

Introduction to the Course

View “Welcome” video; read and study “Avoiding Errors PPT,” “How to Get Started...” read the “Critical Thinking” PDF, “Writing a Critical Review,” “Academic Essay/Paper Guidelines and Recommendations,” examine the 24-hour clock and read the rubrics for discussions and grading. All are located in the Course Content “Information” folder

MODULE 1 (Weeks 1-3): Introduction: Course information listed above, PSI, New Age Concepts, Healing and Mediumship

Week 1 (Aug 24 - Aug 30)

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

View “Welcome” video; read and study “Avoiding Errors PPT,” “How to Get Started,” the “Critical Thinking” PDF, “Writing a Critical Review,” “Academic Essay/Paper Guidelines and Recommendations;” examine the 24-hour clock; read the rubrics for discussions, wikis and Grading of assigned work. All are located in the Course Content “Information” folder. The Information posted in the “Introduction” folder is relevant for Quiz #1. It is important that you read and study this folder.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Bio: Post student bio with a photo of yourself, due Aug 30 at 23:55
2. Return the signed agreement that you have read the course content and examined the course folders carefully due Aug 30 at 23:55.
3. Take the pre-course survey to establish the course as your GLI requirement due Aug 30 at 23:55.

Week 2 (Aug 31 - Sept 6)

READING AND VIEWING

- Healing and Mediums Introduction, PPT, electronic/digital readings
- New Age Concepts and glossary
- PSI PPT, PSI Websites, “On the treatment of Death”

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Essay #1 Short Critical Review (250 words) of the PSI Website you selected listed for Week 1 - Due Sept 6 at 23:55 (GA, GE, GP)

ASSESSMENTS

1. Quiz #1 covers “Introduction” in week 1, multiple choice, true/false, matching, opens Sept 3 at 08:00, closes Sept 6 at 23:55

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Define the terms “healers” and “mediums;” describe alternative methods used by healers, mediums and shamans globally, using the glossary provided for this course that includes New Age terms, ethnobotany, animals as healers; examine and understand PSI terms like mediums, channelers, reincarnation, near death experience (NDE).

Week 3 (Sept 7 - Sept 13)

READING AND VIEWING

View the information on Edgar Cayce from the ARE (Association of Research and Enlightenment

www.edgarcayce.org/, “Leichtman/Cayce Mediumistic Interviews,” continue to read and study the information from Week 2: PSI and New Age Concepts, a short summary from Best Evidence by Michael Schmicker

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Discussion #1. Post a PSI experience you have had, or perhaps if you have not had a PSI experience, post one you have heard about from a family member or friend; initial posting due Sept 10 at 23:55; respond to at least 3 others' posts by Sunday, Sept 13 at 23:55 (GA, GE, GP)

ASSESSMENTS

1. Quiz #2 covers information from the PSI and New Age Concepts glossaries, matching, opens Sept 10 at 08:00, closes Sept 13 at 23:55. (GA, GE, GP)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Define the terms “healers” and “mediums” Describe alternative methods used by healers, mediums and shamans globally, using the glossary provided; recognize the definition of a channeler and a medium; demonstrate knowledge of the cultural and cross-cultural dynamics involved in alternative methods of healing the use elements of PSI, channelers and mediums (GA, GE, GP)

MODULE 2 Skeptics, Skepticism (Week 4)

Week 4 (Sept 14 - Sept 20)

READING AND VIEWING

- Skeptics PPT; short summary of Michael Shermer’s The Believing Brain; youtube videos from Michael Shermer, “The Baloney Detection Kit” 14 minutes
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNSHZG9blQQ>
- From James Randi “Randi the Great” debunker of psychic healing
<http://www.randi.org/site/index.php/about-james-randi.html>

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Essay #2: Select a PSI term to research that includes two resources; write an essay of 300 or more words, (see Academic Essay/Paper Guidelines); include a bibliography) Due Sunday, Sept 20 at 23:55 (GA, GE, GP)
2. Discussion #2, initial post due Sept 17 at 23:55; respond to at least 3 others posts by Sept 20 at 23:55 (GA, GE, GP)
3. Live chat #1: PSI, true or not; information posted in the course drop down menu, Adobe Connect, Thursday, Sept 17 from 20:00-21:00 (GA, GE, GP)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Define skepticism and the terms that accompany the skeptic viewpoints regarding alternative healing in

Week 4 (Sept 14 - Sept 20)

terms of PSI. (GA, GE, GP)

Module 3 Healing Energies, Spiritualism, Ethnobotany, Animals in Healing (Weeks 5-8)

Week 5 (Sept 21 - Sept 27)

Reading/viewing assignment:

- Begin *Walking Through Walls*, A Memoir by Philip Smith; view DVD (4 Parts) on Spiritualism in the US;
https://www.google.com/search?hl=en&biw=1183&bih=678&gbv=2&tbs=isch%09:1&q=psychic+healing&btnG=Search&oq=&tbm=isch&gws_rd=ssl
- <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/print/700182443/Islamic-healing-is-on-the-rise-in-Southeast-Asia.html>

ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Essay #3** “Is skepticism the ‘only’ valid belief system?” This is an opinion essay; you may agree or disagree, but include bibliography; due Sunday, Sept 27 at 23:55 (GA, GE, GP)

ASSESSMENTS

1. **Quiz #3**- PSI and skeptics; matching, true/false/multiple choice; opens Sept 24 at 08:00, closes Sept 27 at 23:55 (GA, GE, GP)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Recognize shamans exist within a specific community and shamanism is not, per se, what we consider a denomination within or a religion by western concepts even though many consider shamanism to be a set of beliefs; describe alternative methods used by healers, mediums and shamans globally, using the glossary provided for this course that includes ethnobotany, animals as healers; distinguish the global perspectives that have shaped the trends and systems of diverse cultures in healing methods (like shamanism and reincarnation or past-life regression) from the past and through current concepts; recognize patterns of evolutionary change from rituals and practices that may reshape the future while preserving the traditions of aesthetics and cultural values of the past that include animals in hunting societies and plants for healing purpose; demonstrate knowledge of the cultural and cross-cultural dynamics involved in alternative methods of healing; apply diversity for the multitudes of life on Earth through healing from societies outside the western civilizations; explain in definitive terms various ways used to heal the maladies of the body from a global viewpoint using spirits, plants, animals, spiritual, psychic and non-traditional forms of healing; compare and contrast healing methods from areas like Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and South America (GA, GE, GP)

Week 6 (Sept 28 - Oct 4)

Reading/viewing assignment:

- Complete Smith’s book, View/read about Smith
<http://www.smithmag.net/memoirville/2009/07/22/interview-philip-smith-author-of-walking-through-walls/> ; View
- Bill Moyers, The Mystery of Chi; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Vj1tgTqrPg> ; View John Vervaeke, Chi Explained Without Magic <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcp6J1T60qc>

Week 6 (Sept 28 - Oct 4)

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Discussion #3, “Healing energies- chi, yoga, martial arts, chanting, meditation. Are these valid for health and healing? Respond with a positive or negative, and defend your selection; initial post by Oct 1 at 23:55; respond to others by Oct 4 at 23:55 (GA, GE, GP)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Describe alternative methods used by healers, mediums and shamans globally, using the glossary provided for this course that includes ethnobotany, animals as healers; distinguish the global perspectives that have shaped the trends and systems of diverse cultures in healing methods (like shamanism and reincarnation or past-life regression) from the past and through current concepts; recognize patterns of evolutionary change from rituals and practices that may reshape the future while preserving the traditions of aesthetics and cultural values of the past that include animals in hunting societies and plants for healing purpose; demonstrate knowledge of the cultural and cross-cultural dynamics involved in alternative methods of healing; apply diversity for the multitudes of life on Earth through healing from societies outside the western civilizations; explain in definitive terms various ways used to heal the maladies of the body from a global viewpoint using spirits, plants, animals, spiritual, psychic and non-traditional forms of healing; compare and contrast healing methods from areas like Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and South America.(GA, GE, GP)

Week 7 (Oct 5 - Oct 11)

Reading Assignments

Continue and complete Smith’s memoir, Moyers “Mystery of Chi,” PPT Healing Plants: Ethnobotany: excerpts from Alice Micco Snow/ Emma Stans from Seminole Healing Plants; animals as healers- electronic readings from course content electronic/digital folder

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Describe alternative methods used by healers, mediums and shamans globally, using the glossary provided for this course that includes ethnobotany, animals as healers; distinguish the global perspectives that have shaped the trends and systems of diverse cultures in healing methods (like shamanism and reincarnation or past-life regression) from the past and through current concepts; recognize patterns of evolutionary change from rituals and practices that may reshape the future while preserving the traditions of aesthetics and cultural values of the past that include animals in hunting societies and plants for healing purpose; demonstrate knowledge of the cultural and cross-cultural dynamics involved in alternative methods of healing; apply diversity for the multitudes of life on Earth through healing from societies outside the western civilizations; explain in definitive terms various ways used to heal the maladies of the body from a global viewpoint using spirits, plants, animals, spiritual, psychic and non-traditional forms of healing.(GA, GE, GP)

Week 8 (Oct 12 - Oct 18)

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Complete Smith’s memoir, Moyers “Mystery of Chi,” PPT Healing Plants: Ethnobotany: excerpts from Alice Micco Snow/ Emma Stans from Seminole Healing Plants; animals as healers- electronic readings from course content electronic/digital folder

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Essay #4 discuss Philip Smith’s dilemma regarding his father’s healing practices, 300- word minimum, use page numbers from Smith’s book to replace footnotes or endnotes, list the book as a bibliography and any outside resources you might access Due Oct 18 at 23:55 (GA, GE, GP)

Week 8 (Oct 12 - Oct 18)

2. Live chat #2 Online, Thursday Oct.15 from 20:00-21:00, animals as healer
3. Discussion #4 “Animals as healers and their use in healing” initial post due Thursday Oct 15 at 23:55; respond to others’ posted by Sunday, Oct 18 at 23:55 (GA, GE, GP)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Describe alternative methods used by healers, mediums and shamans globally, using the glossary provided for this course that includes ethnobotany, animals as healers; distinguish the global perspectives that have shaped the trends and systems of diverse cultures in healing methods (like shamanism and reincarnation or past-life regression) from the past and through current concepts; recognize patterns of evolutionary change from rituals and practices that may reshape the future while preserving the traditions of aesthetics and cultural values of the past that include animals in hunting societies and plants for healing purpose; demonstrate knowledge of the cultural and cross-cultural dynamics involved in alternative methods of healing; apply diversity for the multitudes of life on Earth through healing from societies outside the western civilizations; explain in definitive terms various ways used to heal the maladies of the body from a global viewpoint using spirits, plants, animals, spiritual, psychic and non-traditional forms of healing; compare and contrast healing methods from areas like Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and South America (GA, GE, GP)

MODULE 4 Shamans, Shamanism (Weeks 9-13)

Week 9 (Oct 19 - Oct 25)

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Begin Piers Vitebsky’s Shamanism; review “Encyclopedia of Shamanism” electronic/digital folder posting

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Essay #5: Ethnobotany select a plant from the list provided that is used in healing and describe its uses; locate 2 resources to verify your findings; write a short essay about the plant you have selected and include an image of it; due Oct 25 at 23:55 (GA, GE, GP)

ASSESSMENTS

Quiz #4 Plants and animals in healing; matching, true/false/multiple choice; opens Thursday, Oct 22 sat 08:00, closes Sunday, Oct 25 at 23:55 (GA, GE, GP)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

demonstrate cross-cultural dynamics that have shaped the trends and systems of diverse cultures in healing methods from the past and through current concepts; recognize patterns of evolutionary change from rituals and practices that may reshape the future while preserving the traditions of aesthetics and cultural values of the past; global forms of healing as methodologies; apply diversity for the multitudes of life on Earth through healing from societies outside the western civilizations; compare and contrast healing methods from areas like Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and South America (GA, GE, GP)

Week 10 (Oct 26 - Nov 1)

Reading Assignments:

Complete Vitebsky’s, Shamanism (be certain to carefully examine the images from Vitebsky’s book;

Week 10 (Oct 26 - Nov 1)

“Encyclopedia of Shamanism” electronic posting; view Fire on the Mountain; read

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/23/waska-tatay_n_5611515.html Prepare for midterm exam next week

ASSIGNMENTS

- **Read Somé’s Of Water and the Spirit... pp 1-148**

Week 11 (Nov 2 - Nov 8)

Reading Assignment:

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Discussion #5, “shamans as community healers and their world view” initial post Nov 6 at 23:55; respond to others’ posts by Sunday, Nov 8 at 23:55 (GA, GE, GP)

ASSESSMENTS

1. **Midterm Exam** covers Modules 1-4 (matching, true/false/multiple choice, 1 short essay question from the 3 offered) **opens Nov 4 at 08:00, closes Sunday Nov 8 at 23:55 (GA, GE, GP)**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

demonstrate cross-cultural dynamics that have shaped the trends and systems of diverse cultures in healing methods from the past and through current concepts; recognize patterns of evolutionary change from rituals and practices that may reshape the future while preserving the traditions of aesthetics and cultural values of the past; global forms of healing as methodologies

Week 12 (Nov 9 - Nov 15) Veteran’s Day Nov 11 University closed for Veteran’s Holiday

Reading Assignments:

Complete Somé’s Of Water and the Spirit...pp 149-311

ASSIGNMENTS

2. **Discussion #6** Somé’s experiences: from his capture, education, return to find his village and initiation ritual; **initial post due Thursday, Nov 12 at 12:00; respond to others’ posts, Sunday Nov 15 at 12:00 (GA, GE, GP)**

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Distinguish the global perspectives that have shaped the trends and systems of diverse cultures in healing methods (like shamanism); Recognize shamans exist within a specific community and shamanism is not, per se, what we consider a denomination within or a religion by western concepts even though many consider shamanism to be a set of beliefs.

Week 13 (Nov 16 - Nov 22)

Reading Assignment:

Week 13 (Nov 16 - Nov 22)

- Read the book for final course Assignment Part A and Part B, Tucker's *Life Before Life*,

ASSIGNMENTS

Discussion #7 Somé's experiences: from his capture, education, return to find his village **gone, and his initiation ritual; initial post due, Nov 19 at 23:55; respond to others' posts, Nov 22 by 23:55;**

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Demonstrate cross-cultural dynamics regarding beliefs in reincarnation past-life regression in healing; distinguish the global perspectives that have shaped the trends and systems of diverse cultures in healing methods from the past and through current concepts; recognize patterns of evolutionary change from rituals and practices that may reshape the future while preserving the traditions of aesthetics and cultural values of the past; global forms of **healing as methodologies**

Module 5 Reincarnation, Past Life Regression (Weeks 14, 15)

Week 14 (Nov 23 - Nov 29)

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, UNIVERSITY CLOSED NOV 26-29

Reading Assignment

- Read Jim B. Tucker's *Life Before Life*; book selection for final course Assignment Part A, Part B

ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Critical Book Review Part A:** abstract (200 words) outline, bibliography due Nov 29 at 23:55 (GA, GE, GP)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Fulfill research requirements (PPT, media or paper presentation) that involve active contact with a global form of a healing methodology (GA, GE, GP)

Week 15 (Nov 30 - Dec 6)

Reading Assignment:

- Complete Read Tucker's *Life Before Life*

ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Discussion #8**, "Reincarnation," and past life regression, **initial post Thursday, Dec 3 at 23:55 respond to others' posts by Sunday, Dec 6 at 23:55 (GA, GE, GP)**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Fulfill research requirements (PPT, media or paper presentation) involving active contact with a global form of a healing methodology (GA, GE, GP)

FINALS

1. Part B Final Critical Book Review, Tucker's *Life Before Life*; **Due Saturday, Dec 12 at 12:00**

Week 15 (Nov 30 - Dec 6)

(GA, GE, GP)