

MA in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology
Introduction to Cultural Astronomy and Astrology
Week 4: Cosmology and Culture
Optional Reading
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This list is extensive and contains more than you can or should read in one week. Instead, you should see this material as providing additional resources should you choose a cosmology topic for your final essay, and to provide a library of resources for the future: you can return to this material later in the MA. The PDFs tend to deal with themes arising from scientific cosmology. The JSTOR articles are recommended as suggestive of different ways in which the consideration of cosmology may be explored.

Primary Sources

I referred to the issue with primary sources in this area under Required Reading. Just to encourage the idea that some scientific texts may be primary sources, we are recommending the work of Joel and Nancy Primack. Joel Primack is a distinguished physicist who is interested in the implications of modern cosmology for religion – in a broad sense. He is renowned as the ‘discoverer’ of ‘cold dark matter’. (I put quotation marks around ‘discoverer’ because nobody knows whether cold dark matter exists and believes that the latest physics can form the basis of a new way of living.

Primack, Joel, ‘Cosmology and Culture’,
http://physics.ucsc.edu/cosmo/primack_abrams/COSMO.HTM

Secondary Sources

To begin with, we have a number of PDFs on Moodle.

Abraham, R.(1994). *Chaos, Gaia, Eros*. New York: Harper San Francisco, 1994, Chapter 11 (‘Chaos and Cosmos’).
PDF

Hetherington, Norris S., *Cosmology: Historical, Literary, Philosophical, Religious and Scientific Perspectives* (New York and London: Garland Publishing 1993)
Preface.
PDF

Rees, Martin, *Before the Beginning* (London: The Free Press, 2002 [1997] chap 15.
CLA PDF
Martin Rees is the British Astronomer Royal.

Bertol, Daniela, ‘Framing the Land and Sky: Art Meets Cosmology in a Sustainable Environment’, *Leonardo*, Vol. 39, No. 2 (2006), p.130.

JSTOR

Chapple, Christopher Key, 'Thomas Berry, Buddhism, and the New Cosmology', Christopher', *Buddhist-Christian Studies*, Vol. 18, (1998), pp. 147-154

JSTOR

Corey, M.A., *God and Design*, London, Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 1-19.

CLA PDF

Dingle, Herbert, 'Science and Modern Cosmology', *Science*, New Series, Vol. 120, No. 3118 (Oct. 1, 1954), pp. 513-521.

JSTOR

Gordon, Jacob U., 'Yoruba Cosmology and Culture in Brazil: A Study of African Survivals in the New World', *Journal of Black Studies*. Vol 10. No 2 (Dec 1979), pp. 231-244.

JSTOR

Grünbaum, Adolf, 'A New Critique of Theological Interpretations of Physical Cosmology', *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, Vol. 51, No. 1 (Mar., 2000), pp. 1-43.

JSTOR

Hall, Margaret, 'Cosmology and Therapy', *Journal of Religion and Health*, no 4 (1986), pp. 254-5?

JSTOR

Huby, Pamela M., 'Cosmology and Infinity', *Philosophy*, Vol. 48, No. 184 (Apr., 1973), pp. 186-187.

JSTOR

McMullin, 'Is Philosophy Relevant to Cosmology?', *American Philosophical Quarterly*, Vol. 18, No. 3 (Jul., 1981), pp. 177-189.

JSTOR

Mitchell, Donald W., 'The Trinity and Buddhist Cosmology', *Buddhist-Christian Studies*, Vol. 18, (1998), pp. 169-180.

JSTOR

Kaspin, Deborah, 'A Chewa Cosmology of the Body', *American Ethnologist*, vol. 23, no. 3, (Aug. 1996), pp. 561-78.

JSTOR

Morton-Williams, Peter, 'An Outline of the Cosmology and Cult Organisation of the Oyo Yoruba', *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute*, vol. 34, no. 3, (Jul 1964), pp. 243-61.

JSTOR

O'Brien, Patricia, 'Prehistoric Evidence for Pawnee Cosmology', *American Anthropologist*, New Series, vol. 88, no. 4, (Dec. 1986), pp. 939-946.

JSTOR

Gribbin, John, *In the Beginning: the birth of the living universe*, London: Penguin 1995, chap 7 ('The Goldilocks Effect').

PDF ON MOODLE

Kaspin, Deborah, 'A Chewa Cosmology of the Body', *American Ethnologist*, vol. 23, no. 3, (Aug. 1996), pp. 561-78.

JSTOR

Morton-Williams, Peter, 'An Outline of the Cosmology and Cult Organisation of the Oyo Yoruba', *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute*, vol. 34, no. 3, (Jul 1964), pp. 243-61.

JSTOR

O'Brien, Patricia, 'Prehistoric Evidence for Pawnee Cosmology', *American Anthropologist*, New Series, vol. 88, no. 4, (Dec. 1986), pp. 939-946.

JSTOR

Pankenier, David W., 'Cosmic Capitals and Numinous Precincts in Early China', *Journal of Cosmology*, vol. 9, (2010), pp. 2030-2040.

<http://journalofcosmology.com/AncientAstronomy100.html>

Rudavsky, T.M., 'Philosophical Cosmology in Judaism', *Early Science and Medicine*, Vol. 2, No. 2, Medieval Cosmologies (1997), pp. 149-184.

JSTOR

Sagan, *Cosmos: the story of cosmic evolution, science and civilisation*, London: Warner Books 1994, chap 1.

PDF ON MOODLE

Schueler, Gerald. "Chaos Theory: Interface with Jungian Psychology." (1997), <http://www.schuelers.com/chaos/chaos9.htm>.

Sahlins, Marshall, Thimas Bargatsky, Nurit Bird-David, John Clammer, Jacques Hamel, Keijio Maegawa and Jukka Siikala, 'The Sadness of Sweetness: The Native Anthropology of Western Cosmology [and Comments and Reply]', *Current Anthropology*, Vol 37 no 3 (June 1996) pp. 395-428.

JSTOR.

This discussion is highly recommended. It is long and much of the information may be new, so it is not necessarily an article to be read in detail now. However,

the discussion it raises concerning the prejudices in anthropology, and the resulting discussions of the nature of cosmology, are very thought-provoking.

Tucker, Mary Evelyn, 'Religious Dimensions of Confucianism: Cosmology and Cultivation', *Philosophy East and West*, vol. 48, no. 1, The Religious Dimension of Confucianism in Japan, (Jan. 1998), pp. 5-45.
JSTOR

In addition

Capek, Milic, *The Concepts of Space and Time*, Boston: D.Reidel Publishing Company, 1976.

This is an anthology of classic writings on theories of space and time, from ancient to modern. If you are interested in pursuing this area then it is worth purchasing a second-hand copy.

Websites

A free-ranging search of the web may produce much interesting material, as long as you understand its reliability and provenance, and distinguish the raw, primary data (people's claims and opinions) from scholarly material, which considers the material on the basis of evidence.

The Traditional Cosmology Society,
<http://www.tradcos.co.uk/>

<http://religionandtechnology.com/2010/11/12/life-creates-the-universe/>

There are now many more options!