

SW 338 Ancient Wisdom Versus Modern Science: The Seven Hermetic Laws of the Ancient World

INSTRUCTOR: Yirser Ra Hotep (Elvrid Lawrence), MSW

This class is taught twice in December Term: at O'Hare and at Oak Forest Campuses.

Term: December Term

Location: O'Hare Campus

Days: Tuesday and Thursday

Dates: 11/28/06, 11/30/06, 12/05/06, 12/07/06, 12/12/06

Time: 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Term: December Term

Location: Oak Forest Campus

Days: Saturdays

Dates: 12/02/06 and 12/09/06

Time: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

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Competencies: A-3-G, H-2-X, S-3-A, S-3-E

COURSE OVERVIEW:

BIOGRAPHY

Yirser Ra Hotep (Elvrid Lawrence) has over 30 years of experience as a master practitioner and instructor of Yoga and Tai Chi Chu'an. He has developed a practice as a stress management consultant through his company, YogaSkills Stress Management and Wellness Consultants. Through YogaSkills he provides stress reduction and wellness services for a variety of corporate and public sector clients and individuals. He has presented workshops, lectures and demonstrations through out the U.S., in Cuba, the Caribbean and Africa. He has been featured in Ebony magazine, Chicago Parent Magazine, the Chicago Tribune Newspaper, WGN Television and ABC Television for his work with Yoga in the African American community and for pre-school children and those with special needs. He has produced a set of instructional Yoga videotapes; meditation audiotapes and is the author of a soon to be released book on Yoga.

Yirser holds a Masters degree in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Chicago. In his teaching he seeks to meld ancient spiritual practices with academic research and rigor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Modern science seeks to separate itself from the pursuit of spirituality and natural order. Today we take pride in having a separation of church and state and a dichotomy between what is known and what is not known according to the "scientific method". This modern concept of knowing is largely a recent and western concept. In ancient times myth, science and spirituality were one. The ancient's method of knowing allowed them to come to conclusions about the nature of being and to create great scientific feats that still astound us to this day.

In this class we will explore the method that ancient scientists and sages used to make the world understandable. Chief among these systems was that devised by the supposedly mythological being that the Greeks called Hermes and called Tehuti or Thoth by the ancient Egyptians. These 7 laws of Hermetic Philosophy is a system of thought and spirituality that rivals and even surpasses the modern scientific method in the opinions of many. As modern science advances in all areas from anthropology to quantum physics, to String Theory we are finding that these ancient principles that saw the universe and all

phenomena as part of a unified ALL is profoundly accurate. We are finding that understanding these 7 ancient laws allows us to move our modern scientific method to much higher heights of understanding. We will compare and contrast these ancient laws with the latest scientific theories derived from the fields of Anthropology, Archeology, Astronomy, Sociology and the theories of Quantum Physics.

We will explore such topics as:

1. The origins of human beings and civilization
2. The convergence Modern Physics and Ancient Metaphysics
3. The Bible: Religion, Legend and Myth
4. The True Aim of Medieval Alchemy
5. Ancient Africa: Mother of Civilization, Art, Science and Religion
6. The meaning of the “Matrix” movies

All of these topics will be explored within the context of understanding the 7 Hermetic Laws.

Class One:

In this class we will explore the concepts and theories of cosmology as expressed in ancient “mythology”, religion and modern western science. We will attempt to compare and contrast these ideas of how the universe came into being and analyze the utility of these concepts in navigating our daily lives.

We will next explore the first of the 7 seven Hermetic laws, the Principle of Mentalism and the Concept of the All or God. **Please read in your required text, “Ancient Future”, Part 1: An Introduction to the Seven Hermetic Axioms of Tehuti and Chapter 1. The Principle of Mentalism and the Concept of the All or God in preparation for the first class.**

Handout: “Star of Deep Beginnings”: Chapter 8, Quantum Consciousness: The Fifth Dimension?

Class Two:

Read Chapters 3 and 4 in Ancient Future. Understanding the principles Vibration and Polarity in the ancient and modern contexts. We will also view the movie “What the Bleep do We Know”. This movie explores the nature of reality, the role of the mind in creating reality and the nature of matter and energy. We will discuss issues such as:

- What is Quantum Physics
- What is the Nature of Time
- What is the Nature of Space
- How does the Mind affect perceptions of Time and Space

Class Three:

Lessons from the Matrix: The discussion will center on the philosophical principles that are exhibited in the trilogy of movies: Matrix, Matrix Reloaded and The Matrix Revolution. Students should view these movies in preparation for the class and view them from the perspective of understanding the nature of reality, consciousness and truth.

Questions for discussion include:

- Do we accept the Blue Pill or the Red Pill
- What is Social Conditioning
- Are we in charge of our thoughts
- What steps do we take to realize true consciousness?

We will also explore concepts from ancient Egyptian cosmology, spirituality and consciousness development. Questions to be explored the origins of religious archetypes and the ancient Egyptian origin of civilization.

Class Four:

Chapters 5 and 6 the principles of Gender and Rhythm.

Lessons from the Dogon: In this class we will explore the mysteries of a group of people called Dogon who live in the African country of Mali. The Dogon acquired a high degree of astronomical knowledge which from the western mind is out of proportion to their level of technological development.

- Who are the Dogon
- What is their knowledge and what Wisdom can we gain from them
- How does Dogon Cosmology correspond to that of other ancient cultures
- What are the implications of this correspondence

We will also continue our discussion of Ancient Egypt and the correspondence of Dogon and Egyptian thought.

Read the handout: Star of Deep Beginnings, Chapter 7: The Myth of Matter: The Unity of Consciousness in the e Dogon World System.

Class Five:

Chapter 7, the Principle of Causation. The True Alchemy: Spiritual Transformation.

In addition to the above reading we will explore ancient Egyptian concepts of cosmology, spirituality and consciousness development. We will explore how ancient Egyptian thought has influenced modern consciousness.

Turn in final 6 page essay.

Demonstration of Competence:

Due to the short duration of this class it is important that students attend each session. Grading will be based upon a 6 page written essay, class attendance and class participation. Asking questions and sharing of insight are important aspects of this course that will facilitate learning. There will also be several video presentations that are meant to stimulate idea formation and inform us of little known and suppressed topics.

Essay: The essay for the class should focus on the student's interpretation of the 7 Hermetic principles and how they compare to modern concepts of the nature of reality.

Course Goals:

1. To provide students with a greater knowledge and appreciation of for Ancient, Eastern and Kemetic systems of knowledge, science and spirituality.
2. To help students gain greater insight into self and to appreciate their connection and indeed all of the inter-connections between all phenomena in the Universe, i.e., the SELF and the ALL.
3. To allow students more opportunity to assess the validity of pre-conceived ideas and assumptions about the nature of reality and to create functional paradigms of reality.

All DePaul University policies regarding honesty will be observed and in full effect.

Required Texts: Ancient Future: The Teachings and Prophetic Wisdom of the 7 Hermetic Laws of Ancient Egypt, by, Wayne B. Chandler, Black Classic Press, 1-57478-001-8

Recommended Texts: Star of Deep Beginnings: The Genesis of African Science and Technology, by Dr. Charles Finch, Khenti Publications, 0-9629444-3-2