belgium and it continued up until the early 1990s, with most of the sightings happening within the first year of the wave. The UFOs that were witnessed during this time period were seen by numerous people, ranging from regular civilians to police officers. Most of the people who made reports about these UAPs gave a similar description of what they saw. The authors of the article, *The Belgium UFO Wave*, state, “The craft was of a flat, triangular shape, with lights underneath. The giant craft made not a sound as it slowly, fearlessly moved across the landscape of Belgium” (2015). In other words, people were witnessing aircrafts that were in the shape of a triangle that moved very differently than any other aircraft that they had seen before. They also mention that given their large size, the unidentified objects did not make any noise as they passed above them. This is the same general description that was given by hundreds of different people throughout the months that the Belgium Wave happened.

After looking at the information from both of the waves, they seem to have a couple of similarities. One of the greatest similarities that can be seen between these two sightings is that they both seem to feature large objects in the air that were triangular shaped with very bright

lights. From the reports, we can see that even though there was no clear evidence linking these two events together, the descriptions that were given make the UAPs from the incident seem very closely related to one another.

Another interesting feature shared by both of these events is that, to this day, no one has been able to provide a definitive answer to explain the waves. There have only been theories and speculations about what happened. A handful of these theories dismiss the claims, for example some have said the Hudson Wave was a trick done by a couple of pilots while flying their planes at night. Then, there are also people who believe that the Hudson Wave was related to aliens. Discovery UK also gives some ideas about the potential explanations for the Belgium Wave. They say that it may have been extraterrestrial beings, military phenomena, phenomena in the atmosphere, and more. Even though people have created all of these theories to explain the events, none of them have ever been completely confirmed. Taking into account all the reports and investigations throughout the years, we may never know what really caused these waves and what people witnessed on those nights.

Even though there are some similarities between the Hudson Wave and the Belgium Wave, there are also some notable differences between the two. One of the greatest differences between these two events is the scale of the waves. When compared to the Hudson Wave, the Belgium Wave was a much larger UFO wave. There are a couple of reasons why it is considered a larger wave than the one in Belgium. One of the reasons is because it lasted much longer than the Hudson Wave. In Leslie Kean's book, *UFOs: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials Go On Record*, she writes about stories that people have shared about when they witnessed a UFO during the Belgium Wave. These reports began in 1989 and went through until 1992, meaning that the wave lasted around three years. This time frame is much different than the Hudson

Wave, because as we saw, it only lasted one year from the summer of 1983 to the following summer.

Another important difference between these two waves is that during the Belgium Wave, there was also radar data that can support the UFO sightings. In their 2024 article, *The Belgian UFO Wave: Close Encounter or Mass Hysteria?*, the authors state, “The radar data remains one of the most debated aspects of the case” (2024). This quote shows how they collected radar data from some of the aircrafts that were seen during the Belgium Wave. Even though some people are skeptical about the data, there are others who claim that this data supports the theory that these crafts were unknown objects. This radar information is not something that was collected from the Hudson Wave, since there was no one who collected any data.

Also, we can see a difference in how people viewed and treated the waves. In Belgium, they seemed to take the reports that people made more seriously. In her book, *UFOs: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials Go On Record*, Leslie Kean (2011) states, “The many... consistent case reports collected over time in Belgium - accumulated and investigated by a group of scientists working with the Air Force-created opportunities for radar detection and other technical applications” (p.20). This statement is saying that as all of the reports were coming in from people, there were many scientists and Air Force members that were working on trying to determine what they were. This demonstrates their dedication to the UFO reports made by the people and how they wanted to find out what it was. Rather than automatically dismissing the claims that people made, they were actively working to determine an explanation to the numerous sightings.

The attention given to the UFOs in Belgium was not the same treatment as the treatment given to the Hudson Wave in the United States. In their article about the Hudson Valley Wave,

the team at Unsolved Mysteries writes, “Ultimately, the entire episode was largely dismissed as a hoax perpetrated by a group of local stunt pilots” (Unsolved Mysteries). This statement helps show how they did not take the reports from the Hudson Wave as seriously as they did with the reports from the Belgium Wave. Rather than looking deeper into the many reports made during the one year period of the Hudson Wave, people just wanted to dismiss them. They wanted to look into something that could easily be explained instead of investigating if there was something to be concerned about. As we saw above, this reaction was very different to the reaction that people had in Belgium. Here in the U.S. they were actively searching for a way that they could quickly dismiss the UFO claims, while Belgium worked to try to understand what was really being witnessed.

Truly, the Hudson Wave and the Belgium Wave have many similarities and differences between them. Even though these waves happened over 35 years ago and investigations have been conducted, there is still not a clear answer as to what these waves were. From these stories, we know the importance of keeping an open mind and preparing in case that another wave were to happen someday. This way we can be prepared to investigate the encounters so that we can find a definite answer and identify the objects.

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Are Technical Issues in Aircrafts a Calling Card for UAPs?:
Aviation Safety and the Hypothetical Ability to Preemptively Locate a UAP

Lili Minato
HNR 300 UFO's: Gov't on Record
Professor Dickinson
April 14, 2025

Bibliography

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As often stated in Leslie Kean's *UFOs: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials go on the Record*, the government does not take aviation safety associated with UAPs seriously, "These (UAP) incidents are not investigated by any government agency, as are other events affecting aircraft."¹ Because of this, many UAP, also known as Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon, experiences don't get reported or shared. In 2000, Richard F. Haines, a chief scientist at the National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena, or NARCAP, wrote an eighty-eight page report detailing numerous experiences pilots had with unidentified flying objects.² In the paper titled *Aviation Safety in America - A Previously Neglected Factor*, many of these stories share a similar characteristic: before seeing a UAP or while seeing a UAP, the pilot's aircraft has technical issues. These difficulties could range from a faulty compass to the plane's entire system shutting down for a period of time. The consistency of these stories begs the question: Are technical issues in aircrafts a calling card for UAPs? And can this be used by pilots to preemptively locate a UAP? This essay will not only cover reports from pilots who've experienced strange phenomena in the sky but also how the destigmatization of UAPs in government and aviation related fields could allow for safer protocols to be implemented for those who fly.

A case from March 12th, 1977 gives an example of common UAP-related technical difficulties. A routine United Airlines flight from San Francisco to Boston experienced a gradual turn to the left by itself which prompted the Boston airport to ask where the plane was headed. After responding, the pilots attempted to fix the situation which caused them to discover that all

¹ Leslie Kean, *UFOs: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials go on the Record* (New York: Three Rivers Press, 2010), 52.

² Richard F. Haines, *Aviation Safety in America — A Previously Neglected Factor* (National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena, 2000), 1-5, <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5cf80ff422b5a90001351e31/t/5d02ea1772637c00014776c5/1560472092579/narcap.TR1.AvSafety.pdf>.

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of their compasses were facing different directions. During this experience, the captain and the first officer saw an extremely bright light flying at the same altitude as themselves. They described it as perfectly round and bigger than their own commercial airplane in size. It flew about 1,000 yards away from their own aircraft. They detailed how the UAP flew alongside them for about four to five minutes before quickly flying away and disappearing. About fifteen seconds after the UAP flew away, the plane went back to its correct position. There was no radar traffic in the area during that time.³

The March 1977 case was not one filled with casualties and consequences but it shows an example of a technological reaction to a UAP. At least six out of the twenty-four cases from Haines's report listed⁴ a malfunctioning compass as a system affected by a UAP encounter. While there is always the possibility of an identifiable issue causing the compass to stop functioning, there is no reason for pilots and their associates to immediately jump to such a conclusion. As Kean states in her book, "According to our (Kean and NARCAP) statistics, in an average career of commercial flying, a pilot has about the same chance of seeing a UAP as he does of striking a bird in flight or of encountering extreme wind shear."⁵ UAP's are, as the acronym represents, a phenomenon that a large majority of pilots experience during their time in the sky. Their stories and experiences should be shared in order to understand the possible signs of a UAP. Sadly, the government, along with our society, shares a stigma against the term UFO. Pilots often lose their jobs and careers over reporting their UAP experiences.⁶ Their supervisors describe them as "drunk" or "crazy" instead of looking into the actual issue at hand. Reported

³ Haines, *Aviation Safety*, 80.

⁴ Haines, *Aviation Safety*, 18-19.

⁵ Kean, *UFOs*, 54.

⁶ Kean, *UFOs*, 63.

UAP encounters would allow for studies and research to be done on the abnormality which would, in turn, contribute to aviation safety and UAP procedures.⁷

Understanding and noticing these smaller technical difficulties is important in order to avoid bigger and more dangerous situations with UAPs. On October 21st, 1978, a pilot had rented a Cessna 182L single-engine, propeller-driven airplane for a quick late night flight. During this flight, the pilot radioed the Tullamarine Airport in Melbourne while flying over Bass Strait. In a flight transcript between the pilot and a flight service operator, the pilot holds many long pauses while describing a large aircraft flying by his plane. He details the object as being fast and bright but he is unsure if it's actually an aircraft or not. He describes the craft as playing a game with him, flying back and forth above his plane at unidentifiable speeds. After a while, the craft started to chase him until it suddenly vanished. Approximately forty-four seconds later, the pilot's engine starts rough idling, which the flight service operator can audibly hear. Seventeen seconds later, the UAP appears again, now hovering on top of the pilot's plane. There is another seventeen second pause where a metallic-pulsing noise can be heard. The flight transcript ends and the pilot and his plane were never found, which leads many to believe he ended up crashing into the water that he was flying above.⁸

Transparency of UAP experiences and technical issues can assist in avoiding future crashes and disappearances that are similar to the October 1978 case. This experience, similar to many others, showed no evidence of traffic or additional radar that was picked up when the pilot inquired. In a destigmatized world, early UAP signs such as the object not being registered on radar screens, would be an immediate warning sign for a pilot. While this pilot's plane malfunctioned after he made contact with the craft, a complete system shutdown is often a large

⁷ Kean, *UFOs*, 63.

⁸ Kean, *UFOs*, 55-57.

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sign that whatever a pilot is dealing with is dangerous and/or abnormal, “The second impact that a UAP can have on aviation safety is to affect the proper functioning of navigation guidance equipment, flight control systems, radar operations, and radio communication with interference from its alleged electromagnetic radiation.”⁹

While NARCAP shares stories of UAP encounters, they also conduct studies involving a plethora of UAP related situations. The information concluded from Haines and Dominique Wienstien’s preliminary study about UAP encounters and alleged technical issues on aircraft systems was that radio systems and compasses are most affected by UAPs, most technical issues occurred when the aircraft was near a UAP, and that magnetic compasses often deviate towards the position of a UAP meaning there’s an intense magnetic field connected to UAP’s.¹⁰ While this study is in its early stages, many of these conclusions can be easily connected to previous UAP pilot stories. In the March 1977 case, their compasses were all facing different directions when they were close to contact with a UAP. These frequently reported technical issues could be used as a baseline for UAP aviation safety guidelines as well as a warning sign that unidentified aerial phenomena may be close by. Sadly, the government and the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) are not too keen on breaking the stigma against UAPs.

NARCAP reported on a safety-related UAP incident from March 19th, 2020 where they were able to draw the conclusion that, “This incident provides more evidence that UAP are a threat to safe aviation. The lack of preparation for aircrews, the failure to collect and analyze data for safety factors, the unpredictability and extreme mobility of UAP, the inability of airborne

⁹ Kean, *UFOs*, 53.

¹⁰ Richard F. Haines and Dominique F. Wienstien, *A Preliminary Study of Fifty Seven Pilot Sighting Reports Involving Alleged Electro-Magnetic Effects on Aircraft Systems* (National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena, 2001), 15, https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5cf80ff422b5a90001351e31/t/5d02eb044a252700010bd9de/1560472330113/narcap_TR-3_2001.pdf

anti-collision systems to detect UAP, are contributing factors to an unsafe situation. It is unfortunate that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has zero interest in examining these cases and exercising due diligence to mitigate safety factors.”¹¹ FAA’s lack of preparation and transparency on UAP matters has left pilots and crew insufficiently trained for what to do in such a situation. During the March 2020 incident, the crew took multiple videos and photographs of the unknown aircraft, proving that they were not professionally prepared for such an occurrence. Instead of distractedly photographing the ship, the crew should have been focused on keeping their plane safe during a time of uncertainty. The FAA's lack of protocol and documented UAP-caused technical difficulties in planes go hand and hand when it comes to creating a safer and better informed environment for pilots. In a perfect world, the FAA would have the occurrence of technical difficulties such as malfunctioning compasses and radio as a sign of alarm. There would be protocols on what to do when a pilot comes into contact with an unknown object. These UAP calling cards could be used by pilots as a tool when searching for unknown aircrafts in the sky.

Sadly, the preconceived idea that many in the aviation field share is that UAPs are not real and those who see them are crazy. Once that rhetoric is dissolved and those people realize that unidentified aerial phenomenon doesn’t immediately mean aliens from space, there may be room to explore such protocols. Currently though, pilots continue to exist in unsafe workplace environments where the unknown could harm themselves and their aircrafts. After investigating the experiences of pilots, there is a large possibility that technical errors, such as a malfunctioning compass and/or radio can be a calling card for UAP activity and pilots should

¹¹ Ted Roe, *An Independent Analysis of a March 19, 2020 Aviation Safety-Related Incident involving UAP, Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, Over Mexico* (National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena, 2020), <https://www.narcap.org/blog/narcaptr20>.

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watch out for such signs. UAPs are not a fictional phenomenon and should be studied on a larger scale in order to keep aviators safe from any anomaly that exists high in our skies.

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Here Come The Men In Black, Are They Really The Galaxy Defenders?

Abigail Wallace
Honors 300
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Here Come The Men In Black, Are They Really The Galaxy Defenders?

So you've seen an Unidentified Flying Object. And you take interest because what was it? Aliens? A drone? A spy? A government training exercise? Deciding to look for answers, you report it. Not much happens, maybe you get a response, maybe you don't. And everything seems fine, but you're still curious. So you look into it yourself, and maybe you look for others who might have seen something similar. And one day, some men you've never seen before, approach you. Government agents, they tell you, and maybe even show you a business card with a symbol you've never seen and the word "security" on it. They're tall, almost abnormally so, dressed in black suits with stark white shirts, sunglasses and hats that cover many of their features and add to their ominous presence. They ask you what you've seen. And when you tell them, they can not only add eerily specific details to your story, but tell you details of your own life. And then they tell you that if you share your sighting of that UFO with anyone or anything, bad things will happen. To you, your family, your life. They will ruin you, or worse. And then they leave, with no trace and no evidence of their existence outside of what you just experienced. And if you try to tell your friends, they call you crazy. So all you have left to do is wonder: Who were they? Those mysterious Men in Black.

Stories of the Men in Black date back decades. Strange men in black suits, claiming to be government agents who show up to scenes of encounters with UFOs or possible extraterrestrial existence. The Men in Black have become a major component of UFO conspiracy theories over time and dozens, if not hundreds of people have claimed to have encountered them on different occasions. But who are the men in black really? Are they even real? Or just another scary story?

When most people think of the Men in Black, they probably think of the 1997 film franchise starring Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones which follows 2 government agents who

defend our galaxy from extraterrestrial beings. The legends of the Men in black have inspired many pop culture moments in the media. Not only did the stories inspire the series of comics *The Men in Black* by Lowell Cunningham –that later inspired the aforementioned film franchise– but the mysterious figures inspired characters in other films such as *The Alien Encounters*, *The Brother from Another Planet*. Even songs such as *Men In Black* by Running Wild, *E.T.I.* and *Take Me Away* by Blue Oyster Cult feature lines about the mysterious Men in black. Up to and including the concept album by the Stranglers: *The Gospel according to the Meninblack*. The Men in Black have become a somewhat popular part of science fiction as a whole. But their origins are much less lighthearted than their media portrayals.

So who –or what– exactly are the Men in Black? Well, the Men in Black are described as agents who show up at the scenes of UFO or extraterrestrial encounters to silence witnesses and keep them from revealing secrets of the unknown. Recognized for their large stature, black suits, hats and sunglasses as well as their odd behavior, vintage cars, slang, and otherworldly features, the Men in Black supposedly target two types of individuals; those who experience UFO sightings, and those who research UFOs too closely. Various accounts have been given about encounters with the Men in Black, where an individual will report a UFO sighting only to be found and threatened with most often unspecified “bad things” unless they stop researching the encounter. However, there is very little concrete evidence of their actual existence. While some accounts are very well documented, there is little corroborating evidence to support them. There have only been two instances where the Men in Black’s presence has been supposedly caught on camera. One was in the case of Jack Robinson, who, along with his wife, was being harassed by what he described as a man in a black suit. By chance, after meeting with Robinson, a close friend Timothy Green-Beckley managed to get a photograph of a man in a black suit that had

been watching the Robinsons. And the other was in the case of Shane Sovar who reported seeing a triangular shaped UFO. Two weeks after reporting his sighting to the Aerial Phenomenon Investigations team, two men in black suits showed up at Sovar's place of work asking for him. The security camera managed to catch footage of them entering the building. But other than these two rare instances, all reports of the Men in Black are first person accounts. Some of which have been debunked, many others dismissed. Even still, many UFO conspiracy theorists wholeheartedly believe in their existence and even have speculations as to what they are in truth. And, with their belief comes another question. One that could add much more weight to the question of their general existence: Are the Men in Black even human?

Many conspiracy theorists speculate as to the speciation of the Men in Black. Some claim they are government agents, as is most popularized in the media. Humans that are sworn to secrecy and leave no trace in the outside world. But others claim they are androids, which could account for their use of outdated slang and odd behaviors, as well as the occasionally described uncoordinated nature to their movements. Others believe them to be aliens in disguise, which could account for their ability to recount specific details of encounters when they target witnesses. The alien theory could also explain the reasoning behind wanting to keep witnesses from sharing their encounters and or research. However, aside from their unsettling appearances, there are very little indications that would point to these "men" as anything but human. Afterall, in all recounts of these interactions, there is no mention of a language barrier, all of the witnesses are able to understand what they are being told and threatened with. More so, the presence of the Men in Black goes mainly unnoticed by the general public aside from their uncoordinated movements and all around strange behavior.

But where did the legend of the Men in Black come from in the first place? Why is it so popular? Why would people think they weren't human? How could they be government agents if they weren't human? And why are people so scared of them?

Legends of the Men in Black date as far back as biblical times, stemming primarily from the legend of the *Man* in Black who was said to be the Devil. The Men were later described as either the Devil himself or his “representatives” even reaching so far as within the catholic church who claimed their own encounters with them. However, these stories tend to differ from the typical description of how we know them today. The first recorded account of the Men in Black as we know them comes from Harold Dahl in June of 1947, following what is known as the *Maury Island Incident*. Dahl claimed to see “six donut shaped objects” flying over the puget sound in Washington, debris from which fell from the crafts and nearly injured one of his crewmates. Dahl reported the sighting to his boss Fred Crisman and the next day, was visited by a man in black who described the UFO encounter in eerily specific detail and threatened Dahl with the previously mentioned unspecified “bad things” if he continued to talk about or look into UFOs. And while the *Maury Island Incident* has since been debunked –with even Dahl confirming it was a hoax– his account of the man spurred more people to speak of their own encounters with the Men in Black. People such as Albert K. Bender who was supposedly visited twice by three Men in Black and told to stop his work. Robert Richardson, Dr. Herbert Hopkins, and Dan Akroyd who were all told to do the same. Even Peter Bennewitz whose encounter was recently debunked with the release of a new documentary entitled *Mirage Men*. The purpose of which was to debunk UFO theories while pulling back the curtain on government involvement in UFO culture. His famous story of the Men in Black who supposedly sought out and fed Bennewitz information about aliens, were revealed to be Air Force Special Investigations

officers Richard Doty and his colleagues. Bennewitz had accidentally been listening in on Air Force communications which he thought were from an alien spacecraft; however, when he reported his findings to the local air force base, they sent Doty to keep him from doing so. Doty and his colleagues fed Bennewitz lies and half truths, furthering his mania which would take over his life until his family put him in a psychiatric hospital. Doty and his colleagues embodied the legends of the Men in Black in order to discredit Bennewitz and keep the government's secrets.

But are the Men in Black real? After all my digging, there is still no concrete answer as to whether or not the Men In Black are real. Personally, I feel myself siding with the nonbelievers; however, there are certain pieces of evidence that keep me open to the possibility of their existence. It is understandable that after being threatened by unknown, scary looking men who know a lot about you that most people wouldn't say anything about an encounter they would have with the Men in Black. On the other hand, the constant description of just being threatened with "bad things" sits wrong with me. If a person is at a point where they decide to talk about their encounter, not only with an UFO, but also with the Men in Black, why would they keep the exact threat a secret? It feels like talking about the experience in general would already put them in danger, why wouldn't the threat be specified as well? Especially because, if the Men in Black were real, wouldn't reporting the threat they made confirm their existence if they carried out said threat? What are they, exactly? I have no idea. I haven't yet found any one explanation that would make total sense to me. With the amount of people that have reported experiences, and the similarities across recounts, I hesitate to dismiss them fully. I can't deny that their existence makes sense in the world we live in today, but sadly, the lack of varied evidence leads me to the conclusion that the Men in Black are nothing but more scary stories people tell in the dark.

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Honors 300: UFOs:

Government Officials Go on the Record

Spring 2025, Monday and Wednesday 2:00-3:50, Bellamy Hall Room 332

Course Reference Number(CRN) 30973

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Office hours: M and W 1:00-2:00, Th 2:00-5:00; and by appointment

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Introduction, Course Goals and Objectives

This course explores what pilots, military generals, and high-ranking government officials have said in recent years about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), now also referred to as Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAPs). Around the world there is a growing number of people going on the record about what they have seen. This includes a June 2021 Pentagon report acknowledging that military pilots have recorded videos of UAPs that “exhibit unusual flight characteristics” and pose challenges to U.S. national security. When *60 Minutes* and the *New York Times* reported on UAP videos released by the Pentagon, it sparked enormous public interest. The main theories are that these UAPs are either made by the U.S., made by the Chinese or Russians, or that they are otherworldly. The learning objectives of this class are to (1) explain key concepts in the study of UAPs, (2) analyze UAP issues within the context of US national security, and (3) apply UAP concepts to issues in global politics.

Requirements and Evaluation

Students are expected to keep up with the readings and participate in class discussions. While lively discussions are encouraged, it does not give anyone the right to make intolerant or disparaging remarks regarding race, gender, sexual orientation or political ideologies. That said, I will guarantee full freedom of expression in class.

It is highly recommended that students read the newspaper and keep up with current world events, for this will enrich our discussions. Please feel free to bring up relevant topics related to the issues we are studying.

Exams and Grading: Attendance and participation, daily reading responses, two papers paper, and a presentation will be considered in the overall grade. Grading will be based on the following guidelines:

Attendance and Participation:	10%
Daily Reading Responses:	15%
Paper 1:	25%
Paper 2:	25%
Presentation:	25%

100-93 = A	92-90 = A-	
89-88 = B+	87-83 = B,	82-80 = B-
79-78 = C+	77-73 = C,	72-70 = C-
69-68 = D+	67-60 = D,	59-0 = No Credit (NC)

One part of your grade will be based on attendance and participation, so please come to class. Another part will be based on daily reading responses: For each class meeting I will expect you to write a one-page (typed, double-spaced, 12 font) reading response or reflection on that day's readings. This should be in your own words—not ChatGPT or other AI—and can be a combination of analysis and summary, and must conclude with at least one thoughtful question. The purpose of these responses is to help you keep up with the readings and facilitate classroom discussion of materials. Reading responses will be collected during each class, so please bring a hard copy to turn in and do not email it to me after class.

You are expected to complete the assignments on the assigned dates. Makeups will be given only in the case of serious illness, accident, or emergency; late assignments will either not be accepted or will be marked down. Please let me know if you are sick or will miss class so that we can make the necessary arrangements for makeup exams, etc.

Athletes: If you are an athlete and will miss class because of sporting events, please let me know. I was a student athlete myself (a rower, back in the day) and will make every reasonable effort to help student athletes.

Special Needs and Disability Statement: If you have any type of learning or physical disability or special needs that you think I should know about, please let me know. I am perfectly willing to accommodate anyone who needs help. “Western Oregon University values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to fostering full participation for all students. Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty, and Disability Access Services. Please notify your instructor if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. If you would like to apply for disability-related accommodations please contact Disability Access Services at: 503-838-8250, Academic Programs & Support Center (APSC) 405, ods@wou.edu .”

Academic Honesty: Acts of cheating or plagiarism in any way will not be tolerated. Committing an act of academic dishonesty may result in failing the assignment, test, or course, and will be reported to the head of the social science division and the dean of students. If you are in doubt about what academic honesty and plagiarism mean, please talk with me.

Etiquette: Please remember to turn off your cell phones before class. If you use a laptop during class, use it only for legitimate reasons like taking notes (not checking Facebook).

Required Text

The textbook for this course is Leslie Kean's *UFO's: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials Go on the Record*. New York: Three Rivers, 2010. It is available for purchase at the WOU Bookstore and a [copy](#) can also be bought online. Additional short readings and newspaper articles will also be posted on Canvas during the term.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

The schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in case of extenuating circumstances. Please bear this in mind and listen for announcements in class. The readings below are from Leslie Kean's *UFO's: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials Go on the Record*.

PART 1: OBJECTS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN

Week 1.	March 31	Introduction
	April 2	Majestic craft with powerful beaming spotlights UAP wave over Belgium
Week 2.	April 7	Pilots: a unique window into the unknown Circled by a UFO
	April 9	Unidentified aerial phenomena and aviation safety Incursion at O'Hare Airport, 2006
Week 3.	April 14	Gigantic UFOs over the English Channel, 2007 UFOs as Air Force targets
	April 16	Dogfight over Tehran Close combat with a UFO
Week 4.	April 21	Film and Discussion
	April 23	PAPER 1 DUE

PART 2: IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Week 5.	April 28	Roots of UFO debunking in America Taking the phenomenon seriously
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	April 30	Birth of COMETA France and UFO question
Week 6.	May 5	UFOs and the national security problem “A Powerful desire to do nothing”
	May 7	Real X-files Extraordinary incident at Rendlesham Forest
Week 7.	May 12	Chile: Aeronautics cases and the official response UFOs in Brazil
	May 14	PAPER 2 DUE
	May 16-17	Field Trip to McMinnville for the <u>25th Annual UFO Festival</u> <u>Screening of Trent UFO Documentary</u> Mattie's Room at Hotel Oregon Friday, May 16, 12:00 pm <u>UFO Festival Parade</u> Saturday, May 17, 12:00 pm

PART 3: A CALL TO ACTION

Week 8.	May 19	Fighting back: a new UFO agency in America FAA investigates a UFO event that “never happened” Government cover-up: policy or myth?
	May 21	Arizona Gov. Symington and movement toward change Setting the record straight
Week 9.	May 26	Memorial Day—No class
	May 28	Engaging the U.S. government Militant agnosticism and the UFO taboo Facing an extreme challenge
	May 29	<u>Academic Excellence Showcase</u>
Week 10.	June 2	Presentations
	June 4	Presentations
Week 11.	June 9	Presentations, Monday 12:00 – 1:50 pm

Paper 2 Guidelines for HNR 300: UFOs

Like the first paper, the second is meant to help you become a better writer and become more knowledgeable about the topics we are discussing in this course. Here are the directions:

Explore an interesting idea or question stemming from the readings or class discussions. Follow your interests and use this opportunity to learn more about one or more of the big ideas we have discussed in class. For example, you could choose a subject from one of the chapters in our book or the books I've put on [reserve](#) for this class. The goal is to ask an interesting question, do some additional background research, and practice the craft of writing.

The paper should be about five pages long (not including cover page or bibliography), typed, and double-spaced. Please use the [Chicago Manual of Style](#), size 12 font, Times New Roman script, and number your pages.

You may use a variety of sources to write this paper. Ideally, you should use the WOU library's online [databases](#), as well as a mix of web sources, books and academic articles.

As you write, please pay attention to the organization of your paper and make sure it has an introduction, body and conclusion. Each paragraph should start with a sentence that puts forth the idea you will write about in that paragraph.

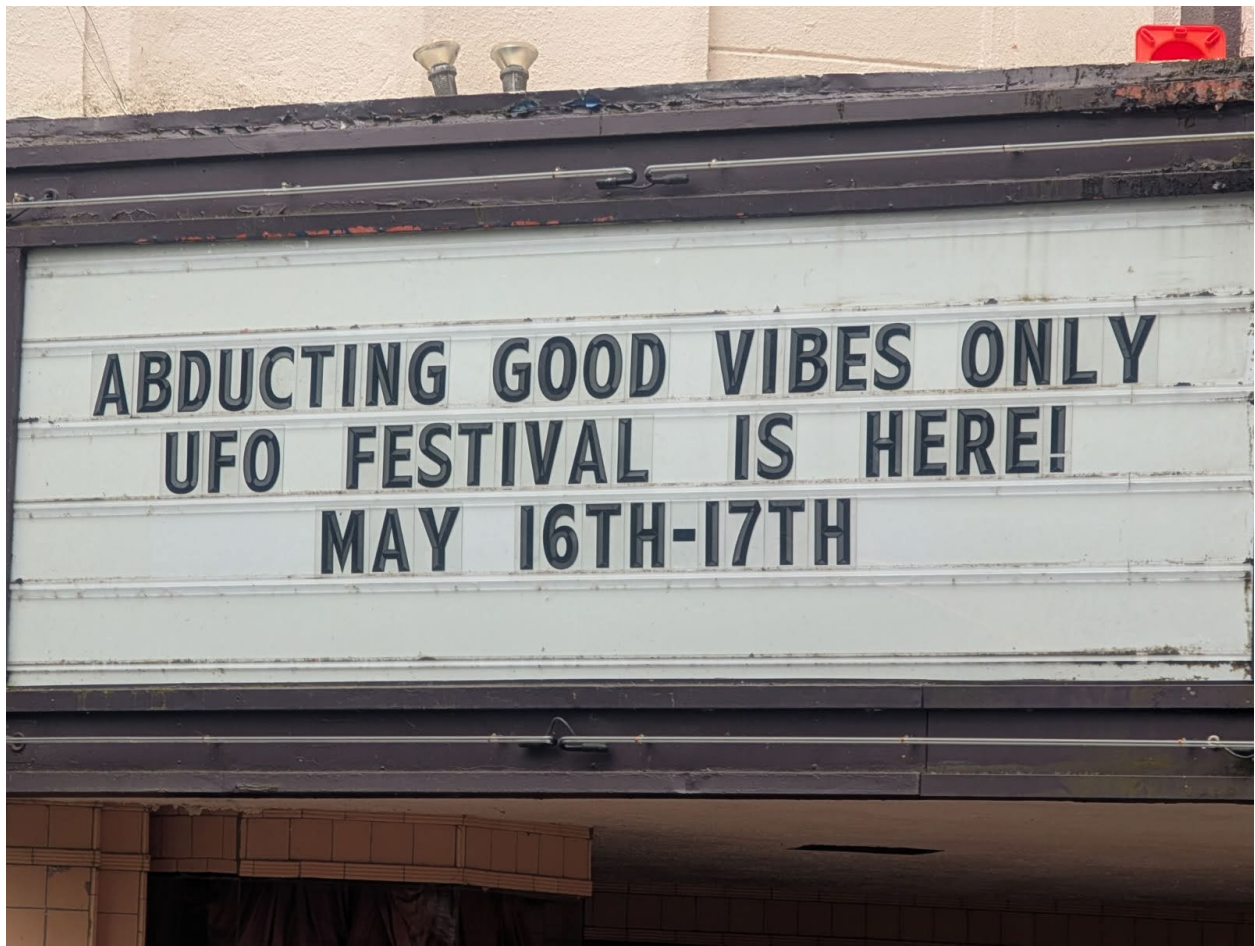
It is a good idea to have a friend proofread your paper before turning it in, or make an appointment with the WOU [Writing Center](#).

Please do not have ChatGPT or some other form of artificial intelligence (AI) write your paper—make sure that you put your writing in your own words.

Good luck and feel free to talk to me about your progress and ideas.

PS: For those who are interested, I'd like to collect some of the papers from this class in an anthology on UFOs. The idea is that the papers would be compiled into a book and put as an Open Education Resource (OER) in the WOU Library's [Digital Commons](#). This will be totally voluntary, so let me know if you'd like to participate to this project.

Photos from the 2025 UFO Festival in McMinnville



The 2025 UFO Festival in McMinnville, Oregon



I Believe in UFOs



Men in Black UFO Recover Team Truck



Aliens in McMinnville



Professor Dickinson