



Letter of Reference/Review: **SPEAR System™ Scientific Methodology**

Science is best defined as a careful, disciplined, logical search for knowledge about any and all aspects of the universe, obtained by examination of the best available evidence and always subject to correction and improvement upon discovery of better evidence. What's left is magic. And it doesn't work. -- James Randi

Why does the acceptance of a combatives system as one of science and research carry any significance in the overall scope of training? The reason is simple. Science is both *content* and a *process*. Content is a body of known facts and relationships. Processes are activities that include systematic ways of gathering data, determining relationships, and offering explanations. Research, then, becomes the term one uses *as* the process that is “science”. The stark realization is that many combatives, defensive tactics, and officer survival training systems today only exist in the realm of **content**. What they leave out, then, are the *ways* in which we make sense of the environment (and the individuals that interact with that environment) that requires a combative/survival response. It is the **process** of the system that brings validation to the system’s goals, purposes, and outcomes.

Having attended over 104 contact hours of Tony Blauer’s courses and studied an additional 200 + hours of seminar and DVD videos, it is my professional opinion that Mr. Blauer’s combatives system possesses the requisite scientific applications in research that make his system “scientific”. The S.P.E.A.R. System™ is a “total combatives system” that is intrinsically inclined—based upon kinesiology, physiology, neurobiology, and other, natural sciences. Because it considers the application of intrinsic kinesic actions (flinch conversion) from a basic, human response to sudden and close movement (a flinch), the system is considered by Mr. Blauer as “behaviorally inspired—genetically wired”.

In addition to being *based* on science, as described above, the S.P.E.A.R. System™, in its totality, is a system created by valid, scientific processes from natural observations, correlations, and experiments garnered within the process of the scientific method. Through experimental tests, Mr. Blauer’s hypothesis has been accepted as a valid description of nature, as the predictions agree with experimental results.

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