January 3rd, 2020

College of Social Sciences, PSYC 4200: Parapsychology, Spring 2020*

Instructor Information
Instructor: Dr. Christine Simmonds-Moore
Class Meeting/
Time & Location Tues/Thurs 9.30-10.45 in Melson 218
Office Location: Melson 215
Telephone (direct) 678 839 5334 you can also text (678) 390-5033

Office Hours are by prior appointment:
students can sign up for a meeting via google calendar or by arrangement with the professor
Westga email csimmond@westga.edu

Support for courses
*Hyperlinks provided for accessibility throughout; full URLs are available at the end of the document.

CourseDen D2L Home Page
CourseDen Help (8 AM – 5 PM)
Call: 678-839-6248 or 1-855-933-8946 or email: online@westga.edu
24/7/365 D2L Help Center
Call 1-855-772-0423
University Bookstore
Student Services

Center for Academic Success
678-839-6280

Distance Learning Library Services
Ingram Library Services
Accessibility Services
678-839-6428
counseling@westga.edu

Course Information
Number of credits – 3. Prerequisites for this class - PSY 201 Minimum Grade: D or PSYC 1101
Minimum Grade: D

Course Description
This course will explore the variety of ways in which researchers have investigated subjective paranormal experiences (including telepathy, precognition, clairvoyance, remote viewing, psychokinesis, psychic healing, reincarnation, mediumship experiences, etc.). We will critically evaluate the research findings and their implications for our understanding of the capacity of the human mind. Applications of research findings in parapsychology will also be discussed, including consciousness studies, research design, and medicine and healing.

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Texts, Readings, Instructional Resources, and References

Required Text(s)


Students are also expected to read other primary source materials which will be provided as pdfs in courseden or available as weblinks or via the library at UWG.

In addition, students are expected to locate additional research articles to include in their mid-term assignment (group project on ESP). Andrea Stanfield's link for parapsychology may be found here http://libguides.westga.edu/Parapsychology

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

As a result of taking this class, students will be able to:
1. Define and categorize the different types of exceptional experiences that are studied in Parapsychology
2. Demonstrate an understanding of differences in defining “paranormal” phenomena
3. Demonstrate an understanding of various correlates of exceptional experiences
4. Demonstrate an ability to critically evaluate competing theories of parapsychological phenomena
5. Understand the main research methods which have been applied to the study of exceptional experiences
6. Apply theories and research to real world examples of subjective paranormal experiences

Please see the class schedule for a detailed breakdown of class topics, readings and assignments.
# Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points (as a percentage of final grade)</th>
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| Short writing and reflexive assignments | 1. Critical thinking about a subjective paranormal experience (your own or another person’s) (5%)  
2. Complete the paranormal belief questionnaire and the Australian sheep-goat questionnaire. Reflect on the differences and factors influencing your own paranormal belief or disbelief. (5%)  
3. ESP assignment - Scoring on ESP tests and the correlates of ESP (5%)  
4. Watch the movie “ghost” or ghostbusters, write a summary of what is correct and incorrect about the ways in which these experiences are represented. (5%)  
5. PK testing experience (5%)  
6 Summarize the details of a poltergeist case. Reflect on similarity to macro psychokinesis and haunting cases (5%) | Each short writing is worth 5% and total 35%. Assignments are due on the following dates:  
1. January 23rd  
2. January 30th  
3. February 13th  
4. April 2nd  
5. April 16th  
6. April 28th | 30% |
| Collaborative project on Research in Extrasensory Perception | In groups of 4 or 5, students will prepare and give a presentation about ESP and whether there is evidence for it (or not) based on one body of studies in parapsychology. Students will work together to produce a prezi or powerPoint that answers this question. Your presentation should be research informed - you should look for research articles that have adopted the paradigm you select and discuss evidence for and against the psi hypothesis, coming to your own conclusion in your presentation. You should provide a list of references with which will be in APA style. At least 4 of | Submit presentation files, APA reference list and group participation form by March 5th  
Presentations will run over 3 class periods before spring break. | 40% |
the references should be primary source articles (i.e., journals rather than the text books).

| Professionalism | Students are expected to adhere to professional behavior, and will be graded on their attendance, participation and professional behavior during class. | 5% |
| Final Exam | A final exam will consist of multiple choice questions that will cover all 15 weeks of material. | The final examination will be available during exam week and will close at 5pm on the last day of exam week. | 25% |
| TOTAL | -- | -- | 100 points (100%) |
Grading Information and Policy

Grading structure and point scale
90% - 100% A
80% - 89% B
70% - 79% C
60% - 69% D
< 60% F

Please read over the assignment expectations and rubrics prior to submitting your work. Each assignment has a different percentage weighting which all add up to a total of 100%. There may be opportunities for additional credit during the course. The syllabus quiz and the MCT will be graded automatically.

Grading Rubrics

Grading rubrics for assignments are available on coursden.
Online Discussion Rubric
Other Rubrics
UWG Rubrics

Please see the Common Language for Course Syllabi for official information on UWG’s Academic Integrity Policy.

Plagiarism and Turnitin

Plagiarism is a serious issue in academia. This occurs if someone presents another person’s ideas (written or spoken) as their own. Turnitin is some electronic software (that is tied to the assignment folder in coursden) that allows you to check the originality in your written work and can help you to avoid plagiarism. It is highly unlikely that you will get an originality report of 0 – but the reports will be color coded, and a higher score (above 25% similarity) implies that your work is less original, you should aim for a low score (this means that your work is more original). If plagiarism is detected in your work, you will automatically fail the assignment, and may fail the course.

Communication Rules

Communication Rules:

If you have a question about a grade, please email me using the email within the coursden system. You can also organize an office hour appointment in person or via email or the telephone. Office hours appointments can be booked directly via google calendar and are 30 minutes in length. I prefer that you send me your questions via email or CourseDen email as I rarely check my voicemail. You can also send a text message via google voice to contact me directly.
Classroom Etiquette:

- Be sensitive and reflective to what others are saying.
- Keep the dialog collegial and professional.
- It is expected that students arrive on time (not more than 10 minutes after the official start of the class) and stay for the duration of the class. Students who are attending only to sign the class roll will not be marked as having attended.
- Students should switch their cell phones off or onto “silent” during class time and should not use Facebook, email, texts etc. such that you can concentrate on the class.
- If you use your cell phone or electronic device for non-class related purposes during the class, I will not be able to write a letter of recommendation at the end of your degree.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions and engage in discussions relevant to the topics covered during each session.
- Remember that it is not possible to hear what someone is saying when more than one person talks at once.
- Students should respect each others’ belief systems and perspectives. We will be exploring some controversial beliefs, experiences and research findings during the course. The classroom is a place for academic discussion about these experiences.
- When emailing your professor, please use appropriate language (as if you are writing a letter). This is good practice for life after university and reflects professionalism.

Expected Response Times

I will endeavor to grade your assignments in a timely manner. Presentation grades will be given following the completion of all presentations by all groups (using a rubric). I will make every attempt to return your short written assignments within 7 days, but the amount of feedback required may extend that time. I will endeavor to return all emails in 36-hours during the week. If you email me over the weekend, I will endeavor to reply first thing on Monday morning.

Late work policy:

Exams must be completed by the due date. Assignments may be accepted late, subject to a penalty, unless there is a valid medical or other extenuating circumstance (in which case, evidence will be requested).

What to do if you miss your final exam

If you miss your final exam and prior arrangements have not been made, you may receive a grade of F on that exam or paper and this may affect your final grade in the class. If you miss your exam due to an emergency, please contact the Psychology office at (678)839-6510 or go to Melson Room 123 as soon as possible to complete the application: “Missed Final Exam: Verification of Emergency”. This form will need to be approved by the chair for an incomplete grade which may allow you the time to make up your exam or complete your final assignments. This application will require documentation and authorization from you to verify your emergency.
Expectations of Students

Course Structure:
This class will critically explore a range of subjective experiences that challenge mainstream ideas about the world and how it works. It is important that all students read and prepare prior to attending classes so that you can participate in our in-class discussions and activities. Classes will consist of lectures, discussions and hands-on activities and mini-experiments. Students will be expected to work closely with their peers with in class activities and in researching and preparing your mid term presentation. It is expected that students keep on top of the assignments in order to gain the most from the class and not fall behind.

Special components:
Our class will include several mini experiments to illustrate key experiments and paradigms in the field of parapsychology. You will also work in groups to create and present your evaluation of a body of studies which have explored whether extrasensory perception exists.

Course and UWG Policies

Attendance Policy:
In order to distribute Title IV funding (federal student aid), student attendance verification is required. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure that they are marked present by signing the class roster that will be circulated during each class. If you do not sign the class roster, you will be marked as absent. Students who do not attend classes during the first week may be dropped from the class. Students who add classes during drop/add are responsible for ensuring that they are verified as being in attendance by contacting the course instructor and completing the syllabus quiz.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:
If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and require assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the Office for Accessibility Services. UWG also provides Accessibility Statements for Technology that you may be required to use for this course.

For more information on the Americans with Disabilities Act, UWG Email, Credit Hour, and UWG Honor Code policies as well as information on Academic Tutoring, Student Services, and Technical Requirements, Privacy Policy, and Accessibility Statements, please see the Common Language for Syllabus document.

Additional Support Information

Technical Support
Technical support for CourseDen, as well as the technological requirements, accessibility statements, privacy statements, tutorials, and other information can be found at Technology Requirements.

Center for Academic Success
The new Center for Academic Success (CAS) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. The CAS offers free appointment-based peer tutoring in core courses, as well as supplemental instruction (SI)—which is peer-facilitated collaborative learning—in a variety of disciplines. Students seeking help with study skills and strategies can attend workshops though the Academic Success Workshop series, or work individually with either a staff or peer Academic Coach. Beginning Fall 2014, the CAS will also offer “Back on Track,” a voluntary academic recovery program designed for students who want to improve their grades and academic standing. The Center for Academic Success is located in UCC 200, and can be reached at 678-839-6280. Our email address is cas@westga.edu.

Smarthinking

Smarthinking offers online tutoring services and resources (including the Writing Center) for UWG students/instructors in all courses. A link to Smarthinking is available in CourseDen under Resources in the navigation bar.

Student Services

Here is a great resource of Student Services for all students at UWG, whether or not they are taking online courses. This link provides students with most of the information they need. If a student is experiencing distress and needs some help, check out UWG Cares.

Full URL Support for Courses

- CourseDen D2L Home Page
  https://westga.view.usg.edu/
- CourseDen Help (8 AM – 5 PM)
  https://uwgonline.westga.edu/uwg-online-student-help.php
  Email: online@westga.edu
- 24/7/365 D2L Help Center
  https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/
- University Bookstore
  http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/
- Common Language for Course Syllabi
  https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php
- UWG Cares
  http://www.westga.edu/UWGcares/
- Accessibility Services
  https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php
- Student Services
  http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php
- Center for Academic Success
  http://www.westga.edu/cas/
- Distance Learning Library Services
  https://www.westga.edu/library/resource-sharing.php
- Ingram Library Services
  http://www.westga.edu/library/
- Proctored Exams
  http://uwgonline.westga.edu/exams.php#student
- UWG Accessibility Statements for Technology
  https://docs.google.com/document/d/16Ri1XgaXiGx280o-2RVYPraV3Aq3F5ZNVyVdGVnEA/edit?ts=57b4c82d#heading=h.yxgf7vts1f

*This syllabus is subject to minor amendments and alterations.*