

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 10, 2018 Class 1**

**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 17, 2018 Class 2**

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

**Readings:**

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.

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.

Ferrucci, P. (2009). *What we may be: Techniques for psychological and spiritual growth through psychosynthesis*. Los Angeles, CA: Tarcher. Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2.

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

**January 24, 2018 Class 3**

**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.

Ferrucci, P. (2009). *What we may be: Techniques for psychological and spiritual growth through psychosynthesis*. Los Angeles, CA: Tarcher. Chapters 3 & 4.

**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.)

**January 31, 2018 Class 4**

**Topics:** Authentic science, the self & the will.

**Readings:**

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

Ferrucci, P. (2009). *What we may be: Techniques for psychological and spiritual growth through psychosynthesis*. Los Angeles, CA: Tarcher. Chapters 5 & 6.

**Question 3.** What is authentic science? How could psychosynthesis be useful for practising authentic science?

**February 7, 2018 Class 5**

**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 14, 2018 Class 6 Midterm Test**

Midterm Test.

**February 21, 2018 Reading Week**

**February 28, 2018 Class 7**

**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.

Ferrucci, P. (2009). *What we may be: Techniques for psychological and spiritual growth through psychosynthesis*. Los Angeles, CA: Tarcher. Chapters 7 to 9.

**Question 5.** 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 7, 2018 Class 8**

**Topics:** Franklin Wolff's philosophy.

**Readings:**

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

Ferrucci, P. (2009). *What we may be: Techniques for psychological and spiritual growth through psychosynthesis*. Los Angeles, CA: Tarcher. Chapters 10 & 11.

**Question 6.** 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 14, 2018 Class 9**

**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.

Ferrucci, P. (2009). *What we may be: Techniques for psychological and spiritual growth through psychosynthesis*. Los Angeles, CA: Tarcher. Chapters 12 & 13.

**Question 7.** 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 21, 2018 Class 10**

**Topics:** Self-transformation & psychopathology.

**Readings:**

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

Ferrucci, P. (2009). *What we may be: Techniques for psychological and spiritual growth through psychosynthesis*. Los Angeles, CA: Tarcher. Chapters 14 & 15.

**Question 8.** 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.)

**March 28, 2018 Class 11**

**Topics:** Precognitive dreaming & 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 2: Precognitive Dreaming; Chapter 3: Remote Healing & Chapter 4: Dreaming Through a Health Crisis.

Ferrucci, P. (2009). *What we may be: Techniques for psychological and spiritual growth through psychosynthesis*. Los Angeles, CA: Tarcher. Chapters 16 & 17.

**Question 9.** 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.)

**April 4, 2018 Class 12**

**Topics:** After-death communication, death, synthesis, silence.

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.

Ferrucci, P. (2009). *What we may be: Techniques for psychological and spiritual growth through psychosynthesis*. Los Angeles, CA: Tarcher. Chapters 18 to 20.

**Question 10.** Discuss the relationship of death to self-transformation.

**April 11, 2018 Class 13**

**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.

Ferrucci, P. (2009). *What we may be: Techniques for psychological and spiritual growth through psychosynthesis*. Los Angeles, CA: Tarcher. Epilogue.

**Question 11.** 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.

**Final Examination**

During final examination period April 9 to 30.