

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.79-71

## MEMORANDUM

To..... Senate

From..... N.R. Reilly, Chairman  
Senate Committee on  
Undergraduate Studies

Subject..... Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies  
- New Course Proposal -  
G.S. 202-3 - Introduction to the Study  
of Psychic Phenomena

Date..... 18 May 1979

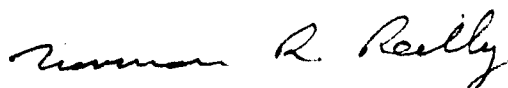
Action taken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of May 15, 1979 gives rise to the following motion:

### MOTION I

"That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.79-71, the new course proposal G.S. 202-3 - Introduction to the Study of Psychic Phenomena."

It was noted that a 400 division course on this topic had been taught with success under special topics and that a course at the 200 division would be helpful. There is no intention of having more than two courses in this area.

Time Waiver: Subject to the approval by Senate and by the Board of Governors of the course, SCUS has approved the waiver of the time lag requirement in order that G.S. 202-3 may be first offered in Fall 79-3.



N. R. Reilly

/kb

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

SCUS 79-10

## MEMORANDUM

To..... Mr. H.M. Evans  
..... Registrar & Secretary, SCUS

From J. Blanchet, Secretary of the  
Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies  
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Subject..... I.S.C. 79-2 New Course Proposal  
G.S. 202-3 Introduction to the

Date. April 27, 1979

Study of Psychic Phenomena

The attached New Course Proposal for G.S. 202-3 Introduction to the Study of Psychic Phenomena was approved on April 24, 1979 by the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

Would you please place this item on the agenda for the next meeting of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies.

*J. Blanchet*  
Janet Blanchet

JB:jk

Attachment

**RECEIVED**  
APR 30 1979  
REGISTRAR'S OFFICE  
MAIL DESK

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

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NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

1. Calendar Information

Department: General Studies.

Abbreviation Code: G.S. Course Number: 202-3 Credit Hours: 3 Vector: 2-1-0

Title of Course: Introduction to the Study of Psychic Phenomena.

Calendar Description of Course:

An historical and comparative approach to the literature on extra-sensory perception, psycho-kinesis and survival phenomena. Particular emphasis will be placed on the distinctions between superstition and testable belief; anecdotal and experimental evidence, and chance and necessity. In addition, the role of belief in the supernatural in religious, political, social and economic control systems will be examined.

Prerequisites (or special instructions):

Any one of Philosophy 001-3, 100-3, 110-3, PSYC 201-3

What course (courses), if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved: None

2. Scheduling

How frequently will the course be offered? Twice each academic year.

Semester in which the course will first be offered? 1979-3

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed offering possible? Robert J. C. Harper

3. Objectives of the Course

1. To introduce the student to the nature and history of studies in the field of psychic phenomena.
2. To foster critical thinking with respect to claims made for and against the existence of psychic phenomena.
3. To help the student understand the nature of vested interest in the acceptance and rejection of psychic abilities.
4. To lay the groundwork for experimental approaches to the study of this subject.

Faculty None

Budgetary & Space Requirements

Staff None

Library Books, journals (new subscriptions and back-issues).

Audio Visual

Space

Equipment

5. Approval

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

25 April 79

22 May 1979

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Chairman

J. W. Belmont  
Dean

Norman R. Kelly  
Chairman, SCUS

General Studies 202 - 3  
INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF PSYCHIC PHENOMENA

Vector: 2-1-0

Instructor: R.J.C. Harper

Text-Book: WOLMAN B.B. Handbook of Parapsychology  
New York. Van Nostrand, 1977.

COURSE OUTLINE

In this course the fundamental issues concerning "psychic" or "paranormal" phenomena will be presented for critical discussion. In particular we will address ourselves to the claims for the existence of psychic abilities such as extrasensory perception and psychokinesis, and of psychic phenomena such as "out-of-the-body" experiences. The primary objectives of the course are to sort out sense from nonsense, evidence from guesswork, and speculation from critical evaluation, and to encourage the development of clear thinking in an area where this attribute is at a premium. In essence these objectives entail the presentation of the cases "for and against the existence of psychic phenomena. It is up to you to decide for yourself the relative merits of the arguments.

Organization

There are two ways of looking at psychic phenomena: the first assumes the existence of the spirit and therefore of some kind of after-life; the second rejects this assumption and considers psychic phenomena as at best manifestations of powers the explanation of which must ultimately be found through what may be loosely termed "traditional scientific methods".

The course will encompass both points of view and this suggests the following organization.

Part I.            Psychic Phenomena and the Idea of Spirit.

An examination of selected texts on religious perspectives on psychic phenomena including prophetic visions, materializations after death, reincarnation, psychic healing and out-of-the-body experiences.

Original Source Material: The Holy Bible, Talmud, Koran,  
The Tibetan Book of the Dead, the Egyptian Book of the Dead, the Upanishads, Rig Veda, Atharva Veda.

Secondary Source Material:

Brandon, S.G.F.	<u>Man and his Destiny in the Great Religions.</u>
Breasted, J.H.	<u>Religion and Thought in Ancient Egypt.</u>
Edgerton, F.	<u>The Beginnings of Indian Philosophy.</u>
Eliade, M.	<u>Shamanism.</u>
Eliade, M.	<u>From Primitives to Zen.</u>
Murti, T.R.V.	<u>The Central Philosophy of Buddhism.</u>
Jeffrey, A.	<u>Islam: Muhammad and his Religion.</u>

Part II                    Modern Antecedents of Psychic Research

The rise of mesmerism in the eighteenth century and spiritualism in the nineteenth century. Mesmer, Swedenborg, D. D. Home, Mrs. Piper and others.

Source Material:

Dingwall, E.J.	<u>Some Human Oddities.</u>
Dingwall, E.J.	<u>Abnormal Hypnotic Phenomena.</u>
Lodge, O.	<u>Raymond on Life and Death.</u>
Owen, A.R.G.	<u>Hysteria, Hypnosis and Healing.</u>
Podmore, F.	<u>Modern Spiritualism: A History and Criticism.</u>
White, J.	<u>Psychic Exploration.</u>
Wolman, B.B.	<u>Handbook of Parapsychology.</u>
Wilson, C.	<u>The Occult.</u>

Part III                    Contemporary Psychic Research I E.S.P.

1. Experimental Design: Chance and probability: the formation of testable and untestable hypotheses, fraud and deception, the burial and resurrection of data.
2. The original experiments at Duke University and their aftermath.
3. The Remote Viewing Research of Targ and Puthoff at Stanford Research Institute.
4. The work of Leonid Vasiliev at Leningrad.
5. Recent developments in North America, Western Europe and the U.S.S.R.

Source Material:

Books:

Hansel, C.E.M.	<u>E.S.P. A Scientific Evaluation.</u>
Koestler, A.	<u>The Roots of Coincidence.</u>
Sinclair, U.	<u>Mental Radio.</u>
Smythies, J.R.	<u>Science and E.S.P.</u>

Rhine, J.B.	<u>Extrasensory Perception.</u>
Soal, S.G. and Bateman, F.	<u>Modern Experiments in Telepathy.</u>
Targ, R. and Puthoff, H.	<u>Mind-Reach.</u>
Tart, C.	<u>Psi: Scientific Studies of the Psychic Realm.</u>
Tart, C.	<u>Learning to use Extrasensory Perception.</u>
Vasiliev, L.	<u>Experiments in Distant Influence.</u>
White, J.	<u>Psychic Exploration.</u>
Wolman, B.B.	<u>Handbook of Parapsychology.</u>

Handouts:

Draconis, P.	<u>Statistical Problems in E.S.P. Research.</u> <u>Science Vol. 201, 1978. pp. 131-136.</u>
Jahn, Robert G.	<u>Psychic Process, Energy Transfer and Things that go Bump in the Night.</u> <u>Princeton University, P.A.W. Special Report.</u>
McConnell, R.A.	<u>Parapsychology in the U.S.S.R.</u> <u>Journal of Parapsychology, 1975 39,</u> <u>pp. 129-134.</u>

Part IV                      Contemporary Psychic Research II Psychokinesis.

Extrasensory Perception deals with the transfer of information, psychokinesis involves the transfer of energy which apparently manifests itself in the manipulation or movements of people and objects. In this part of the course, attention will be focussed on experimental investigations of psychokinesis and on specific people, Uri Geller, Nina Kulagina and Ted Serios, who claim psychokinetic powers

Source Material:

Books:

Eisenbud, J.	<u>The World of Ted Serios.</u>
Puharich, A.	<u>Uri: A Journal of the Mystery of Uri Geller.</u>
Targ, R. and Puthoff, H.	<u>Mind-Reach.</u>
Geller, U.	<u>My Story.</u>
White, J.	<u>Psychic Exploration.</u>
Wolman, B.B.	<u>Handbook of Parapsychology.</u>
Randi, J.	<u>The Magic of Uri Geller.</u>

Handouts:

"Uri Geller and Science" } "Challenge to Science" }	Editorials in New Scientist, 1973-74.
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Part V

Survival Phenomena.

Rapid advances in resuscitation techniques have led to reports of unusual experiences by patients who were "clinically dead". In his book, "Life after Life", Raymond Moody describes recurrent themes in these experiences which suggest the possibility of an after-life. This concluding section of the course will examine the general issue of survival and reincarnation in the light of recent developments.

Source Material:

Books:

Kubler-Ross, E.	<u>On Death and Dying.</u>
Langley, N.	<u>Edgar Cayce on Reincarnation.</u>
Moody, R.	<u>Life after Life.</u>
Stearn, J.	<u>The Search for a Soul.</u>
Wolman, B.B.	<u>Handbook of Parapsychology.</u>

Course Requirements.

1. Two essays each of 1,500 words on topics selected in consultation with the Instructor of Teaching Assistant. Each essay will count for 30% of the final grade.
2. Final examination: 3 hours. One half of this examination will consist of objective items. The other half will consist of three essay questions to be selected from a choice of six. The final examination mark counts for 40% of the final grade.

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF PSYCHIC PHENOMENA

Rationale

The case for mounting a credit course in this field rests on three arguments.

- I Research in psychical phenomena is actively encouraged and supported in universities throughout the world.
- II The status accorded to parapsychological investigations by the scientific community at large justifies the recognition of the field by Simon Fraser University.
- III There is sufficient interest in the student body to assure reasonably high enrolments.

Before developing these arguments, however, it is important to clarify what is meant by the term "psychic phenomena." In general, this term refers to events which appear to involve information or energy transfer through means which are as yet unknown to science. More particularly, these events appear to be manifestations of certain powers inherent in life-forms.<sup>1</sup>

The conventional classification of psychic phenomena is as follows:

1. Extrasensory Perception (E.S.P.)

E.S.P. covers those phenomena which involve the apparent transfer of information through channels other than those provided by conventional or known sensory modalities. Included under this heading are telepathy, clairvoyance, precognition and retrocognition.

2. Psychokinesis (P.K.)

An event involving the movement or manipulation of an object or person without the use of any known force that would permit a conventional explanation.

3. Survival Phenomena

These phenomena appear to involve discarnate personalities and include mediumship, hauntings, apparitions of the dead, spirit possession, reincarnations and out-of-body experiences.

1. Author's definition.



The Arguments I Research in other Universities

The following is a partial list of universities where psychic research is presently being undertaken:

<u>Canada</u>	McGill, Regina.
<u>U.S.</u>	Chicago, Colorado, Columbia, C.U.N.Y., Duke, Harvard, M.I.T., New School for Social Research, Pittsburg, Princeton, University of California (at Berkeley, Davis, Los Angeles and Santa Barbara), Virginia, Wisconsin and Yale.
<u>U.K.</u>	Cambridge, Edinburgh, London, Oxford.
<u>U.S.S.R.</u>	Moscow, Leningrad, Alma-Ata.
<u>Holland</u>	Utrecht, Amsterdam.
<u>W. Germany</u>	Freiburg.
<u>Others.</u>	Tel Aviv.

II The Scientific Standing of Psychical Research

While, by and large, psychical research must be judged in terms of the contributions of the individual worker, the status accorded to the Parapsychological Association, which represents the best in U.S. research endeavors, may be judged by the decision in 1969 to grant that body membership in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The situation in the U.S.S.R. is not quite as clear cut. Concluding a review of the current situation, R. A. McConnell states

"From the information (given), it is a reasonable inference that for many years, the scientific leaders of the U.S.S.R. have knowingly allowed parapsychology to flourish at a popular level until they could make up their minds as to whether psi (psychic) phenomena are real or imaginary. They have decided in favour of these phenomena, the study of which will now be undertaken within government laboratories. As a preliminary step, popular and indiscriminate investigation must be halted."<sup>1</sup>

1. McConnell, R.A. "Parapsychology in the U.S.S.R. J. Parapsychology 1975, 39, 129-134.

However, as far back as 1963, Dr. E. B. Konecchi, Director, Biotechnology and Human Research, Office of Advanced Research and Technology, N.A.S.A., confirmed that both N.A.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences were both actively engaged in psychic research (and more particularly work in telepathy and psychokinesis)<sup>1</sup> from the standpoint of applications to manned space flight.

### III Student Interest

In the Spring Semester 1979, the author offered G.S. 410-3 under the title The Scientific Investigation of Psychic Phenomena (see attached course outline, Appendix A). The maximum set enrolment of twenty-five was reached. At the end of the semester, there was a general consensus that a course at the 200 level would not only generate considerable student interest but would constitute a valuable introduction to experimental work at the upper levels.

1. Cited by A. Koestler, Roots of Coincidence,  
New York Vintage Books 1973.

G.S. 410-3

Spring Semester 1979

Instructor: R. J. C. Harper

THE SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF PSYCHIC PHENOMENA

One hour lecture, two hour lab per week. Three credits.

TEXT: Psychic Exploration, John White (Ed.), G. P. Putnam's, New York, 1974.

This course has been developed to give students the opportunity of participating in the design and execution of experiments in the field of psychic research. In general, the primary objective is to determine whether or not psychic abilities such as telepathy can be demonstrated under laboratory conditions of unquestionable rigour. All that is required of any student who takes this course is an open but inquiring mind and the ability to grasp the logical principles underlying research design in science. Although most of the experimental work will be done during class hours, the student should be prepared to carry out additional work including visits to individuals, groups and agencies in the Vancouver area who claim to have psychic powers or the means of developing them in others.

Lecture 1: The Nature and Range of Psychic Phenomena (PSI)

An introduction to the definition of PSI and the varieties of PSI classified under extra-sensory perception, psychokinesis and survival phenomena respectively.

Ref: Psy. Exp.--Introduction, Ch. 1, 2.

Lab: Demonstration of a typical experiment in extra-sensory perception.

Ref: Psy. Exp.--Chapter 4.

Lecture 2: Hypothesis--Formation and Testing I

From speculation, unexamined belief and disbelief to scientific reasoning and the formation of testable hypotheses. Conscious and unconscious bias; faking data; experimental "replications".

Ref: Hand-out--"Theory Testing"--RJCH.

Lab: Demonstration of cuing and chance factors in an experiment purporting to show evidence of psychic functioning.

Lecture 3: Hypothesis--Formation and Testing II

Cleaning up the act. Sound experimental procedures. Support vs. proof. On drawing the proper conclusions.

Lab: Experiment in remote viewing. The first of a series designed to test the claims made by Russell Targ and Harold Putnoff in Mind-Reach--Scientists Look at Psychic Ability, Delacorte Press, 1977, that parasensory detection of remote stimuli is a demonstrable phenomenon.

Ref: Mind-Reach--Ch. 4, 6.  
Psy. Exp.--Ch. 15.

Lecture 4: Western and Eastern Approaches to Experimentation in PSI I

A survey of current and recent experiments in North America, Western Europe and the Soviet Union.

Ref: Experiments in Distant Influence,  
L. L. Vasiliev.  
Psy. Exp.--Ch. 8, 20.  
The ESP Papers, S. Ostrander.

Lab: Experiment in remote viewing.

Lecture 5: Western and Eastern Approaches to Experimentation in PSI II

Lab: Experiment in remote viewing.

Lecture 6: Subjective States and the Evocation of PSI

A review of the evidence adduced to support the claim that hypnotic and meditative states enhance psychic abilities. The case of Edgar Cayce.

Ref: Psy. Exp.--Ch 3, 5.  
Edgar Cayce on ESP, D. Agee.

Lab: ESP performance under differing subjective states.

Lecture 7: Precognition and Retrocognition

The evidence for and against. The prophecies of Nostradamus, and others.

Ref: Psy. Exp.--Ch. 6.

Lab: A test of precognition.

Lecture 8: Psychokinesis

The evidence for and against. The claims of Uri Geller and others.

Ref: Psy. Exp.--Ch. 7 and Appendix.  
Mind-Reach--Ch. 7, 8.

Lab: A test for non-random events in the movement of objects.

Lecture 9: Survival Phenomena I

The case for life after death. Anecdotal and other accounts; reincarnation.

Ref: Psy. Exp.--Ch. 16, 17.  
Edgar Cayce on Reincarnation, Noel Langley.  
Life After Life. Moody.

Lab: Replication of an experiment purporting to demonstrate life after death.

Lecture 10: Survival Phenomena II

Lab: Replication of an experiment purporting to demonstrate life after death.

Lecture 11: Psychometrics

The evidence for and against the claim that by handling an object it is possible to obtain facts about its history that could only be established through paranormal ability.

Lab: Demonstration to be arranged.

Lecture 12: Psychic Research and the Diagnosis and Treatment of Illness

A review of the claims made for paranormal approaches to diagnosis and healing. Psychic surgery. Cayce, Arigo and others.

Ref: Psy Exp.--Ch. 14.  
Cayce on ESP.

Lab: To be arranged.

Lecture 13: Psychic Phenomena, Physics and Metaphysics

An examination of traditional and current views of mind, matter and reality. Edgar D. Mitchell's case for metanoia.

Ref: Psy. Exp.--Ch. 18, 22.

Lab: Replication of experiment demonstrated in Lab 1.

Lecture 14: Review and Outlook on Future Possibilities in Experimentation

Lab: Discussion.

ASSIGNMENTS: 1. In consultation with the instructor, each student will be required to undertake a simple experiment which will be reported in an appropriate form.

Weight: 30% of final grade.

2. All students will be expected to keep individual lab notebooks which will be handed in for grading.

Weight: 40% of final grade.

3. An essay on a topic decided by the student in consultation.  
Length: approximately 2,000 words.

Weight: 30% of final grade.

SUPPLEMENTARY REFERENCES:

Targ, D. and Putnoff, H. Mind-Reach, Delacorte Press/Eleanor Friede.

Agee, D. Edgar Cayce on ESP, Warner Books, 1976.

Langley, N. Edgar Cayce on Reincarnation, Warner Books, 1973.

Ostrander, S. The ESP Papers.

Vasiliev, L. L. Experiments in Distant Influence, E. P. Dutton, 1976.

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

To  
From  
Mr. Larry Thomas

Assistant Librarian

Subject G.S. 202-3 Introduction to the  
Study of Psychic Phenomena

To  
From  
Janet Blanchet, Secretary to the  
Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies  
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Date April 24, 1979

The attached new course proposal was presented to the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Committee today. Would you please review it in terms of Library resources, and let us have your comments as soon as is conveniently possible.

Many thanks,

*Janet Blanchet*  
Janet Blanchet

JB:jk

Attach.

cc: Registrar

*Janet*  
We have reviewed our holdings and find that we lack about 20 of the monographs cited. We estimate approx. \$300 would be sufficient to rectify this deficiency. Otherwise, the collection seems adequate.

*Larry Thomas*



# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

S.79-71  
Appendix

To Harry Evans, Secretary of Senate

From Norman Swartz

Subject Proposal for G.S. 202-3

Date May 31, 1979

Three members of Senate — Resnick, Swartz and Wheatley — are also members of the Philosophy Department. Regretably, all three of us are quite unable to attend the June 4th meeting of Senate at which GS 202-3, "Introduction to Psychic Phenomena", is scheduled to be brought forward to be voted on. I have consulted with my colleagues, Resnick and Wheatley, and we all would like to request the postponement of the discussion of this course proposal until the meeting in July when two of us, at least, can be present at the Senate meeting.

Normally the request of three absent Senators ought not, I suppose, to merit the postponement of a discussion, but I suggest that the circumstances are sufficiently special in this instance to warrant such an action.

In the first place, the three missing Senators, in their capacity as philosophers, have serious questions about the course proposed. For one thing, the philosophical literature dealing with putative psychic phenomena, a literature which is highly critical (in the best sense), seems to be totally ignored in the reading lists. In the second place, the relevance of philosophy (which after all is the home discipline for studies of the concept of mind and of logic) is tacitly acknowledged in that three of the four alternative prerequisite courses listed are courses in the Philosophy Department; yet, to the best of my knowledge, no consultation with the Philosophy Department has taken place.

I ask that you make our concerns and our request for postponement known to Senate.



c.c. G. Pedersen, Chairman of Senate  
J. Wheatley, Dean of Graduate Studies  
R. Brown, Dean of Arts  
L. Resnick, Faculty of Arts

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

JUN - 1 1979

FACULTY OF ARTS