

College of Social Sciences, PSYC 4200: Parapsychology, Session III (June) 2020*

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Christine Simmonds-Moore
Class Meeting/
Time & Location 100% online
Office Location: Melson 215
Telephone (direct) 678 839 5334 you can also
text (678) 390-5033

Office Hours are by prior appointment: *and can
be run via google meet, Skype or over the
telephone. We can also live chat via google.*

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

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[Student Services](#)

[Center for Academic Success](#)

678-839-6280

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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.

Texts, Readings, Instructional Resources, and References

Required Text(s)

- Watt, C. (2016). Parapsychology: A beginner's guide. Oneworld Publications ISBN-10: 9781780748870 ISBN-13: 978-1780748870.
- Parapsychology: A Handbook for the 21st Century. McFarland & Company (July 31, 2015) ISBN-10: 0786479167 ISBN-13: 978-0786479160
- 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 final presentation assignment. 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 (separate document) for a detailed breakdown of modules, class topics, readings and assignments in this course.

Assignments

Assignment name	Description	Due Date	Points (as a percentage of final grade)
Short writing and reflexive assignments	1. Critical thinking about a subjective paranormal experience (your own or another person's) (10%) 2. ESP assignment - Scoring on ESP tests and thinking about the correlates of ESP (10%) 3. PK testing experience and evidence for PK (10%) 4. Exploring the survival hypothesis (10%)	1. Submit by 8th June at 11.30 pm. 2. Submit by 12th June at 11.30 PM) 3. Submit by June 18th at 11.30 PM 4. Submit by June 23rd at 11.30 PM.	40%
Quizzes	MCT quizzes will follow each module of the class to tap your understanding of each topic.	1. Complete quiz 1 on introduction to parapsychology by 8th June at 11.30 PM 2. Complete quiz 2 on ESP by 12th June at 11.30 PM. 3. Complete quiz 3 on Mind matter interactions by June 18th at 11.30 PM 4. Complete quiz 4 by June 23rd at 11.30 PM.	40%

<p>Presentation/video</p>	<p>“Does psi occur?” Explain your answer with evidence (i.e., informed by peer reviewed research articles) in a powerpoint or prezi or video format (e.g., Flipgrid or equivalent). In your response, you will decide whether, on balance you think that there is evidence (or not) for an anomaly and back that choice up with 5 research articles (10 for graduate students). When you have finished your presentation, you are encouraged to also share it in the discussion area so that peers can learn from one another.</p>	<p>Submit your presentation by 11.30 PM on June 25th.</p>	<p>20%</p>
<p>TOTAL</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>100 points (100%)</p>

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 coursedden.

[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 coursedden) 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 coursedden 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.

Netiquette:

- Be sensitive and reflective to what others are saying when you post in the discussion area and when emailing one another.
- Keep the dialog collegial and professional.
- Students should respect different belief systems and perspectives. We will be exploring some controversial beliefs, experiences and research findings during the course
- 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. I will make every attempt to return your shorter written assignments within 3 days, but the amount of feedback required may extend that time. I will endeavor to respond to emails within 24-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 (all quizzes by the end of the semester on June 25th). 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 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 engage in the assignments so that you can fully participate and understand the subject matter. This is an online class consisting of narrated powerpoint videos, discussions and hands-on activities and mini-experiments. Students will be expected to keep on top of the assignments such that you can gain the most from the class and not fall behind, particularly as this class is a summer class that is more intense in format.

Special components:

Our class will include several mini experiments to illustrate key experiments and paradigms in the field of parapsychology. You will be asked to reflect on your experiences as part of your short written assignments. You will also work on a presentation assignment in which you answer the question – “does psi occur?” by drawing from the research we discuss throughout the semester.

Course and UWG Policies

Attendance Policy:

In order to distribute Title IV funding (federal student aid), student attendance verification is required. Given that this is an online class, attendance will be ascertained by your engagement with the course materials, logins and participation in discussions. Students who do not attend classes as we approach the add/drop deadline 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.

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](tel: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

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- **University Bookstore**
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- **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/16Ri1XgaXiGx28ooQ-zRvYPraV3Aq3F5ZNJYbVDGVnEA/edit?ts=57b4c82d#heading=h.yrgeffvts1f>

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