Course Description:
In the spirit of dialogue and inquiry, this advanced course in transpersonal theory provides an in-depth study of the participatory turn in contemporary spirituality. After a brief introduction to the state-of-the-art of transpersonal theory, we will explore the impact of participatory thinking on transpersonal and religious studies, transpersonal anthropology, and indigenous studies. The rest of the course will focus on the theory and practice of participatory spirituality. Theoretically, we will discuss the relational, embodied, and inquiry dimensions of participatory spirituality. As for the practice, the course will gradually introduce an approach to participatory spirituality that can be used for both spiritual transformation and spiritual inquiry. Participants will be encouraged to approach the study of spirituality from a participatory, transformative, and embodied perspective.

Summary of Educational Purpose:
The main purpose of this course is to deepen students’ knowledge of contemporary transpersonal theory and participatory spirituality. An additional didactic objective is to introduce a participatory approach to spiritual inquiry and practice.

Learning Objectives:
After completing this course, students will be able to:
1. Appreciate the relevance of the participatory turn for transpersonal theory, religious studies, and contemporary spiritual culture.
2. Have a clear understanding of the theory and practice of participatory spirituality.
3. Develop a rigorous, embodied, and participatory approach to spiritual practice and inquiry.

Learning Activities:
1. Cognitive/Didactic (lecture): 30%
2. Practical/Applied (dialogue): 30%
3. Experiential (inquiry/practice): 40%

Level of Instruction:
MA and Ph.D.
Criteria for Evaluation:
1. Mid-term paper (2-6 pages): 20%
2. Final Paper (18-25 pages): 40%
3. Class participation: 40%

Prerequisites:
EWP 6752 Transpersonal Psychology, EWP 6205 Embodied Spiritual Inquiry, other introductory course to transpersonal studies, or by consent of instructor.

Grading Options:
OP.

Required Texts:
3. Course Reader, available at Copy Central (2336 Market Street, between Castro and Noe Streets. Tel. 415-431-6725).

Recommended Texts:

Assignments:

1. **Mid-Term Paper:** (2-6 pages)
   This assignment can take the form of an outline or proposal for the final paper, a preliminary draft (work in progress) of the final paper, or a short independent response paper to one of the topics discussed during weeks 1-7.

2. **Final Paper:** (18-25 pages)
   A theoretical and/or embodied essay engaging one or several of the subjects discussed in class and the readings, or another topic related to transpersonal studies or participatory spirituality. For other projects, speak with instructor as early in the semester as possible.

*Important note:* All papers should be double-sided, use 12-point Times New Roman font, and be written according to the APA Manual of Style. Papers not following these specifications may be returned to students without feedback.
Course Schedule and Reading List
Contemporary Transpersonal Theory:
Participatory Spirituality

PART I. INTRODUCTION
An introduction to the state-of-the-art of transpersonal studies.

1. Jan 20. Introduction: The Transpersonal and You
Overview of the course. Transpersonal theory, the participatory turn, and participatory spirituality. The primacy of inquiry in graduate education. Guidelines for the practice of dialogical inquiry in the course.

Readings:
- Boucouvalas, Marcie, “Following the Movement: From Transpersonal Psychology to a Multi-Disciplinary Transpersonal Orientation.”
- Hartelius, Glenn, Caplan, Mariana & Rardin, Mary Anne, “Transpersonal Psychology: Defining the Past, Divining the Future.”
- Cunningham, Paul, “The Challenges, Prospects, and Promises of Transpersonal Psychology.”
- Ferrer, Jorge, “Dialogical Inquiry as Spiritual Practice.”

2. Jan 27. Transpersonal Theory Today
Grounding our inquiry in our personal experience: What do the terms “transpersonal,” “participatory,” and “spirituality” mean to you? Somatic grounding and unconditional acceptance of hermeneutic pre-understandings related to the course’s inquiry. Contemporary transpersonal theorists and theoretical perspectives. Significance of transpersonal psychology for modern consciousness studies. Transpersonal theory and archetypal astrology.

Readings:
- Daniels, Michael, “Approaching Transpersonal Psychology,” “Whither Transpersonal Psychology?”
- Washburn, Michael, “Transpersonal Dialogue: A New Direction.” (Excerpt)
- Lancaster, “The Significance of Transpersonal Psychology;” “In Defense of the Transcendent.”
- Goddard, Gerry, “Counterpoints in Transpersonal Theory: Toward an Astro-Logical Resolution.”

PART II. THE PARTICIPATORY TURN
An exploration of the “participatory turn” in transpersonal theory, religious studies, the anthropology of consciousness, and indigenous studies.

3. Feb 3. The Participatory Turn in Transpersonal Studies
Meanings of the term “participation.” Historical introduction to the “participatory turn” in transpersonal studies. Ferrer’s participatory reconstruction of transpersonal theory. Critical perspectives.
4. **Feb 10. The Participatory Turn in Religious Studies**
From transpersonal theory to religious studies. The participatory turn and the cultural-linguist paradigm in the study of religion. Modes of participation: archaic, romantic, and enactive. Participatory spirituality and religious traditions. The participatory turn as spiritual democratization.

**Readings:**
- Irwin, Lee, “Esoteric Paradigms and Participatory Spirituality in the Teachings of Mikhaël Aïvanhov.” (PT)
- Lancaster, Brian L., “Engaging with the Mind of God: The Participatory Path of Jewish Mysticism.” (PT)
- Chittick, William C., “Ibn al-‘Arabi on Participating in the Mystery.” (PT)

5. **Feb 17. Perennialism, Participatory Pluralism, and Cosmological Hybridization**

**Readings:**
- Ferrer, J., “Trouble in Paradise: The Perennial Philosophy Revisited.” (Only if you have not read *Revisioning Transpersonal Theory*)
- Ferrer, J., “Spiritual Knowing as Participatory Enaction: An Answer to the Question of Religious Pluralism.” (PT)
- Conner, Randy P., “Roads, Voyagers, and Rafts: A Meditation on Participation.” (REV-1)
- Heron, John, “Letter to the Editor: John Heron on Randy Conner’s Critique.” (REV-2).
- Lahood, G., “Paradise Bound: A Perennial Tradition or an Unseen Process of Cosmological Hybridization?”
The participatory turn in transpersonal anthropology. Participatory spirituality, shamanism, and indigenous traditions. Shamanic concourse. Participatory envisioning as spiritual practice.

Readings:
- Lahood, Gregg, “One Hundred Years of Sacred Science: Participation and Hybridity in Transpersonal Anthropology.” (REV-1)
- Kremer, J., “The Dark Night of the Scholar.”
- Fauteck Makes Marks, Luan, “Great Mysteries: Native North American Religions and Participatory Visions.” (REV-1)

PART III. PARTICIPATORY SPIRITUALITY:
FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE
Relational, embodied, and inquiry dimensions of participatory spirituality. From theory to practice. Steps towards a participatory peer-to-peer spiritual culture.

7. March 3. Participatory Spirituality I: The Relational Dimension

Readings:
- Heron, John, “A Participatory Spiritual Culture;” “The Life Divine and Innovative Spirituality; “Relational Spirituality.”
- Bauwens, Michel, “The Next Buddha Will Be a Collective: Spiritual Expression in the Peer-to-Peer Era.” (REV-2)
- Ferrer, Jorge, “Integral Transformative Practice: A Participatory Perspective.”
- Heron, John & Lahood, Gregg, “Charismatic Inquiry in Concert: Action Research in the Realm of the Between.”

8. March 10. Participatory Spirituality II: The Embodied Dimension

Readings:
- Ferrer, Jorge, “What Does It Mean to Live a Fully Embodied Spiritual Life?”
- Donnelly, Dorothy H., “The Sexual Mystic: Embodied Spirituality.”
- Barnhart, Bruno, “One Spirit, One Body: Jesus’ Participatory Revolution.” (PT)
- Abram, David, “Earth in Eclipse.” (REV-2)

MID-TERM ASSIGNMENT DUE!
9. **March 17. Participatory Spirituality III: The Inquiry Dimension**

**Readings:**
- Heron, John, “Participatory Fruits of Spiritual Inquiry.” (REV-1)
- Heron, John, “The Authoritarian Blight,” “Spiritual Projection and Authority,” “Personhood and Spiritual Inquiry.”
- Osterhold, Helge O., Elizabeth Husserl, & David Nicol, “Rekindling the Fire of Transformative Education: A Participatory Case Study.”
- Rothberg, Donald, “Connecting Inner and Outer Transformation: Toward and Expanded Model of Buddhist Practice.” (PT)

**March 24. No class, Spring Break! 😊**

**PART IV. PARTICIPATORY SPIRITUALITY: DEEPENING OUR PRACTICE**
According to the evolution of the group inquiry, the last module of the course can take the form of a co-operative participatory spiritual inquiry, a practicum in participatory spirituality, or a hybrid between participatory inquiry and practice.

The four seasons of the integral creative cycle: Implications for participatory spiritual practice and inquiry. Convergent versus divergent inquiries. Further elements of participatory spiritual practice. Collaborative decision-making process about our next practical steps.

**Readings:**
- Ferrer, Jorge, Romero, Marina & Albareda, Ramon, “Integral Transformative Education: A Participatory Proposal.”
- Handouts TBA (readings aligned with the inquiry process may be added by instructor and participants)

**14-15. April 25. Participatory Spiritual Inquiry V/Conclusion (DAY-LONG RETREAT)**
Integrative practices. Collaborative assessment of our inquiry process and/or last circle of sharing. Closing ritual.

🌿 **FINAL PAPER DUE!**
Course Reader

Contents


Research Bibliography:
Contemporary Transpersonal Theory and Practice

I. Journals
The following journals either have an explicit transpersonal focus or regularly publish transpersonally-oriented articles:

- Anthropology of Consciousness
- ATP Newsletter (Association for Transpersonal Psychology)
- Australian Journal of Transpersonal Studies (ceased publication)
- Integralis: Journal of Integral Consciousness (on-line)
- Journal of Consciousness Studies
- Journal of Humanistic Psychology
- Journal of Near-Death Studies
- Journal of Transpersonal Psychology
- Journal of Transpersonal Research (on-line)
- Integral Review (on-line)
- International Journal of Transpersonal Studies
- Kosmos: An Integral Approach to Global Awakening
- Lila: Journal of Cosmic Play. Shamanism, Visionary Art, and the Transpersonal (on-line)
II. Books and Anthologies
The following list is a selection of transpersonal works published after 1996:


