

SYLLABUS

PSYC 4650 Transpersonal Development Spring 2020 In-Person, 4 Credits

Instructor: David Salisbury Brown Mitchell, Ph.D.
Office: Melson Hall, Room 118 (first floor)
Class Meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 pm-4:45 pm
Location: Melson Hall Room 218
Starts: January 4th, 2020 **Ends:** May 5th, 2020

COURSE DESCRIPTION

From the course catalog: An overview of the farther reaches of human development including consideration of consciousness studies, altered states of consciousness, spiritual growth, ways of knowing.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This course will provide us with a survey of topics mentioned in the course description. Due to the fact that it focuses on the transpersonal, we will spend time learning from each other. Learning will be aided by personal reflections, paired/group discussions, and lectures that are based on our course text and other sources.

TEXT and MATERIALS

- **Required Text:**
 - Daniels, M. (2005). *Shadow, self, spirit: Essays in Transpersonal Psychology*. Exeter, UK: Imprint Academic. <referred to as “**SSS**” in the Proposed Course Calendar below>
 - Judith, A. (2004). *Eastern body, western mind: Psychology and the chakra system as a path to the self*. Random House Digital, Inc.. <referred to as “**EBWM**” in the Proposed Course Calendar below>
- **Supplemental Materials:**
 - Additional reading and resources may be provided by instructor as needed

COMMUNICATIONS

- **Individual communications:** If you need to reach me with a question or concern (e.g., about course content, assignments, and similar matters), please email at davidm@westga.edu by using your UWG email address and including the course number (e.g., “4650”, “3730”, etc.) and section (e.g., “E02”, “01”, etc.). I will typically respond to emails within 24-48 hours. However, if you have not received a reply within that time frame, feel free to send a follow-up email.
 - **Urgent correspondence:** For communications about being late to or missing

class due to family emergencies, transportation troubles, etc., please put the word “*Urgent*” in the subject heading when you email me.

- **Missing class meetings and assignments:** If you end up having a **reasonable excuse for not attending class or missing an assignment** such as a family emergency, medical or psychiatric emergency, travel emergency, etc., please let me know as soon as you can by sending an email. The absence may be excused or missed work may be given extra time if documentation (e.g., a picture of a doctor’s note, a scanned copy of an invoice for car repairs, etc.) can be provided. In the case of sensitive emergencies (e.g., a medical procedure or visit, etc.) that you do not want to disclose the nature of, you can blot out or cover the part of the documentation that states the nature of the problem. I ask for documentation to determine the date and duration of the emergency/problem and to verify its occurrence. It is not to embarrass or make anyone feel uncomfortable.

Mass/whole class communications: If multiple students have similar questions about something or if there is something that I want to convey to everyone at once, I may get in touch with all of you at once through one of several ways: a) an email sent through the CourseDen email system, b) an announcement posted on our course home page, and/or c) an announcement posted at the beginning of our lecture slides. Please be sure to check these sources regularly for new information.

OFFICE HOURS

To schedule an appointment for either face-to-face (i.e., in Melson Hall Room 118 or in some other predetermined location) or online (i.e., over the phone or through Google Hangouts), email me at davidm@westga.edu **at least 24 hours in advance** of when you would like to meet.

If you speak to me in-person at any point (i.e., during office hours, before or after class, etc.) about a question, concern, or other issue that requires further action on my part, I strongly suggest that you email me afterwards if I need to follow-up on something for you. This is to serve as a reminder for me as well as to be a record that we spoke.

ASSIGNMENTS

Course Assessment/Assignments: The following assessments and assignments for our course are listed along with the amount of weight that they carry (i.e., the percentage/amount of points that they are worth) as well as information about how to complete them. All written assignments are to include **your name, the date, and the word count in the upper left-hand corner.**

- **Reading Reflections (33% of final grade: 15 at 100 points each; 1500 points total):** These assignments will give you a chance to comment on how the readings tie to your own transpersonal development and/or how you think about it. Write a description of how the information contained in the **assigned reading** from that week aligns with your own past personal development or the development of

someone else who you are familiar with. Consider what goals you or they have for the future, the meaning that you or they make from life experiences in relation to morality, spirituality, etc. Provide a definition of at least one concept, theory, or practice (i.e., a topic, such as “transpersonal”, “mystical”, “soul”, etc.) from that week’s reading and state how: a) it carries some sort of personal significance, and b) how it may be useful to people as a whole. It must be **at least 300 words** in length. You can tie your writing to information that we discuss in class, but you must include **at least one topic** from a required text book that we are currently reading that week, and italicize that term in your writing.

- **Practice Reflections (33% of final grade: 15 at 100 points each; 1500 points total):** These assignments will give you a chance to comment on transpersonal practice. For a non-exhaustive list of some examples, the [Tree of Contemplative Practices](#) includes names of some that you may already do or may want to try. At least **300 words** in length, these Reflection Responses are to help increase engagement and understanding. They will include the following: a) a description of the practice (e.g., a meditation) that you engaged in and what you thought, felt, sensed, or talked about during and after the event (particularly focusing on what was salient, or what stood out to you most); b) definition of a topic (e.g., consciousness, etc.) that was discussed in class that you think relates to the practice, and c) how the practice may be helpful for your own personal development or for the development of your family, friends, larger community, or society. What you write can include references to the assigned reading, but you must include **at least one practice** that we have discussed.
- **Impact Manuscripts (33% of final grade; 3 at 500 points each; 1500 points total):** These assignments are in-depth analyses of how at least 3 of your Reading and/or Practice Reflections topics (i.e., theories or concepts) do each of the following: a) how they relate to one another (i.e., whether or not there is a particular theme that seems to tie them together), b) how they relate to **at least one rite of passage (RoP)** in particular **OR to at least one cosmological/spiritual tradition** more generally, and c) how the topics may help you develop or understand patterns, experiences, or other elements in/from your life. These papers are therefore very much tied to your Reflections and to the material that we have covered, but should not simply be restating what you already wrote in your Reflections. Instead, they should **synthesize** what you have written about previously and provide the reader with an understanding of how these various elements may weave together.
 - This manuscript should therefore contain at least five in-text citations that are also contained in an APA-formatted references list. The paper must contain an APA-formatted References page and in-text citations, and contain **at least 1,750 words. ACADEMIC WRITING and CITATION TOOLS**
- APA References information:
<https://library.purdueglobal.edu/writingcenter/apacitationforpowerpointslide>
- University Writing Center (HYPERLINK: <https://www.westga.edu/writing>): You can make an appointment by: 1) stopping by their office at TLC 1201, 2) calling their office at [678-839-6513](tel:678-839-6513), or 3) emailing their office at writing@westga.edu. If you want writing

support for your Case Study or anything else, make an appointment soon as spaces will fill up quickly. Also, please note that the center closes for summer 2017 on Thursday, July 13th.

- APA Format (HYPERLINK <http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx>): Visit the APA website for a free tutorial and other resources about the basics of writing a paper in APA format/style.
- Purdue OWL (HYPERLINK: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/>): Visit this easy-to-use website for the basics in APA format/style and to create APA-formatted citations. Son of Citation Machine (HYPERLINK: <http://www.citationmachine.net/>): This is a free citation and reference builder for APA, MLA, Turabian, and Chicago writing and publishing styles.
- Zotero [zoh-TAIR-oh] (HYPERLINK: <https://www.zotero.org/>): This is a (mostly) free tool to help you collect, organize, cite, and share your research sources. You can integrate it into your web browser and word processor as well as it download it to your desktop. You can pay for more storage space to build your database, but should not need to do so without a relatively large amount of citations that you need to save.
- BibMe (HYPERLINK: <http://www.bibme.org/>): This is a free, fully-automatic bibliography maker that auto-fills. It is easy to use to build a works cited page.

HOUSEKEEPING

Assignments will be accepted late up to a point. **Without a valid excuse, late assignments may still be accepted but will lose points per day they are late.** If you have an excuse for turning in an assignment late, please **write it in the Comments section** when you submit your assignment in a given folder on CourseDen. The Comments window is just below the area on the page where you attach a file in the given submission folder. You can email me as well, but at the least, make sure that it is included in the Comments section. You can also attach any supporting documentation (e.g., doctor's notes if there was a medical emergency, funeral programs if someone passed away, etc.) when you submit the assignment by uploading it along with it. You can redact or cover up any information that you do not want me to see.

Unless otherwise stated, all assignments are **due on CourseDen by 11:59pm** on their due date listed in the Proposed Course Calendar below. If you include direct citations in any of your writing, use APA format (6th edition) to create the citations and a References page. Unless otherwise noted in the syllabus (as in any collaborative group that we will do), you are each to submit assignments and exam responses that are from **your own reflections and opinion** on the material. If you refer to someone else's work in an assignment or exam response, be sure to give proper credit by including the person's full name and the source (e.g., a website, textbook page, etc.) from which it came. Academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism) is a serious offense and is punishable in a variety of ways, from not receiving credit on that assignment to being expelled from the university. If someone else is involved (e.g., another

student) who is tied to the university, that that person can receive disciplinary action as well which may be harsher. Expect that at the least, no credit will be given for that assignment.

Common Language for Course Syllabi

Additionally, please review the following **Common Language for Course Syllabi** at the following link:

<https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php>. It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class.

Because these statements are updated as federal, state, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester. There are more resources regarding academic resources in the following link:

http://www.westga.edu/assetsSA/counseling/Academic_Support_Services.pdf

***Note:** I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus -- particularly as it concerns the course schedule. If I do so, I will notify you of these changes.

A	1000-900 points
B	899-800 points
C	799-700 points
D	699-600 points
F	599 points and below

Point Allotment	Assignments
1500	Reading Reflections (15 Total)
1500	Practice Reflections (15 Total)
1500	Impact Manuscripts (3 Total)
4500	Total Points

COURSE SCHEDULE**			
We ek #	Date	Due Dates for Readings and Assignments	Modules Covered
1		Syllabus	
2	1/7/20		Syllabus Review; Introduction
	1/9/20	SSS Chapter 1	Foundational terms and principles

3	1/14/20	Practice Reflection #1	Rites of Passage
	1/16/20	Reading Reflection #1	Ways of knowing/7 approaches; Consciousness Defined?
4	1/21/20	Practice Reflection #2	Consciousness Defined?
5		SSS Chapter 4;	Myth and Archetypes
			Archetypes
	1/30/20	Reading Reflection #3;	Archetypes
6	2/4/20	Practice Reflection #4;	Moral Development
	2/6/20	SSS Chapter 6;	Hierarchy of Needs and Self-Actualization
7	2/11/20		Psychical Research/Parapsychology
	2/13/20	SSS Chapter 2;	Psychical Research/Parapsychology
8	2/18/20	Practice Reflection #6	Altered States
	2/20/20	SSS Chapter 7; EBWM Introduction; Reading	Altered States
9	2/25/20	Practice Reflection #7	Altered States
	2/27/20	SSS Chapter 8; EBWM Chapter 1; Reading	Ancient Theories of the Soul; Chakra 1 (Concepts and Theory)
10		Practice Reflection #8;	Chakra 1 (Correspondences and Practices)
	3/5/20	SSS Chapter 9; EBWM Chapter 2; Reading Reflection #8	Chakra 2 (Concepts and Theory)
11		Practice Reflection #9	Chakra 2 (Correspondences and Practices)

	3/12/20	SSS Chapter 10; EBWM Chapter 3; Impact Manuscript #2; Reading Reflection #9	Chakra 3 (Concepts and Theory)
12	3/17/20	Spring Break	No Class
	3/19/20	Spring Break	No Class
13	3/24/20		Chakra 3 (Correspondences and Practices); Chakra 4 (Concepts and Theory)
	3/26/20	SSS Chapter 11; EBWM Chapter 4; Reading Reflection #10	Chakra 4 (Correspondences and Practices)
14	3/31/20		Chakra 5 (Concepts and Theory)
15		SSS Chapter 12; EBWM Chapter 5; Reading Reflection #11	Chakra 5 (Correspondences and Practices)
			Chakra 6 (Concepts and Theory)
16	4/9/20	EBWM Chapter 6; Reading Reflection #12	Chakra 6 (Correspondences and Practices)
	4/14/20	Practice Reflection #13	Chakra 7 (Concepts and Theory)
17		SPARC; EBWM Chapter 7; Reading Reflection #13	No Class
	4/21/20	Practice Reflection #14	Chakra 7 (Correspondences and Practices)
18	4/23/20	EBWM Conclusion; Reading Reflection #14	Closing Thoughts
	4/28/20	Practice Reflection #15; Impact Manuscript #3	Reading Day/Assessment Day
	4/30/20	Reading Reflection #15	Finals Week

