

SYLLABUS
857: EVOLUTIONARY ASTROLOGY
Three-Day Residential (Fall) and Distance Learning
FACULTY: Patricia Bechdolt, Th.D.
Date Revised: 6/15/10

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The three-day residential component is held during Campus at Unity Village near Kansas City, Missouri. Astrology reflects the energetic relationship between the cosmos and humankind that has been taught by philosophers and metaphysicians for millennia. This mirroring between the universal and the personal is understood through the phrase, "As above, so below." The unique arrangement of the astrological symbols in your birth chart creates a set of living, dynamic directions that reflect your soul's intentions for evolutionary growth. In this innovative course, participants will learn integrative techniques that will deepen their understanding of their life and experience by using astrology as a template. While astrologers study for many years in order to read the charts of others, students will learn how to derive rich insights from their own chart, even if they have no prior astrological experience. Rather than studying astrology directly, students will study themselves and learn some astrology along the way, using their natal chart and the 115-page workbook written for this course. The ability to see new patterns, new solutions, and new possibilities in our chart evolves as we do, so the foundational skills students develop in this course may be built upon for years to come.

Note: The date, location, and exact time of your birth are required to calculate your natal chart – please see the Additional Information for this Course section below if you do not have this information.

FACULTY BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Bechdolt received her Doctorate from Holos University with an extended emphasis in Energy Medicine/Medical Intuition, and has received certification from the *Institute for Scientific Medical Intuition*. Her astrology practice is based in Los Angeles, California.

FACULTY CONTACT INFORMATION

Faculty Name: Patricia Bechdolt, Th.D.
E-mail Address: pbechdolt@aol.com
Website: www.IntegrativeAstrology.com, www.AstrologyWorkshops.com
Phone Number: 213-955-5242
Address: N/A
Conference Call #: 805-360-1000 - Access Code: 183856#

COURSE DELIVERY STYLE & PLAN OF ACTION

This course consists of a three-day residential, telephone conferences, and distance assignments. Students are asked to contact the instructor via e-mail upon enrolling in the course, and to provide their birth data to the instructor prior to the residential as follows:

- * Date of birth
 - * Exact time of birth
 - * Location of birth
 - * Source of birth time, e.g. birth certificate, adoption record, hospital record, family record or memory
- Students will receive a copy of their natal chart at the residential.
Students will begin the distance assignments after attending the residency.

Distance Learning Component:

Students will fulfill the distance-learning component of the coursework by developing in-depth written discussions of individual symbols in their natal chart as practiced at the residential and as described in the

assignment section. Students will complete the semester with an integrative paper in which they will synthesize the earlier assignments with additional astrological symbols in their chart, using an individualized, holistic interpretive framework provided to each student by the instructor.

Timeline:

The assignments are to be completed approximately three to four weeks apart. Please allow ample time to work both actively and reflectively with the symbols of your chart for each assignment. For example, reviewing the symbols in the workbook and then taking a walk can be an effective means of allowing them to be woven together intuitively, yielding conscious awareness and insight without focusing directly on the lists themselves. Finding a method that works best for you is part of the process.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Discuss the major astrological symbols of the natal chart, including: twelve key planetary symbols, the twelve zodiacal signs and their symbols, and the arrangement of the twelve astrological houses.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the shared themes among the astrological planets, zodiacal signs, and astrological houses.
- Develop and demonstrate observational skills through visual/intuitive exercises using sample charts.
- Apply an integrative process to derive meaningful interpretations from the synthesis of planets, zodiacal signs, and astrological houses in their chart.
- Utilize a holistic perspective of their natal chart as a means of integrating various independent themes within the natal chart.
- Demonstrate a capacity for using their natal chart to explore the physical, intellectual, emotional, and/or spiritual dimensions of their experience
- Demonstrate how astrology, as a language of human experience, may be applied to identify more fulfilling expressions of self in any area of life, thereby reinforcing their awareness of the interface between the universal and the personal.
- Discover and explain alternatives or solutions for seemingly irreconcilable or paradoxical life themes within a sample chart.
- Apply the lecture material and discussion of current and future planetary alignments to their natal chart.
- Describe the role of the Ascendant in their chart as a means of integrating the various themes of their chart into holistic expression moment-to-moment, day-to-day.
- Discuss their understanding of the Ascendant and the zodiacal sign in which it is found as a means of integrating the spiritual and physical dimensions of self.
- Apply their understanding of the nature of the Sun as a center of gravity and as a vital life force in terms of its zodiacal sign and house placement in their chart.
- Discuss the Moon in their natal chart as reflecting the realm of their inner life: emotion, feeling nature, needs of the heart, and/or longings.
- Utilize the Moon in their chart as a metaphor for home, identifying it as one of several dimensions of the chart that describe any or all of the following: feeling at home in life, security, safety, comfort, support, tribe, family. Integrate the style (sign of the zodiac) and context (house of the chart) in order to describe life experiences that would contribute to a rich experience of the Moon in these areas.
- Express their experience of the Moon in their chart as it relates to the receptive/energetically feminine nature, instinctual or “gut level” intuition, and/or emotional intuition.
- Discuss Saturn as the archetypal Great Teacher, including lessons that may call for facing fear, doubt, perceived restriction, or issues with authority as a means to a building a life of personal authority, wisdom, and authenticity in the areas where Saturn resides.
- Discuss Pluto as the archetypal Psychologist or Archeologist, with which we can uncover unconscious motivations and power/disempowerment issues as a means of experiencing greater personal empowerment in the areas where Pluto resides.

- Discuss Pluto as the planet associated with transformation that often occurs through metaphorical processes of death and rebirth, and the empowerment that derives from surrendering to those processes.

RESIDENTIAL REGISTRATION

Register with the HU Bursar, Marilyn McGehee (888-272-6109) for the residency portion of the course. There is an additional \$25.00 per day fee for residency classes held at Unity Village.

HOLOS FACULTY-STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Students and instructor communicate frequently via email, and phone conferences create a collegial forum for sharing ideas among class participants. Telephone conferences and calls with instructors are the student's expense. Faculty should inform students of any times that they are not available for email or phone communication. Students should inform instructors if they will not be available for scheduled phone conferences. Students should allow three days for a response after emailing an instructor. If you have not received a response after three days, re-send the email, call the instructor and leave a voice message. If you have still not received a response after two more days, forward your email communications with the instructor to the Dean of Faculty. Further action will be determined by the Dean of Faculty.

ASSIGNMENT FORMATS

- All written assignments must be **Microsoft Word** documents sent by email as attached files.
- All papers should be **double-spaced**.
- **FONT:** Times or Times New Roman.
- **E-MAIL SUBJECT LINE:** Always include your name and the Assignment number in the subject line of your E-mail and on the title page of your assigned papers.
- **END NOTES:** All referenced material must be cited using endnotes. Include the Author's name, the publication name, the publisher, the date of publication, and the page number.
- **FILE NAME:** **When you "save" your document**, you **MUST** use the following format to name your Word file: Or your file will be returned so that you can add the proper file name and format: The document you attach to your e-mail should be in the following format:

SmithJ_887#1.doc. (Last Name, First Initial_Course #, Assignment#.doc) Use Times, Times New Roman, or Helvetica fonts, 12 pt. and cite all referenced material using *Chicago Manual of Style* endnotes.

OUTLINE OF ASSIGNMENTS & PERCENTAGE OF COURSE

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|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Participation in Residential | = 10% of final grade |
| Participation in Conference Calls | = 05% of final grade |
| Assignment #1 Sun and Ascendant | = 15% of final grade |
| Assignment #2 The Moon | = 15% of final grade |
| Assignment #3 Saturn and Pluto | = 15% of final grade |
| Assignment #4 Special Topic | = 15% of final grade |
| Assignment #5 Integrative Final | = 25% of final grade |

DETAILS OF ASSIGNMENTS

COURSE RESIDENCY

Residential Date: October 4 - 6

Percentage of Grade: 10%

Learning Outcomes of Course Residency - Students will:

- Discuss the major astrological symbols of the natal chart, including: twelve key planetary symbols, the twelve zodiacal signs and their symbols, and the arrangement of the twelve astrological houses.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the shared themes among the astrological planets, zodiacal signs, and astrological houses.
- Develop and demonstrate observational skills through visual/intuitive exercises using sample charts.
- Apply an integrative process to derive meaningful interpretations from the synthesis of planets, zodiacal signs, and astrological houses in their chart.
- Demonstrate a capacity for using their natal chart to explore the physical, intellectual, emotional, and/or spiritual dimensions of their experience
- Demonstrate how astrology, as a language of human experience, may be applied to identify more fulfilling expressions of self in any area of life, thereby reinforcing their awareness of the interface between the universal and the personal.
- Discover and explain alternatives or solutions for seemingly irreconcilable or paradoxical life themes within a sample chart.
- Apply the lecture material and discussion of current and future planetary alignments to their natal chart.

Required Texts and/or Materials: Bechdolt, Patricia Th.D., **857 Evolutionary Astrology Workbook**.

Residential Description: Days 1 & 2 of the three-day residential will establish the context and skills needed for students' semester-long self-exploration. It will emphasize the interface between the universal and the personal by including:

- A brief history of Western astrology
- An overview of astrological theory
- An introduction to the astrological symbols
- A discussion of astrology as a psychospiritual language
- A demonstration of an integrative methodological approach
- Perspective on the evolution of human consciousness as it correlates with the current shifting of the astrological ages

Using personal and other sample astrological charts, students will participate in interpretive practice and in visual/intuitive exercises for developing observational and integrative skill. The instructor will work one-to-one with students, as needed, as they use the method and workbook to explore their chart. Time will also be allotted each day for general astrological questions as they pertain to the coursework.

Day three of the residential will focus on an in-depth discussion of current and future planetary alignments, as well as suggestions for the practical application of their energies at the personal level. By working with an individualized chart provided, students will apply the skills learned in the first two days of the residential in order to develop a basic understanding of how current planetary activity aligns with their natal chart. This may be described as a look at each student's personal "astrological weather," or an inquiry into how the general astrological climate may be understood in terms of the individual's unfolding sense of life purpose in present time.

ASSIGNMENT #1

Due Date: TBA at residential

Percentage of Grade: 15%

Learning Outcomes of Assignment- Students will:

- Describe the role of the Ascendant in your chart as a means of integrating the various themes of your chart into holistic expression moment-to-moment, day-to-day.
- Discuss your understanding of the Ascendant and the zodiacal sign in which it is found as a means of integrating the spiritual and physical dimensions of self.
- Interpret the nature of the Sun as a center of gravity and as a vital life force in terms of its zodiacal sign and house placement in your chart.

Required Texts and/or Materials: Bechdolt, Patricia Th.D., 857 Evolutionary Astrology Workbook.

Assignment Description:

Discuss your observations, interpretations and insights regarding the Sun and Ascendant (rising sign) in your natal chart. Review the essence of the Sun itself, then holistically integrate those themes with the house and sign in which the Sun is found in your chart. Review the details on the Ascendant that are found in your workbook and class notes, and integrate those themes with the zodiacal sign found at the Ascendant in your chart. Include in your discussion your experience of some of the higher and lesser (light/shadow) expressions of the Sun sign/house and the Ascendant sign, and any aversion or attraction to particular descriptive words in the workbook (or their opposites). Note any words that feel like an ideal expression of your potential in these areas, and comment on any less-than-ideal approximations of those qualities that you tend to choose in your life instead. 5-8 pages

ASSIGNMENT #2

Due Date: TBA at residential

Percentage of Grade: 15%

Learning Outcomes of Assignment - Students will:

- Discuss the Moon in their natal chart as reflecting the realm of their inner life: emotion, feeling nature, needs of the heart, and/or longings.
- Utilize the Moon in their chart as a metaphor for home, identifying it as one of several dimensions of the chart that describe any or all of the following: feeling at home in life, security, safety, comfort, support, tribe, family. Integrate the style (sign of the zodiac) and context (house of the chart) in order to describe life experiences that would contribute to a rich experience of the Moon in these areas.
- Express their experience of the Moon in their chart as it relates to the receptive/energetically feminine nature, instinctual or “gut level” intuition, and/or emotional intuition.

Required Texts and/or Materials: Bechdolt, Patricia Th.D., 857 Evolutionary Astrology Workbook.

Assignment Description:

Discuss your observations, interpretations and insights regarding the Moon in your natal chart. Include discussion of the nature of the Moon itself, then holistically integrate those themes with the house and sign in which the Moon is found. Include in your discussion your experience of some of the higher and lesser (light/shadow) expressions of the Moon sign/house, and any aversion or attraction to particular descriptive words in the workbook (or their opposites). Note any words that feel like an ideal expression of your potential in these areas, and comment on any less-than-ideal approximations of those qualities that you tend to choose in your life instead. 5-8 pages.

PHONE CONFERENCE #1

Phone number: 805-360-1000

Access Code: 183856#

Time: 1 hour

Percentage of Grade: 5%

Learning Outcomes of Conference: Variable, depending on questions and topics chosen for discussion.

Required Texts and/or Materials: N/A

Description of Conference:

Conference call content will focus first on students' questions as they pertain to the assignments, and then as they pertain to their unfolding understanding of astrology. Specific questions from one student can typically be generalized into lecture/discussion that benefits the group; therefore this presents an opportunity for students to participate in choosing the subject matter for a continuation of the lecture and Q&A elements of the residential. Students will submit questions to the instructor in advance (by email), so that the time and content may be organized most effectively for all. Additional questions that arise during the call will also be addressed as time permits.

ASSIGNMENT #3

Due Date: TBA at residential

Percentage of Grade: 15%

Learning Outcomes of Assignment – Students will:

- Discuss Saturn as the archetypal Great Teacher, including lessons that may call for facing fear, doubt, perceived restriction, or issues with authority as a means to a building a life of personal authority, wisdom, and authenticity in the areas where Saturn resides.
- Discuss Pluto as the archetypal Psychologist or Archeologist, with which we can uncover unconscious motivations and power/disempowerment issues as a means of experiencing greater personal empowerment in the areas where Pluto resides.
- Discuss Pluto as the planet associated with transformation that often occurs through metaphorical processes of death and rebirth, and the empowerment that derives from surrendering to those processes.

Required Texts and/or Materials: Bechdolt, Patricia Th.D., **857 Evolutionary Astrology Workbook**.

Assignment Description:

Discuss your observations, interpretations and insights regarding Saturn and Pluto in your natal chart. Include discussion of the nature of the planets themselves, then holistically integrate those themes with those of the house and sign in which each planet is found. Include in your discussion your experience of some of the higher and lesser (light/shadow) expressions of the signs and houses where Saturn and Pluto are found, and any aversion or attraction to particular descriptive words in the workbook (or their opposites). Note any words that feel like an ideal expression of your potential in these areas, and comment on any less-than-ideal approximations of those qualities that you tend to choose in your life instead. 5-8 pages.

ASSIGNMENT #4

Due Date: TBA at residential

Percentage of Grade: 15%

Learning Outcomes of Assignment: Variable, depending upon the assignment topic chosen.

Required Texts and/or Materials: Bechdolt, Patricia Th.D., **857 Evolutionary Astrology Workbook**.

Assignment Description:

This assignment may be substituted for a special topic of interest to the student upon approval of the instructor. In lieu of such a request, students will discuss their observations, interpretations and insights into their spiritual path, and the role of healing and service in their lives as reflected in their natal chart. 5-8 pages.

PHONE CONFERENCE #2

Phone number: 805-360-1000

Access Code: 183856#

Time: 1 hour

Percentage of Grade: 5%

Learning Outcomes of Conference: Variable, depending on questions and topics chosen for discussion.

Required Texts and/or Materials: N/A

Description of Conference:

Conference call content will focus first on students' questions as they pertain the assignments, and then as they pertain to their unfolding understanding of astrology. Specific questions from one student can typically be generalized into lecture/discussion that benefits the group; therefore this presents an opportunity for students to participate in choosing the subject matter for a continuation of the lecture and Q&A elements of the residential. Students will submit questions to the instructor in advance (by email), so that the time and content may be organized most effectively for all. Additional questions that arise during the call will also be addressed as time permits.

ASSIGNMENT #5

Due Date: TBA at residential

Percentage of Grade: 25%

Learning Outcomes of Assignment- Students will:

- Utilize a holistic perspective of their natal chart as a means of integrating various independent themes within the natal chart.
- Demonstrate a capacity for using their natal chart for exploration of the physical, intellectual, emotional, and/or spiritual dimensions of their experience.
- Demonstrate how astrology, as a language of human experience, may be applied to identify more fulfilling expressions of self in any area of life, thereby reinforcing their awareness of the interface between the universal and the personal.

Required Texts and/or Materials: Bechdolt, Patricia Th.D., **857 Evolutionary Astrology Workbook**.

Assignment Description:

One month prior to the due date for this assignment, the instructor will provide each student with a brief written interpretation of central themes in their birth chart. Using this metaphorical interpretation as context, students will synthesize their observations from prior assignments and interpret the remaining planets in their chart. Particular emphasis will be placed on seeking a holistic understanding of the interconnections between all elements of the chart. 15-20 pages in length.

FINAL ASSIGNMENT:

Complete and return the course evaluation form you will receive a course evaluation form in August and February. You will receive notification of your final course grades only after you have submitted an evaluation for all courses you completed this semester. Students who plan to take an Incomplete in a course must wait until finishing a course before returning the evaluation form for the course.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THIS COURSE

Please note: You will need to know the time of your birth to enroll in this course. It may be found on your birth certificate, hospital birth record, adoption record, or in family records. If you do not have these documents, or it is not listed on any of them, it may still be possible to obtain it. Please contact the instructor first for suggestions on how best to go about it. Obtaining your birth record can take several weeks or longer, so please initiate the process well in advance of the semester.

The instructor may customize each assignment as appropriate (according to the details of each student's natal astrological chart) in order for students' interpretative discussions to be as holistic and meaningful as possible.