

Science or Pseudoscience?

Natural Science Inquiry, Spring 2000
Assignment Due Date: Thursday, April 20th

Select one of the topics listed below. Study the corresponding web sites (and any related references or web sites you find) and write a 3-6 page (double-spaced, reasonable 10- or 12- point font) paper that answers the following questions:

1. What are the main arguments for why this field should be considered a science? What are the main arguments for why this field should be considered a pseudoscience?
2. Do you think this field is a pseudoscience? Why or why not? (Analyze the merits of the arguments in question 1.)
3. What evidence would be necessary to make you change your mind?

Your paper will be graded on clarity of writing (including grammar and spelling), your presentation of the arguments on both sides, and the thoughtfulness of your evaluation of the arguments and your answer to question 3. Be sure to indicate your references using footnotes or endnotes (i.e, indicate where in your paper you used the references).

Topics (choose 1):

astrology

www.osho.com/talks/hidden05.htm

<http://wheel.dcn.davis.ca.us/go/btcarrol/skeptic/astrology.html>

http://csj.org/studyindex/studycrthk/study_pseudoscience/study_factatrolgy1.htm

psychics

<http://anson.ucdavis.edu/~utts> (Utt's report, Hyman's report, Utt's reply)

<http://www.csicop.org/si/9603/claims.html>

creation science

www.creationresearch.org

(Several papers here including "A Decade of Creationist Research" and "The History of Life.")

<http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/faq-meritt.html>

<http://www.talkorigins.org/origins/faqs-mustread.html>

<http://wheel.dcn.davis.ca.us/go/btcarrol/skeptic/creation.html>