

MA in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology

AHAN7024 Heavenly Discourses

Sky Journal

Bernadette Brady

A Sky Journal is a piece of research using the sky as the primary document. You are in effect interviewing the sky. You may 'interview' the sky in different ways some of which are suggested in 'Ideas for creating your sky journal' as a separate document in this Moodle topic.

You will need to be aware of the sky for at least a month and focuses on one or several particular features recorded either by drawing or photography the changes in these sky features or sky and landscape features. These sky features may be for example watching and recording:

- i. The moon and its phases, and or its rising and setting positions
- ii. The visibility of planets and their movement against the stars or their rising and settings.
- iii. Sun rises or sun sets - nature, colour and visibility and/or horizon location.
- iv. The observation of one or more constellations and their shift from one night to the next.
- v. The sky's relationship to a landscape.

For a longer list of possible topics for your journal read, 'Ideas for creating your sky journal'. However, your own idea may not be among these many options, these ideas are only given to you to help fuel your own thinking.

Creating your journal

Like any qualitative research project you will be required to make field notes. These field notes may be reflexive and/or ethnographical in nature as well as they may contain images, photographs or drawings. Thus, for example, you can record the appearance of the sky, your responses to the sky and/or you could talk to others about their responses to the sky.

This field work, your observations and notes, needs to be written up in the context of other literature. Your writing up will be shaped by the nature of your research and field notes. Reflexive field notes will need to discuss the methodology of reflexive and then relate this to other

literature. Additionally the research may draw on art or literature for contrast or comparisons. If the field notes are ethnographical in nature then the work will need to be placed in an anthropological context. In contrast you may be recording the changing sky, in which case your field work may be related to philosophical literature such as process philosophy.

Thus your 3000 word Sky Journal paper will include an account of your methods, your findings (images, and notes) and a discussion which places your field work into the context of the sky as a cultural resource.

As this is a piece of research you will be required to submit a **Sky Journal Proposal form** to a tutor and have your proposed sky journal project approved. You can develop your ideas for your journal using the forum where you can develop your ideas for your journal.

Keeping this journal will be a process where your ideas and intentions may evolve. This is to be expected, and such developments can form part of your journal.
