

Individual Learning Contract

The Evergreen State College

Humphrey	Joshua	A00273693	Senior
Student Last Name	Student First Name	Student ID	Class Standing
Winter 2013	humjos13@evergreen.edu	8	Ta is for Tarot: Cathedral of Mirrors
Term	Email	Credits	Contract Title

Sponsor(s)		
Sarah Williams	8676561	williasa@evergreen.edu
Name	Telephone	Email

Learning Objectives	Activities that will help me to attain this objective	What my sponsor will evaluate
To learn about the history and symbolic nature of The Tarot.	I will read two books on tarot. One is titled The Way of Tarot: The Spiritual Teacher in the Cards by Alejandro Jodorowsky and Marianne Costa. The second book is titled Meditations on Tarot by Anonymous. After reading these two books I hope to have a thorough understanding of the history and symbolism of the Tarot. In order to gain deep understanding and fluidity of use of this tool, I must imprint its esoteric symbolism on my unconscious mind. I will use Goethe's model of delicate empiricism to understand the Tarot not only as a tool of self discovery but also a living breathing entity in and of itself. I will do Tarot readings daily both for myself and for friends and strangers as a way to familiarize myself with the language of the tarot. I will record these readings for personal reflection as well as a possible multi-media montage. I will write poetry based on the relationship I develop with these cards and with myself over the course of a month. At the end of this month, I will write a paper that synthesizes everything I have learned based on my contact with the spirit of the Tarot. I will document all of these things on the class run WordPress titled As Poetry Recycles Neurons: Flocks of Words, Tracks of Letters, Butterflies of the Soul.	My sponsor will evaluate the poetry I write, the Holdrege paper, any multi-media projects I undertake, and all of the WordPress assignments that document my learning experiences over the month of individual research.
To gain a thorough understanding of archetypes and the unconscious through my reading and practices in art, symbolism, mythology, psychology, sociology, religion, and spirituality.	I will complete selected readings including works by C.G. Jung, Mircea Eliade, Alejandro Jodorowsky, Joseph Campbell, Robert Powell, and Heesun Jun. As part of my study into Archetypes and the Unconscious, I will keep a journal of archetypes, in which I will document the qualities and	My sponsor will evaluate my notes and journal of archetypes.

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	attributes of the archetypes I identify through my studies.	
To use the Tarot as a tool to help me identify some of the core beliefs that make me who I am. In so doing, I will gain a better understanding of the archetypes and roles that I play in the context of my community, culture and society.	I will keep a journal of beliefs that I am able to identify through my studies and through my practice of Tarot.	My sponsor will evaluate my journal of beliefs.

Related Experience

During the 2011-2012 academic school year, I was enrolled in a program titled Consciousness: Pathways to the Self. I was exposed to many new ideas during the course of the year, among them archetypes and the unconscious, dream research, cognitive science, mythology, psychology, etc. Through this class, I was exposed to the work of an author, filmmaker, psychologist, and tarologist named Alejandro Jodorowsky. His work has been profoundly influential to me; from the moment I watched The Holy Mountain, I have been fascinated by the use of Tarot as a tool to gain insights into the inner workings of one's own psyche.

Evergreen Faculty I have worked with

I have taken classes with Don Middendorf, Terry Setter, and Rob Esposito

Student Collaborators

Contract Description

In many traditions, the temple summarizes the creation of the universe (the cosmogeny) seen as a divine unit that has exploded into pieces. The Tarot can be seen as such a temple. Alejandro Jodorowsky calls it a nomadic cathedral, whose mirrors reflect the multifaceted nature of the soul. The Tarot is a mandala, with its own spatial orientation, architecture, and symbolic structure. It has been used as a tool of self discovery for centuries. Through examining the history and symbolism of the Tarot, and by practicing the language of reflection in its mirrors, I hope to gain insight into the complex, multidimensional nature of the unconscious. Perhaps it is only through the study of "beauty" that one may grasp the ineffable and the divine. The study of Tarot can therefore be undertaken as a study of "beauty". In many ways, the plasticity and complexity of the Tarot reflects the nature of the human brain. If poetry is one way to recycle neurons, it occurs to me that Tarot must certainly be another; as it too is a language that begs for differential interpretations of its words. In The Way of Tarot, Jodorowsky writes, "You start with a pack of cards, you mix up the arcana and lay them flat, which is to say you cut god into pieces. You interpret them and put them back together in sentences. It is a sacred quest that the initiate reader must perform. God is resuscitated not in immaterial form, but in the material world."

Sponsor and Field Supervisor Support

Critical feedback on writings and projects related to the class.

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Evaluation of Work

- Narrative evaluation from sponsor
- Narrative self-evaluation from student

Student Conditions

No Study Abroad: By signing this contract I understand that I cannot earn any credit for work in this contract that is developed while I am traveling outside of the United States.

No Human Subjects Review: I commit to one of the following: 1) I have listed completing the Human Subjects Review Application as an assignment included in my Learning Activities, or 2) I will NOT be interviewing anyone or using information given to me for this contract by anyone that may put him/her at risk in this contract and that if it is realized by the College that I do use this type of information in my contract, I will not get credit for the work.

General Condition of Contract: I understand that I will be charged a late fee if the Academic Deans Office (or Graduate Director/Assistant Director for Graduate Students) receives my contract after 5 p.m. Friday of Week One for the quarter for which I am registering.

Student Signature:

Approved online by
Signature

Date

Approval Signatures Needed

Before your contract will be registered, you will need to get the approval signatures listed below. If your sponsor approves your contract online, their email will appear as the online approval on the signature line.

Facilities Signature:
Head of Instructional Media

Signature

Date

Contract Sponsor Signature:

Approved online by

Signature

Date

Academic Dean Signature:

Approved online by

Signature

Date