Answer the first two questions based on your interview of a person who makes an extraordinary claim (e.g., the existence of psychic powers, UFOs, ghosts, healing touch, climate change, etc.). Note that you should *not* choose a religious claim, as those cannot reliably be investigated using experiments. Then answer the next three questions based on your own psychological research into this issue (e.g., PsycINFO database). If possible, you may invite your guest to come to our class on a Wednesday at 2 PM (check with Brian for possible dates).

**PROJECT DUE DATE: Submit this project via email to burke\_b@fortlewis.edu on Monday, April 22 by 4 PM sharp (lateness loses 20%, even by 1 hour); the paper should be approximately ~5-7 pages long.**

REMEMBER THE 7 STEPS TO CRITICAL THINKING (Burke, Sears, & Kraus, 2013)  
1) What am I being asked to believe or accept?  
2) What evidence is available to support the claim?  
3) What alternative ways are there to interpret the evidence?  
4) Rate all the evidence/alternatives on a 0-10 scale based on validity/strength  
5) What assumptions or biases came up when doing the above steps?  
(e.g., **naïve realism; personal validation; confirmation bias; hindsight bias; illusory correlation**)  
6) What additional evidence would help us evaluate the alternatives?  
7) What conclusions are most reasonable or likely?

PLEASE BE SURE TO ANSWER ALL THESE QUESTIONS IN YOUR PROJECT:

1. What does this person believe about the issue? (i.e., what is their claim?)  
   NOTE: There may be several embedded or layered claims that emerge in your interview.
2. WHY does this person believe what they do? (Analyze this in terms of evidence and **biases**)
3. In your own view, what alternative possibilities or explanations are there for the claim and how strong are these possibilities? (Be sure to support your answer with scientific research, such as articles in PsycINFO or other empirical studies on the topic; YOU SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST 5 REFERENCES IN APA STYLE INCLUDING AS MANY SCIENTIFIC STUDIES AS YOU CAN FIND!)
4. What scientific experiments could be done (if possible) to determine the truth in this case?
5. Based on all of this, what conclusion would be most reasonable in this case?  
   (i.e., What do you think?)