

HPCA7031 ASTROLOGY, HISTORY, SPIRIT AND SOUL SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 2026

1. 4:00 pm Tuesday 6 October	Welcome 16:00-16:30 Staff and Student Introductions 16:30-16:50 Introduction to the Course ○ Introduction to the module, required reading, resources, shape of course. ○ Essay titles, deadlines and GA36 forms ○ Forum posts ○ Writing and Referencing Guidelines. ○ A reminder of online library materials, including Culture and Cosmos. ○ What is History? ○ When we explore the history of a subject what are we doing? How is history of astrology different to history of science or history of geography or history of art, and so on? 16:50-17:10 Essay 1 ○ We will go through the question, discuss what is expected, and let the students know how the essay is marked ○ Advising students they will need to pick a topic on which to present during the coming week, on a forum. ○ Two students to volunteer to present next week on Mesopotamian/Babylonian Astrology – 10 mins each including contributions 17:10-17:20 – Student Discussions ○ For next week's Student Discussion ▪ Bidmead, Julie and Marilyn Love, 'Ištar's Journey: Above and Below', <i>Culture and Cosmos</i>, Vol. 22 no 1, Spring/Summer 2018, pp. 5-28, available at: http://www.cultureandcosmos.org/pdfs/22/22-1_bidmead_and_love_istar.pdf ▪ Koch-Westenholtz, Ulla, 'The Meaning of Time: Mesopotamian Calendar Divination', in Nicholas Campion and Dorian Gieseler Greenbaum (eds), <i>Astrology in Time and Place: Cross-Cultural Currents in the History of Astrology</i> (Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2016), pp. 189-216. (Available on Moodle) 17:20-17:50 – Plato and the Soul ○ Presentation by Frances 17:50-18:00 Questions For Next Week ○ Watch Nick's lecture on Babylonian astrology.
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2. 4:00 pm Tuesday 13 October	Mesopotamian/Babylonian Astrology including Theories of Soul 16:00-16:20 Babylonian Astrology and Theories of Soul: what are the key issues arising from our knowledge of Babylonian astrology? ○ Presentation by Nick 16:20-16:30 Questions on Nick's pre-recorded lecture on Babylonian Astrology 16:30-17:00 Student Discussion ○ 'Ištar's Journey: Above and Below' ○ 'The Meaning of Time: Mesopotamian Calendar Divination' ○ 1 volunteer for next week ○ Book 3, Chapters 13-14 of Ptolemy, <i>Tetrabiblos</i> 17:00-17:20 The Stoics ○ Presentation by Nick 17:20-17:35 Historiography Introduction ○ Presentation by Nick 17:35-17:50 Essay 1 discussion; general questions 17:50-18:00 Questions For next week Watch Nick's lecture on Classical Theories of the Soul
3. 4:00 pm Tuesday 20 October	Astrology from Late Antiquity to the Persian and Islamicate Worlds 16:00-16:20 Student Discussion ○ Book 3, Chapters 13-14 of Ptolemy, <i>Tetrabiblos</i> ○ 2 volunteers for next week • The Great Introduction to Astrology by Abū Ma'šār, Part IV, Chapters 1 and 2 • <i>The Discourse on the Eight and Ninth</i> from the Nag Hammadi texts, http://www.gnosis.org/naghamm/discorse.html 16:20-16:30 Questions on Nick's pre-recorded lecture on Classical Theories of the Soul 16:30-16:55 What do Astrologers Do?: Two fifth century horoscopes ○ Presentation by Nick 16:55-17:20 The Gnostics ○ Presentation by Frances

	17.20–17.50 What do Astrologers Do?: Theory of Great Conjunctions ○ Presentation by Nick 17:50-18:00 Questions For next week ○ Watch pre-recorded lecture by Chris Mitchell on ‘Astrology in the Persian and Islamicate World’
4. 4:00 pm Tuesday 27 October	Astrology in the Persian and Islamicate Worlds 16:00-16:10 Questions on Chris Mitchell’s pre-recorded lecture on ‘Astrology in the Persian and Islamicate World’ 16:10-16:40 Student Discussion ○ <i>The Great Introduction to Astrology</i> by Abū Ma‘šār, Part IV, Chapters 1 and 2 ○ <i>The Discourse on the Eight and Ninth</i> from the Nag Hammadi texts ○ 2 volunteers for next week ○ St. Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Contra Gentiles</i>, Book III, available on JSTOR ○ Scott Hendrix, ‘Choosing to be Human: Albert the Great on Self-Awareness and Celestial Influence’, <i>Culture and Cosmos</i> Vol. 12, No. 2, https://www.cultureandcosmos.org/pdfs/12/12-2_hendrix_self_awareness.pdf 16:40-17:00 Essay 1 Discussion 16:40-17:10 What do Astrologers do? Historiography and Castle Besiegement Horoscope for Bonatti ○ Presentation by Nick 17:10-17:50 Historiography ○ Presentation by Nick ○ Geertz, Hildred, ‘An Anthropology of Religion and Magic’, <i>Journal of Interdisciplinary History</i>, Vol. 6 no 1 (Summer 1975) pp. 71-89. 17:50-18:00 Questions For next week ○ Pre-recorded lecture from Chris on the Medieval World ○ Read <i>In Defence of History</i>, Chapter 4, 5
Tuesday 3 November	Working on Essay 1
5. 4:00 pm	The Medieval World 16:00-16:15 Questions on The 12th Century Astrological Renaissance

Tuesday 10 November	16:15-16:45 Student Discussion ○ St. Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Contra Gentiles</i>, Book III, available on JSTOR ○ Scott Hendrix, 'Choosing to be Human: Albert the Great on Self-Awareness and Celestial Influence', <i>Culture and Cosmos</i> Vol. 12, No. 2, https://www.cultureandcosmos.org/pdfs/12/12-2_hendrix_self_awareness.pdf ○ 2 volunteers for next week ○ Marsilio Ficino, <i>Book of the Sun</i>, available at: http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~alfar2/ficino.htm ○ Angela Voss, Angela Voss, 'The Astrology of Marsilio Ficino: Divination or Science?', <i>Culture and Cosmos</i>, Vol. 4, No. 2, available at: https://www.cultureandcosmos.org/pdfs/4-2/4-2_Voss_Ficino.pdf 16:45-17:30 What do Astrologers do? Horoscopes by Elias Ashmole ○ Presentation by Nick 17:30-17:50 Essay 1 Questions 17:50-18:00 Questions For next week ○ Pre-recorded lecture from Frances on Marsilio Ficino ○ Pre-recorded lecture from Nick on the Renaissance
6. 4:00 pm Tuesday 17 November	The Renaissance and Early Modern World 16:00-16:15: Historiography ○ Presentation by Nick on paper by Patrick Curry 16:15-16:25 Questions on Frances's pre-recorded lecture on Ficino 16:25-16:55 Student Discussion ○ Marsilio Ficino, <i>Book of the Sun</i>, available at: http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~alfar2/ficino.htm ○ Angela Voss, 'The Astrology of Marsilio Ficino: Divination or Science?', <i>Culture and Cosmos</i>, Vol. 4, No. 2, available at: https://www.cultureandcosmos.org/pdfs/4-2/4-2_Voss_Ficino.pdf ○ 2 volunteers for next week ▪ William Lilly – <i>Christian Astrology Book 3</i>, Chapters 109 - 127 (Available in Early English Books Online). Question – how far is it psychological? ▪ Michelle Pfeffer, 'Reassessing the Marginalization of Astrology in the Early Modern World'. Available in the Online Library 16:55-17.20 Question on Nick's pre-recorded lecture on the Renaissance.

	Kepler's reform of astrology and view of the soul; and chart example: Formiconi's chart for Cosimo de Medici ○ Presentation by Nick 17:20-17:50 Lilly on the Comets of 1618 ○ Presentation by Nick 17:50-18:00 Questions For next week ○ Pre-recorded lecture from Nick on Intro to Astrology in 16th and 17th centuries
	Essay 1 due on Monday 23rd November at 23:59 GMT Essays returned on Monday 14th December 2026
7. 4:00 pm Tuesday 24 November	The Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries 16:00-16:10 Questions on Nick's pre-recorded lecture on Intro to Astrology in 16th and 17th centuries 16:10-16:40 Student Discussion ○ William Lilly – <i>Christian Astrology Book 3</i>, Chapters 109 - 127 (Available in Early English Books Online). Question – how far is it psychological? ○ Michelle Pfeffer, 'Reassessing the Marginalization of Astrology in the Early Modern World'. Available in the Online Library ○ Volunteer for next week ▪ Alan Leo's <i>Astrology for All</i>, Chapter 3 (Available on Moodle) 16:40-17:00 Essay 2 Questions 17:00-17:15 Dane Rudhyar ○ Presentation by Frances 17:15-17:35 Is Astrology Modern? ○ Presentation by Nick 17:35-17:50 Essay 2 Questions 17:50-18:00 Questions For next week Pre-recorded lectures by Nick and Frances on Alan Leo Pre-recorded lecture by Frances on Carl Gustav Jung Pre-recorded lectures from Nick on Carter/Hone/Harvey/Greene

8. 4:00 pm Tuesday 1 December	The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries 16:00-16:20 Student Discussion Alan Leo, <i>Astrology for All</i> , Chapter III 16:20-16:30 Questions on pre-recorded lectures on Alan Leo 16:30-16:40 Questions on pre-recorded lectures on Carl Gustav Jung 16:20-16:30 Questions on pre-recorded lectures on Carter/Hone/Harvey/Greene 16:30-17:15 Psychological Astrology in the 20th and 21st Centuries ○ Presentation by Nick 17:15–17:30 Essay 2 Questions 17:30-18:00 Final Questions
Essay 2 (4,500 words) due Monday 11th January 2027 Essays to be returned by Monday 1st February	

Assignment timetable

3,000 Word Essay: completion and submission GMT 11.59 pm on 19th November 2026

4,500 Word Essay: completion and submission GMT 11.59pm on 5th January 2027

BST in the UK ends on 25 October 2026