

MA CULTURAL ASTRONOMY AND ASTROLOGY
Foundations in Cultural Astrology and Astronomy Module HPCA7015

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2026 Timetable:
Readings for Discussion

Seminar	Topic	Readings for discussion in seminars
Orientation 4 pm Monday 5 th October		PREPARE FOR NEXT SEMINAR: Eagleton, Terry. 'Versions of Culture.' Chap. 1 In <i>The Idea of Culture</i>, 1-31. Oxford: Blackwell, 2000. Go to online library E-Book search and type in 'Terry Eagleton'.
Seminar 1 4 pm Monday 12 th October	Culture and Cosmos	Having read the chapter in Eagleton above, consider your concepts of culture and be prepared to discuss your personal encounters in this seminar. PREPARE FOR NEXT SEMINAR: Plato's <i>Timaeus</i>
Seminar 2 4 pm Monday 19 th October	Philosophy: Soul, Psyche and the Classical Cosmos	PLATO'S TIMAEUS: 27-44 We will be focusing on Timaeus' discussion on how the origin of the cosmos, particularly on how the World Soul was created. You can access the LOEB edition through the UWTSD online library: You can, if you wish, read all of the <i>Timaeus</i>. For the discussion we are focusing on Sections 27-44. (pp.46-100) OR there are two good versions if you wish to buy this: - Plato, <i>Timaeus</i>, trans. R.G.Bury, LCL 234. Cambridge Mass., London: Harvard University Press, 1931. - Plato. <i>Complete Works</i>. Edited by John Cooper, M. Indiana: Hackett Publishing Co. Inc., 1997. PREPARE FOR NEXT SEMINAR: Ptolemy's <i>Tetrabiblos</i> and Daryn Lehoux, 'Tomorrow's News Today'.
Seminar 3 Monday 26 th October	Astrology and Culture	CLAUDIUS PTOLEMY, <i>TETRABIBLOS</i>, BOOK 1, PARTS 1 and 2, pages 1-20. You can access the LOEB edition through the UWTSD online library: Claudius Ptolemy, <i>Tetrabiblos</i>, trans. F.E. Robbins LOEB LCL 435 LEHOUX, DARYN. 'TOMORROW'S NEWS TODAY' Available through JSTOR. Lehoux, Daryn. 'Tomorrow's News Today: Astrology, Fate, and the Way Out.' <i>Representations</i> Summer (2006): 105-122.

		PREPARE FOR NEXT SEMINAR: Levy-Bruhl, <i>How Natives Think</i> and Reading(s) on Decolonisation (see Moodle page for updates)
Seminar 4 4 pm Monday 2 nd November	Cosmology and Culture	LEVY BRUHL, <i>HOW NATIVES THINK</i> Lévy-Bruhl, Lucien, <i>How Natives Think</i>, Princeton: Princeton University Press 1985, Chapter 2 ('The Law of Participation') DECOLONISATION READINGS PREPARE FOR NEXT SEMINAR: The Exemplary Tale of Śārdūlakarṇa (<i>stag rna 'i rtogs pa brjod pa</i>, <i>Śārdūlakarṇāvadāna</i>, Toh 358) and Jeffrey Kotyk, 'Astrological Determinism in Indian Buddhism'.
Monday 9 th November		READING WEEK – NO CLASS
ESSAY 1 due Thursday 12th November 2026		
Seminar 5 4 pm Monday 16 th November	Astronomy and Culture	THE EXEMPLARY TALE of Śārdūlakarṇa 84000. The Exemplary Tale of Śārdūlakarṇa (<i>stag rna 'i rtogs pa brjod pa</i>, <i>Śārdūlakarṇāvadāna</i>, Toh 358), Translated by the Bodhinidhi Translation Group under the patronage and supervision of 84000: Translating the Words of the Buddha, 2025. KOTYK, ASTROLOGICAL DETERMINISM IN INDIAN BUDDHISM Kotyk, Jeffrey, 'Astrological Determinism in Indian Buddhism', Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (vol. 41, 2018, pp. 145-167) PREPARE FOR NEXT SEMINAR: Clive Ruggles, 'Indigenous Astronomies'.
Seminar 6 4 pm Monday 23 rd November	Fate and Freewill in the Cosmos	CLIVE RUGGLES, 'INDIGENOUS ASTRONOMIES AND PROGRESS IN MODERN ASTRONOMY'
ESSAY 2 due Thursday 26 November 2026		
Seminar 7 4 pm Monday 30 th November	Myth and Magic in the Cosmos	NO STUDENT DISCUSSION THIS WEEK
Seminar 8 4 pm Monday 7 th December	Cosmology and Culture in the Modern World	NO STUDENT DISCUSSION THIS WEEK
ESSAY 3 due Tuesday 5 January 2027		