

Welsh Government Announcement

This week, we're expecting an announcement and confirmation from Welsh Government regarding current Covid restrictions in Wales.

The Welsh Government has previously announced that Wales would move to alert level zero on Saturday if the public health situation allows.

The University will communicate with staff on how these changes will be implemented in due course. We will continue to update the Frequently Asked Questions to support you during this transition period and encourage you to access this source of information in the first instance if you have questions about returning to work on campus.

Until the University provides further information and guidance in response to any Welsh Government or UK Government announcements, current campus restrictions and arrangements will remain in place.

Thank you all for your support.

The new mConnect app

We'd like to introduce you to the new mConnect app by Skooler. The mConnect app is available from directly within your Teams and allows you to create teams and channels from the cohorts of students enrolled on your modules within Moodle. Once logged in it will pick up the modules in Moodle you are an Editing Teacher on, or a similar editing role, and will display these along with a button for creating a Team

The mConnect app has been automatically added for all teaching staff. You will find it in the menu on the left-hand side of your Teams window as shown below.

The University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) is offering a short course for those interested in Egyptian Cultural Astronomy.

The 'Introduction to Egyptian Cultural Astronomy' short course will be delivered by the University's Sophia Centre for the Study of Cosmology in Culture and the Sophia Centre Press. The online programme will run for five weeks every Wednesday evening from the 11 August.

Course tutor, Dr. Bernadette Brady, commented:

"Egyptian cultural astronomy is more than the Sun, gold and pyramids. It is also the Moon and silver, the blue of the sky, notions of circular time, the never-ending working stars, the ever-changing non-divine planets, and a collection of calendars, all of which created a unique but shifting sky-view that ran for over three thousand years.

The Sun, stars and Moon were interwoven with the Egyptians' view of divine order, Ma'at, and they were represented in funeral objects, texts and temple motifs in different ways over the long history of Pharaonic Egypt.

This course presents the Egyptian sacred sky as it appears on ceilings, coffin lids and in jewellery, and provides you with an overview of the role of the sky in Egyptian cultural astronomy."

Dr Bernadette Brady holds a PhD in Anthropology (2012), MA in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology (2005) and a Certificate in Egyptology from Manchester University (2020). She is currently a lecturer on the online Master of Arts in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology for the Sophia Centre for the Study of Cosmology in Culture at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, UK. Bernadette was the course director for the 2019 Bloomsbury Summer School in Luxor on Egyptian Cultural Astronomy and has lectured widely on this subject.

Dr Brady continued:

“The course begins with the Old Kingdom, the pyramids and the Egyptian notion of soul and the northern stars, and follows this star focus through to the diagonal star clock of the Middle Kingdom. The dominance of Ra (the Sun god) in the New Kingdom, is explored, along with the magnificent astronomical ceilings and the solar cult of Akhenaten. The course concludes with the Ptolemaic temples, where the Greek zodiac was blended with Egyptian astronomical images and ideas.”

The Sophia Centre has already had a busy summer after launching a new publication, *Mattering the Invisible: Technologies, Bodies and the Realm of the Spectral*, edited by Diana Espirito Santo and Dr Jack Hunter, at the beginning of June. Associate Professor Nick Campion, Director of the Sophia Centre, added:

“We have an exciting range of activities with eminent international speakers and contributors. The Centre’s work is partly historical, partly anthropological and partly philosophical. It has a wide-ranging remit to investigate the role of cosmological, astronomical and astrological beliefs, models and ideas in human culture, including the theory and practice of myth, magic, divination, religion, spirituality, architecture, politics and the arts. Our work considers the ways in which people have tried to live in harmony with the cosmos.”

The seminars will be held on a Wednesday at 16:00 – 18:00 BST (UK summer time). The first seminar is Wednesday 11 August 2021 and then every Wednesday to 8 September 2021.