

INSTITUTE FOR HERMETIC STUDIES - SIX WEEK ASTROLOGY COURSE

“CLASSICAL ASTROLOGY IN THE WESTERN ESOTERIC TRADITION”

MODULE TWO

NOTES FOR MODULE TWO:

These are the notes I'm using for the course. They are skeletal, but this big picture overview will help you see the arc we are building.

MODULE 2. THE HISTORY OF ASTROLOGY

Synopsis: Week 2 traces the fascinating history of the art, from the omenic proto-astrology of Mesopotamia to the Theosophy-flavored astrology of the New Age, while highlighting major developments in the Hellenistic, medieval and Renaissance eras.

- a. Mesopotamian
 1. Sumerian Omenic/Proto-Astrology 3rd Millennium BCE - Mathematics
 2. Enuma Anu Enlil – 16th c. BCE – Celestial Omens - Mundane
 3. Lamassu – Apotropaic – Zodiac – Fixed Signs
 4. Planets as Gods (Saturn/Ninurta; Jupiter/Marduk; Mars/Nergal; Sun/Shamash; Venus/Ishtar; Mercury/Nabu; Moon/Sin)
 5. Ziggurats – Planetary Temple at Borsippa
 6. Babylonian Diviner's Manual "A sign that is evil in the sky is evil on earth; one that is evil on earth is evil in the sky."
 7. Namburbi – Incantations – Avert Inauspicious Portents - Mitigatory
- b. Egyptian
 1. Decanal Astrerisms – Horoskopos/"Hour Watcher" – Ascendant - Timekeeping
 2. Astral Concentration in Statue Animation and Temple Design
 3. Dendera Zodiac/Cosmological
- c. Hellenistic/Roman
 1. Melding of Mesopotamian and Egyptian Proto-Astrology – 2nd c. BCE – Berossus of Kos
 2. Pseudepigrapha – Hermes Trismegistus; Nechepso and Petosiris
 3. Horoscopic Astrology – Ascendant and Zodiac
 4. Planets, Signs, Houses and Aspects
 5. Natal/Genethliology; Mundane; Electional/Katarchic; Horary
 6. Medical Astrology/Melothesia/Iatromathematica (Galen, Hippocrates, Empedocles)
 6. Time Lord Systems (Profections, Primary Directions, Secondary Progressions, Zodiacal Releasing, Transits)
 7. Ptolemy (Causal); Vettius Valens (Symbolic/Enchanted)
- d. Vedic/Jyotish
 1. Nakshatras/Lunar Mansions
 2. Yavanajataka ("Nativity According to the Greeks") – Red Sea Tradewinds
 3. Antedating and Indian Nationalism
 4. Retention of Hellenistic Doctrines/Techniques Lost to the West
- e. Medieval/Perso-Arabic

1. Aristotelian
2. Islamic Golden Age (800-1400 CE)
- f. Renaissance
 1. Ficino; Hermeticism; Magic
 2. William Lilly (Ashmole); Horary; Influence on Golden Dawn
- g. Modern & Postmodern
 1. Theosophy; Alan Leo
 2. Sun Sign Horoscopes
 3. Hippy/New Age; 12-Lettered Alphabet

LINKS TO SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL:

An indispensable resource from the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

<https://iep.utm.edu/hellenistic-astrology/>

A great little article on Renaissance astrology.

<https://williameamon.com/?p=869#:~:text=Astrology%20flourished%20in%20the%20Renaissance,a%20groundswell%20of%20apocalyptic%20prophecies.>

I would link you to some modern astrological “stuff” but we’ve all had enough of that noise over the course of our lives, LOL. In fact, you’d do well to actively try to unlearn some of that, in my opinion.