

King's University College at Western University
Psychology 3120G: Altered States: Selected Topics

Professor Barušs

Schedule and Homework Assignments

2016–17

The following schedule includes readings and homework questions. The questions are to be answered in essay style for the dates given. Homework will be collected at the beginning of the class for which it is due. Answers must be based on information from the readings, your knowledge of psychology, and, if appropriate, your personal experiences, and must be comprehensive in nature. Please note that it is imperative that you use quotation marks and the proper format for citation if you do quote from these or any other sources. The grade for homework will be determined by taking the average of the 8 best marks. The homework marks constitute 40% of the final grade in the course.

January 11, 2017

Topics: Orientation, overview, perspectives on consciousness, definitions of consciousness, definitions of altered states of consciousness, beliefs about consciousness and reality, summaries of altered states of consciousness.

January 18, 2017

Topics: Beyond materialism, altered states of consciousness in the context of conversion experiences, self-transformation.

Readings: Barušs, I. (2013). *The impossible happens: A scientist's personal discovery of the extraordinary nature of reality*. Alresford, Hampshire, UK: John Hunt Publishing. Chapter 1: Prologue.

Barušs, I. (1996). *Authentic knowing: The convergence of science and spiritual aspiration*. West Lafayette, Indiana: Purdue University Press. Chapter 1: Introduction.

Barušs, I. (2007). *Science as a spiritual practice*. Exeter, UK: Imprint Academic. Prologue: Forbidden Research & Part I: Beyond Materialism.

Question 1. Discuss the contention that “Materialism is dead” (Barušs, 2007, p. 6).

January 25, 2017

Topics: Authenticity, psychosynthesis.

Readings: Barušs, I. (1996). *Authentic knowing: The convergence of science and spiritual aspiration*. West Lafayette, Indiana: Purdue University Press. Chapter 2: Authenticity.

Question 2. What is inauthenticity? What is authenticity? How could a person try to change from being inauthentic to being authentic? (Optional: Describe and analyse your own efforts to be authentic.)

February 1, 2017

Topics: Authentic science & precognitive dreaming.

Readings: Barušs, I. (1996). *Authentic knowing: The convergence of science and spiritual aspiration*. West Lafayette, Indiana: Purdue University Press. Chapter 3: Science.

Barušs, I. (2013). *The impossible happens: A scientist's personal discovery of the extraordinary nature of reality*. Alresford, Hampshire, UK: John Hunt Publishing. Chapter 2: Precognitive Dreaming.

Question 3. What is authentic science? Explain how science could be used to study precognitive dreaming.

February 8, 2017

Topics: Inner wisdom & review.

Readings: Barušs, I. (2007). *Science as a spiritual practice*. Exeter, UK: Imprint Academic. Part II: Access to Inner Knowledge.

Question 4. Describe how inner knowledge could become accessible in altered states of consciousness. (Optional, as part of your answer: Describe and analyse your own efforts to access inner knowledge through altered states of consciousness.)

February 15, 2017

Midterm Test.

March 1, 2017

Topics: Remote healing.

Readings: Barušs, I. (2013). *The impossible happens: A scientist's personal discovery of the extraordinary nature of reality*. Alresford, Hampshire, UK: John Hunt Publishing. Chapter 3: Remote Healing & Chapter 4: Dreaming Through a Health Crisis.

Question 5. Discuss the ways in which altered states of consciousness could be useful for healing. (Optional, as part of your answer: Describe and analyse your own efforts to use altered states of consciousness for healing.)

March 8, 2017

Topics: Transcendence & meditation.

Readings: Barušs, I. (1996). *Authentic knowing: The convergence of science and spiritual aspiration*. West Lafayette, Indiana: Purdue University Press. Chapter 4: Transcendence.

Question 6. What are the techniques that can be used for precipitating transcendent states of consciousness? What are the presumed effects of the use of such techniques? (Optional, as part of your answer: Describe and analyse your own efforts to precipitate transcendent states of consciousness.)

March 15, 2017

Topics: Franklin Wolff's philosophy.

Readings: Barušs, I. (2007). *Science as a spiritual practice*. Exeter, UK: Imprint Academic. Part III: Seeking Transcendence.

Question 7. Describe the transcendent state of consciousness in which Franklin Wolff found himself. What are some of the beneficial aspects of such a state of consciousness? What are some of the adverse aspects, if any, of such a state of consciousness?

March 22, 2017

Topics: Alternate theory of reality.

Readings: Barušs, I. (1996). *Authentic knowing: The convergence of science and spiritual aspiration*. West Lafayette, Indiana: Purdue University Press. Chapter 5: Theory.

Question 8. Briefly describe the theosophical theory of reality. How useful is it for understanding self-development and altered states of consciousness? (Optional, as part of your answer: Analyse the usefulness of the theosophical theory for understanding your own self-development.)

March 29, 2017

Topics: Self-transformation.

Readings: Barušs, I. (1996). *Authentic knowing: The convergence of science and spiritual aspiration*. West Lafayette, Indiana: Purdue University Press. Chapter 6: Self-transformation.

Barušs, I. (2013). *The impossible happens: A scientist's personal discovery of the extraordinary nature of reality*. Alresford, Hampshire, UK: John Hunt Publishing. Chapter 5: Talking to Dead People.

Question 9. Discuss the role of altered states of consciousness in self-development. (Optional, as part of your answer: Describe and analyse the role of altered states of consciousness in your own self-development.)

April 5, 2017

Topics: Review.

Readings: Barušs, I. (1996). *Authentic knowing: The convergence of science and spiritual aspiration*. West Lafayette, Indiana: Purdue University Press. Chapter 7: Conclusion.

Barušs, I. (2007). *Science as a spiritual practice*. Exeter, UK: Imprint Academic. Epilogue: Science as a Spiritual Practice.

Barušs, I. (2013). *The impossible happens: A scientist's personal discovery of the extraordinary nature of reality*. Alresford, Hampshire, UK: John Hunt Publishing. Chapter 6: Epilogue.

Question 10. Trace the development of your own understanding of the subject matter of this course — in the context of the readings, lectures, and class discussions — from the beginning of the course to the present. In your answer you must specify the substance of your understanding.