

MA in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology
Introduction to Cultural Astronomy and Astrology
Philosophy: Soul, Psyche and the Classical Cosmos
Optional Reading
Nick Campion

The reading this week is potentially huge, thanks to the long history of classical scholarship. Please prioritise carefully. However, also remember that this material underpins the entire esoteric tradition in the west, including western astrology – and much astronomy until the 17th century.

Optional Reading: Key Secondary Sources

Before turning to other secondary sources, please consult these key texts:

Campion, Nicholas, *History of Western Astrology*, Vol. 1, London: Continuum 2008, chap 10.

Wallis, R.T., *Neoplatonism*, London: Duckworth, 1995, chap. 1 (PP. 1-14).
PDF ON MOODLE

Hussey, Edward, *The Presocratics*, London: Duckworth 1983, chap 4 (pp. 60-77). (Pythagoras)
CLA PDF ON MOODLE

Kirk, G.S, J.E., Raven, M.Schofield, *The Presocratic Philosophers*, 2nd edition, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1983, Chap. 1, pp. 7-74.
CLA PDF ON MOODLE

Optional Reading: Primary sources

There are many features of classical philosophy that are not relevant to the MA. Therefore, please resist the temptation to follow areas that may be a distraction. However, these are the main on-line texts, some of which are also listed above.

Aristotle, *Metaphysics*, 2 Vols, Vol. 1 trans. Hugh Tredennick, Vol. 2 trans. Hugh Tredennick and G.Cyril Armstrong, Cambridge Mass., London, 1933 (Loeb Classic Library, e-book in the University Library), Book 12, Chapter 6-9 (1071b-1075a),

This passage sets out Aristotle's doctrine of the 'Prime Mover'. The material is very complex and contains only part of what is relevant to Aristotle's impact on astrology. We would prefer to get an idea of the general tone rather than attempt to understand it in detail, which is very difficult until it has been discussed.

(We expect you to use the Loeb classic library but there is another version on-line: <http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/metaphysics.12.xii.html> (translated W. D. Ross)).

Aristotle, *On the Heavens*, trans. W.K.C.Guthrie, Cambridge Mass., London: Harvard University Press, 1921 (Loeb Classic Library, e-book in the University Library).

This is Aristotle's key work on the mechanical operation of the sky. Follow the references from elsewhere, but don't be tempted to read it all as it deals extensively with mechanics that are not part of this MA.

(We expect you to use the Loeb classic library but there is another version on line: <http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/heavens.html>)

Hesiod, *The Homeric Hymns and Homericica, including 'Works and Days' and 'Theogonis'*, trans. Hugh G. Evelyn-White, Cambridge Mass., London, 1917. (Loeb Classic Library, e-book in the University Library).

Hesiod's Theogony, dating from around the 8th century BCE, is the earliest known written account of the Greek myths which form the basis of much of the western tradition.

(We expect you to use the Loeb classic library but there is another version on-line <http://www.theoi.com/Text/HesiodTheogony.html>)

Iamblichus, *On the Mysteries and Life of Pythagoras*, trans. Thomas Taylor (Frome: Prometheus Trust, 1999).

http://www.theurgia.org/taylor_on_the_mysteries.html

This is a key text in the 'Cosmology, Magic and Divination' module.

Plato, *Epinomis*, trans. W.R.M.Lamb (Cambridge Mass., London: Harvard University Press 1929). (Loeb Classic Library, e-book in the University Library).

The *Epinomis* contains some of Plato's most explicit discussions about the sky. Most scholars agree that the text was actually composed by Philip of Opus, one of Plato's students.

(We expect you to use the Loeb classic library but there is another version on-line <http://www.ac-nice.fr/philo/textes/Plato-Works/29-Epinomis.htm>).

Plotinus, 'On Heaven', 'On the Movement of Heaven', 'On Whether the Stars are Causes', *Ennead* II, 1 - 2, Vol., 2, trans., A.H.Armstrong (Cambridge Mass., London: Harvard University Press 1929). (Loeb Classic Library, e-book in the University Library).

Plotinus was one of the most important late classical Platonic Philosophers. Of these three works the most important discussion is probably 'On Whether the Stars are Causes'.

(We expect you to use the Loeb classic library but there is another version on-line <http://classics.mit.edu/Plotinus/enneads>)

Plotinus was one of the most important late classical Platonic Philosophers. Of these three works the most important discussion is probably 'On Whether the Stars are Causes'.

Optional Reading: Secondary sources

If you search the University's digital resources, including JSTOR, you will find a huge amount of material.

We suggest you use the following criteria:

1. What does the title tell you? If it sounds relevant, check it out, if it doesn't sound relevant ignore it for now, even if you return to it later.
2. Is it recent? Classical scholarship evolves and the more recent the material the more likely it is to open up new perspectives.

Grayeff, Felix, 'The Problem of the Genesis of Aristotle's Text', *Phronesis*, Vol. 1, No. 2 (May, 1956), pp. 105-122.

JSTOR

Kingsley, Peter, 'From Pythagoras to the Turba philosophorum: Egypt and Pythagorean Tradition', *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, Vol. 57 (1994), pp. 1-13

JSTOR

Peter Kingsley studied at the Warburg Institute. His work has been some of the most important in demonstrating that Greek philosophy originated in the temples, rather than being (as western scholarship has often argued) a rational rejection of a superstitious past.

Kingsley, Peter, 'Notes on Air: Four Questions of Meaning in Empedocles and Anaxagoras', *The Classical Quarterly*, Vol. 45, No. 1 (1995), pp. 26-29

JSTOR

Nilsson, Martin P., 'The Origin of Belief Among the Greeks in the Divinity of the Heavenly Bodies', *Harvard Theological Review*, Vol. 33, No. 1 (1940), pp. 1-8

JSTOR

Recommended in particular for the relationship between astrology and religion.

Zhmud, Leonid, 'Plato as "Architect of Science"', *Phronesis*, Vol. 43, No. 3 (Aug., 1998), pp. 211-244.

JSTOR

In addition:

Dillon, John, *The Middle Platonists: A Study of Platonism, 80 BC to AD 220* (London: Duckworth, 1977).

We do not have a PDF of this, although it's an important book to track down if you wish to take this topic further.

Academic Web Links

Professor Marc Cohen, at Washington State University, has posted his lectures notes and resources on line. These are third year BA notes in Philosophy and, as they are class notes, you can not cite them, or use them as references. However, if you wish to explore this area further, his explanations are clear and his references useful.

<http://faculty.washington.edu/smcohen/320/320Lecture.html>

In particular

<http://faculty.washington.edu/smcohen/320/4causes.htm>

<http://faculty.washington.edu/smcohen/320/psyche.htm>