Required and Recommended Textbooks for 2021

California Institute of Integral Studies

Certificate Program in Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies and Research

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Note: Program instructors will require additional articles and/or book chapters for their particular classes. Those class readings will all be available on the CIIS online course platform several weeks before each presentation.

Required Readings for Entire Course

These seven textbooks and one article are assigned for all trainees as broad-based, foundational readings for the entire certificate program in 2021. The book by William Richards (Sacred Knowledge: Psychedelics and Religious Experience, the first half: Ch. 1-9) is required reading prior to the opening weekend in April of 2021, as is the journal article Developing Guidelines and Competencies for the Training of Psychedelic Therapists (2017) by Janis Phelps.

Students should read two books by the end of the spring semester: Foundational Concepts in Neuroscience (Chapters 1-10) by David Presti and the entire textbook edited by Michael Winkelman and Ben Sessa, Advances in Psychedelic Medicine. Then Ecstasy: The Complete Guide by Julie Holland should be read before the June weekend trainings. Students are required to read Allies for Awakening: Guidelines for Productive and Safe Experiences with Entheogens by Ralph Metzner and The Cosmic Serpent by Jeremy Narby before the end of summer. Then students will complete the second half of Bill Richards’ Sacred Knowledge textbook before the middle of the fall semester.


20 Recommended Books for the CIIS Certificate Program in 2021

These recommended books are influential texts in the discourse over the past several decades on psychedelic research; psychedelic-assisted, narrative and existential psychotherapies; shamanism; and consciousness exploration. We recommend that trainees read these books during or after their training in the 2021 certificate program.

Caveat: a couple of the recommended books were written in the era of the 1950’s and 1960’s when the consciousness of internalized racism and sexism was more limited. Please read those books with patience when you come upon such sentiments. Despite these obvious flaws, we recommend those several books due to the unique and singular wisdom to be gained in each of them.


