

UNIVERSITY OF WALES, LAMPETER

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Department: Archaeology & Anthropology	Module Code: MARCH7020
Module Title:	Introduction to Cultural Astronomy and Astrology (compulsory)
Level: 4	Term Taught: 1 or 2
No of Credits: 20	
Methods of assessment:	One 1500 word essay or critical literature reviews (25% of the module marks). One 4500 word essay (75% of the module marks).
Teaching Method(s):	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, fieldwork
Pre-requisite(s): None	
Co-requisite(s): None	Incompatibles: None
Taught through the medium of Welsh	No
Lecturer/Co-ordinator:	Dr Nick Campion
Contact hours: 30 hours	Lectures per week: Module typically taught by distance and by intensive study school.
Agreed Teaching Slot(s):	
Syllabus: 1. An introduction to the subject area; the discipline of cultural astronomy, astrology as a cultural phenomenon and cosmology as it is applied to culture. The module will allow students to explore the subject area and the many forms of belief which bring conceptions of the stars to bear on society, the arts, politics and religion. 2. An exploration of theoretical and cultural contexts, a discussion of the nature of culture, as well as theoretical models used to analyse the role of astrology and astronomy in culture, including theories of myth, magic, Weberian enchantment and divination. 3. An examination of Platonic and Aristotelian theories of the cosmos, their impact in the classical world and continuing legacy in esoteric thought. 4. An exploration of the main principles of post-modern theory in relation to claims that astrology and certain modern astral beliefs (such as UFO cults) are, variously, a symbolic language or a manifestation of modernity in crisis.	
Learning Outcomes: By the end of the module and associated assessment students will be able to: 1. Demonstrate an understanding of the different and varied roles and functions of cultural	

astronomy and astrology in historical and contemporary contexts 2. Demonstrate a critical and reflexive knowledge of the key terms, theories, methods and approaches in the subject area and become familiar with the theories of a selection of the main protagonists in the subject area. 3. Engage with the distinction between different types of evidence, especially between primary and secondary sources, and developed strategies for dealing with problem solving in the case of incomplete and contradictory evidence. 4. Ask pertinent and critical questions as well as cultivating an ability to make careful and reasoned judgments on the basis of analysis, reflection, argument and evidence. 5. Demonstrate an understanding of the philosophical implications of cosmological models and evaluate the continuity between classical and contemporary cosmologies.
Transferable and other skills involved Critical thinking, including evaluation of primary and secondary evidence. Written communication Independent, self-directed study and time management. The ability to reach fair and balanced conclusions based on evaluation of the evidence. Library and bibliographical research.
Main recommended texts: Bennett, Tony, Lawrence Grossberg and Meaghan Morris (eds.), <i>New Keywords: A Revised Vocabulary of Culture and Society</i> (Oxford: Blackwell, 2005) Campion, Nicholas and Patrick Curry (eds.), <i>Sky and Psyche: The Relationship between Cosmos and Consciousness</i> (Edinburgh: Floris Books 2006). Campion, Nicholas, Patrick Curry and Michael York (ed.) <i>Astrology and the Academy</i>, papers from the inaugural conference of the Sophia Centre, Bath Spa University College, 13-14 June 2003 (Bristol: Cinnabar Books 2004). Cunningham, Graham, <i>Religion and Magic: Approaches & Theories</i> (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1999). Curry, Patrick and Roy Willis, <i>Astrology, Science and Culture: Pulling Down the Moon</i> (Oxford: Berg, 2004). During, S., ed., <i>The Cultural Studies Reader</i>, second edition (London: Routledge, 1999). Eagleton, Terry, <i>The Idea of Culture</i> (Oxford: Blackwell 2000). Elwell, Dennis, <i>Cosmic Loom: The New Science of Astrology</i>, London: Urania Trust 2nd edn. 1999. Eysenck, Hans and David Nias <i>Astrology: Science or Superstition?</i> (London: Pelican 1982), Guthrie, W.K.C., <i>The Greek Philosophers from Thales to Aristotle</i> (London: Harper & Row, 1975)

Hoskin, M. (ed) 1999. *The Cambridge Concise History of Astronomy* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press).

Jencks, Charles, *The Post-modernism Reader* (London: Academy, 1992).

Kane, Sean, *The Wisdom of the Mythtellers*, 2nd edn. (Peterborough, Broadview Press, 1998).

Kirk, G.S, J.E., Raven, M.Schofield, *The Presocratic Philosophers*, 2nd edn. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1983).

Latour, Bruno, *We Have Never Been Modern*, transl. Catherine Porter (Hemel Hempstead: Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1993).

Lincoln, Bruce, *Theorizing Myth: Narrative, Ideology, and Scholarship* (Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1999).

Loewe, Michael and Carmen Blacker, *Oracles and Divination* (Boulder: Shambala, 1981).

Lyotard, Jean-François, *The Postmodern Condition* (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1984).

Pels, Birgit and Peter (eds.), *Magic and Modernity: Interfaces of Revelation and Concealment* (Palo Alto, Stanford University Press, 2003).

Phillipson, Garry, *Astrology in the Year Zero* (London: Flare Publications, 2000).

Ruggles, Clive and Nicholas Saunders, *Astronomies and Cultures* (Colorado: University of Colorado Press, 1993).

Shaw, Gregory, *Theurgy and the Soul. The Neoplatonism of Iamblichus* (University Park PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1995)

Evaluation (including student evaluation):

Module evaluation form

Internal review

Biennial and quinquennial review

Date when first introduced: 2008