

Professor Jose Guntin
Psychology of Personal Effectiveness - CLP1006

Topic: Paradigm, resistance to paradigm shifts

- 1- Presentations of the concept of paradigm and how paradigms remain fixated in our minds through processes of selective attention, selective perception, and inattentive blindness.
- 2- Presentation of inattentive blindness YouTube video during which viewers are engaged in a task of counting passes during a basketball game: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJG698U2Mvo>
During the game a person dressed in a gorilla suit crosses by and waves to the camera. At the end of the video presentation students are asked to report if they saw anything unusual. There are always approximately 20% of students who report not seeing the person in a gorilla suit and react with great surprise when the video is replayed.
- 3- Lecture continues with introduction of the concept of paradigm shift and specific examples of paradigm shifts in history of humanity, such as the Earth was flat, slavery was good, emperors and rulers got divine inspiration or become gods.
- 4- Engage students in discussion about main paradigms in our culture suggesting the possibility of a paradigm shift. Present videos and have class discussion about (1) unexamined assumptions, sustainability, and “changing the dream”.
 - a. Pachamama Alliance – A New Dream http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wd7G_VKcHic
 - b. Four Years. GO http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_6iTCo5Ci8&feature=related
 - c. Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MoXJZ_3-J9w&feature=related
- 5- Students are assigned to write a reaction paper to videos, class discussion. They are encouraged to answer to the following questions: “are unexamined assumptions similar to the gorilla that people can’t see in a basketball game? Are unexamined assumptions obstacles to a paradigm shift where sustainability becomes a goal?” Students will submit papers to ANGEL and write their comments to at least three reaction papers from their peers.