Rel 3185 Fall 2016

Course Calendar

Module Weekly Schedule

**Introduction to the Course**

View “Welcome” video; read and study “Avoiding Errors PPT,” “How to Get Started...” read the “Critical Thinking” PPT, “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**

**Introduction, Course information listed above, PSI, New Age Concepts, Healing and Mediumship**

**Reading and Viewing**

- View “Welcome” video;
- Read and study “Avoiding Errors PPT,”
- “How to Get Started,”
- The “Critical Thinking” PPPT,
- “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.
- Review video blog information for posting student bio

**Week 1**

**Aug 22 - Aug 28**

All week 1 information is located in the Course Content “Introduction” folder is relevant for Quiz #1. It is important that you read and study this folder.

**Assignment**

- **Bio:** Introduce yourself video blog due Aug 28 at 23:55
- Return the signed agreement that you have read the course content and examined the course folders carefully due Aug 28 at 23:55.
- Take the pre-course survey to establish the course as your GLI requirement due Aug 28 at 23:59.

**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 2**

**Aug 29 - Sept 4**

- Healing and Mediums Introduction, PPT, electronic/digital readings
Module 1
Introduction, Course information listed above, PSI, New Age Concepts, Healing and Mediumship

- New Age Concepts and glossary
- PSI PPT, Websites for Assignment #1
- Electronic reading “The Banishment of Death”

Assignment

- Essay #1 Critical Review (250 words): of the PSI Website you selected from the list posted Week 2, Due Sept 4 at 23:59 GLI

Assessment

- Quiz #1: covers “Introduction” in week 1, multiple choice, true/false, matching, opens Sept 1 at 08:00, closes Sept 4 at 23:59 GLI

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

Reading and Viewing

- View the information on Edgar Cayce from the ARE (Association of Research and Enlightenment) www.edgarcayce.org/
- “Leichtman/Cayce Mediumistic Interviews” - PDF
- Continue to read and study the information from Week 2: PSI and New Age Concepts, a short summary from Best Evidence by Michael Schmicker

Assignment

- 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 8 at 23:59; respond to at least 3 others’ posts by Sunday, Sept 11 at 23:59 GLI

Assessment

- Quiz #2: covers information from the PSI and New Age Concepts glossaries, matching, opens Sept 8 at 08:00, closes Sept 11 at 23:59. GLI

Module 2
Skeptics, Skepticism

Week 4
Course Objectives

Sept 12 - Sept
Module 2
Skeptics, Skepticism

- Define skepticism and the terms that accompany the skeptic viewpoints regarding alternative healing in terms of PSI. GLI

Reading and Viewing

- Skeptics PPT;
- Short summary of Michael Shermer’s *The Believing Brain*;
- Michael Shermer, “The Baloney Detection Kit” 14 minutes [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNSHZG9bIQQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNSHZG9bIQQ)

Assignments

- **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 18 at 23:59 GLI**
- **Discussion #2**, PSI v skepticism, which one appears to be the more valid?**Initial post due Sept 15 at 23:55; respond to at least 3 others posts by Sept 18 at 23:59 GLI**
- **Live chat #1**: PSI, true or not; information posted in the course drop down menu, Adobe Connect, Thursday, Sept 15 from 20:00-21:00 GLI

Module 3
Healing Energies, Spiritualism, Ethnobotany, Animals in Healing

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/contrast healing methods from Asia, the Middle East, Africa, South America
Module 3
Healing Energies, Spiritualism, Ethnobotany, Animals in Healing

Reading and Viewing

- Begin Walking Through Walls, A Memoir by Philip Smith;
- view DVD (4 Parts) on Spiritualism in the US
- Islamic healing is on the rise in Southeast Asia

Assignment

- Essay #3: “Is skepticism the ‘only’ valid belief system?” Use the discussion from last week. This is an opinion essay; you may agree or disagree, but include bibliography; due Sunday, Sept 25 at 23:59 GLI

Assessment

- Quiz #3: PSI and skeptics; matching, true/false/multiple choice; opens Sept 22 at 08:00, closes Sept 25 at 23:59 GLI

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 contract healing methods from areas like Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and South America.(GA, GE, GP)

Reading and Viewing

- Complete Smith’s book, View/read about Smith
- View: Bill Moyers, The Mystery of Chi;
- View: John Vervaeke, Chi Explained Without Magic
Module 3
Healing Energies, Spiritualism, Ethnobotany, Animals in Healing

Assignment

- **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 Sept 29 at 23:59; respond to others by Oct 2 at 23:59 GLI

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. GLI

Reading and Viewing

- 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

Assignment

- **Live chat #2 Online:** Thursday Oct 6 from 20:00-21:00, animals as healers

- **Discussion #4:** “Animals as healers and their use in healing” initial post due Thursday Oct 6 at 23:59; respond to others’ posted by Sunday, Oct 9 at 23:59 GLI

Course Objectives:
Module 3
Healing Energies, Spiritualism, Ethnobotany, Animals in Healing

- 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 contract healing methods from areas like Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and South America (GA, GE, GP)

Reading and Viewing

- Complete Smith’s memoir,

Assignment

- 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 16 at 23:59 GLI

Module 4
Shamans, Shamanism

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 contract healing methods from areas like Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and South America GLI

Reading and Viewing

- Begin Piers Vitebsky’s Shamanism;
- Review “Encyclopedia of Shamanism” electronic/digital folder posting
Module 4
Shamans, Shamanism

Assignment

- **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 23 at 23:59 GLI**

Assessment

- **Quiz #4**: Plants and animals in healing; matching, true/false/multiple choice; opens Thursday, Oct 20 sat 08:00, closes Sunday, Oct 23 at 23:59 GLI

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 contract healing methods from areas like Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and South America (GA, GE, GP)

Reading and Viewing

- Complete Vitebsky’s, Shamanism (be certain to carefully examine the images from Vitebsky’s book);
- “Encyclopedia of Shamanism” electronic posting;
- View Fire on the Mountain;
- Prepare for midterm exam next week

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
Module 4
Shamans, Shamanism
may reshape the future while preserving the traditions of aesthetics and cultural values of the past; global forms of healing as methodologies

Reading and Viewing
• Read Somé’s Of Water and the Spirit… pp 1-148

Assignment
• Discussion #5, “shamans as community healers and their world view” initial post Nov 3 at 23:59; respond to others’ posts by Sunday, Nov 6 at 23:59 GLI

Assessment
• Midterm Exam covers Modules 1-4 (matching, true/false/multiple choice, opens Nov 2 at 08:00, closes Sunday Nov 6 at 23:59 GLI

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 12
Nov 7 - Nov 13
(Veteran’s Day Nov 11 University closed for Veteran’s Holiday)

Reading and Viewing
• Complete Somé’s Of Water and the Spirit…pp 149-311

Assignment
• Discussion #6 Somé’s experiences: from his capture, education, return to find his village and initiation ritual; initial post due Thursday, Nov 10 at 23:59; respond to others’ posts, Sunday Nov 13 at 23:59 GLI

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
Module 4  
Shamans, Shamanism

- 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

Reading and Viewing

- Select your book choice for final course Assignment Part A and Part B (or you may use Tucker’s book)
- Read Tucker’s Life Before Life

Assignment

- **Discussion #7** Are the experiences of the children as written in Tucker’s book believable? Remember, Jim B. Tucker in and MD and child psychiatrist at U Va. This is an opinion discussion initial post due, **Nov 17 at 23:59**; respond to others’ posts, **Nov 20 at 23:59 GLI**

Module 5  
Reincarnation, Past Life Regression

Course Objectives:

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

Reading and Viewing

- Week 14  
  **Nov 21 - Nov 27**  
  **Thanksgiving Holiday**  
- Read Jim B. Tucker’s Life Before Life;
- Read you book selection for final course Assignment Part A and B if it is other than Tucker’s book, Part B

Assignment

1. **Critical Book Review, Part A:** abstract (200 words) outline, bibliography make your selection from the list posted under Assignments or you may use Tucker’s book *Life Before Life*, due **Nov 29 at 23:55 GLI**

Course Objectives:

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

Reading and Viewing

- Week 15  
  **Nov 30 - Dec 4**  
- Complete Read Tucker’s *Life Before Life*
Module 5
Reincarnation, Past Life Regression

Assignments:

- Discussion #8, “Reincarnation,” and past life regression, **initial post Thursday, Dec 1 at 23:55 respond to others’ posts by Sunday, Dec 4 at 23:59 GLI**

Assignment

**Week 16**
Dec 5 - Dec 10

- **Final Critical Book Review, Part B** your selection or Tucker’s Life Before Life; Due Dec 8 at 23:59 GLI