

UK College of Holistic Training

DIPLOMA IN TAROT STUDIES

Course fee: £ 175.00

### **Course overview**

This course charts the Medieval and esoteric history of the Tarot and, blending intuitive interpretation, symbolic understanding and historical information, presents a simple yet profound method of reading the cards for meditation and divination.

The course is for people new to the Tarot who want to understand what it is, where it came from and how to use it for a reading. It is also for experienced Tarot readers who want a qualification to enhance their professional profiles, and to develop their wider knowledge of Tarot tradition.

Styles of Tarot consultation vary considerably with many different packs in use, many spreads and styles of reading, and many ways of interpretation. No one course can teach them all - and nobody will use all of them - but a course such as this acts as a central focus from which to develop your fascination with the Tarot and decide how it is most useful on your individual spiritual, artistic and/or helping or counselling path.

We do not expect you to master all the meanings and be a proficient Tarot reader in the time it takes you to do this course. That takes time and experience, plus a certain amount of intuition, and you will have the textbook to help you as you keep learning. This course is in "Tarot studies" - it is not in itself a qualification as a Tarot reader. We are looking for your understanding of Tarot history and symbolism, and your aptitude for appreciating Tarot and allowing associations and intuitive interpretations to come forth when you are contemplating particular cards. The final assignment asks you to perform a reading, but this may be done in "open book" fashion, allowing you to consult the textbook (and any other sources you wish) for interpretations.

There are no particular entry qualifications for this course but we expect a good standard of written English and a genuine interest in learning more about the Tarot.

### KEY TEXT

Key text: Place, Robert M. *The Tarot: History, Symbolism and Divination*. Jeremy P. Tarcher/Penguin, 2005.

Nb. This book is available on Kindle. Some people have reported that the Kindle edition is awkward to use.

However after being out of print for some time, it is now available again in paperback from Amazon, produced by Amazon's print-on-demand service. Also several sellers are offering new copies at reduced price via Amazon. So we recommend obtaining a paperback copy for the best experience.

If you prefer you can buy the enhanced "coffee table" edition of the book, with extra illustrations, which is:

Place, Robert M. *The Fool's Journey: The History, Art & Symbolism of the Tarot*. Lulu.com, 2010.

This edition is available from Amazon and from Lulu.com. You can find out more about this edition by looking at the description and reviews on Amazon.com

Either edition can be used for your studies.

FREE BOOK: UK students will receive a free copy of the standard paperback edition. Students outside the UK will need to purchase it separately.

### Course content:

The course consists of studying the set text and answering a series of written assignments based on the text and any other information you have available. A bibliography of additional optional reading will be provided.

The course explores the history and development of the Tarot from 15<sup>th</sup> century Northern Italy onwards through various editions.

From the 18<sup>th</sup> century many myths circulated about the origin of the Tarot as occultists became interested in it. Connections were made between the Tarot and Hermeticism, Kabbalah, the mysticism of the Hebrew alphabet, alchemy, Egyptian mystery cults and English occultism. Arthur Edward Waite (1857-1942) developed one of the most popular decks still used today.

The set text author discusses the esotericism and "mythical history" surrounding the Tarot and the key figures who developed various ideas about it.

The culture, meaning and philosophy embedded in the Tarot are then explored in greater depth bringing in the influences of Renaissance culture and the thought of 15<sup>th</sup>-century Italy, the 19<sup>th</sup>-century German Neoplatonists, and the rediscovery of classical Greek philosophy. Other influences were astrology, Kabbalah, art and Christian mysticism and allegory.

The imagery of each Tarot card is then looked at more closely using the Marseilles Tarot as an example because it depicts the traditional symbolism most clearly. The Trumps are interpreted as an allegorical hierarchy or a heroic journey, and though some Christian figures (e.g. the Hermit, the Pope) are featured, the hero of the Tarot is not Jesus but you or me. Knowing the history of each image helps you to remember the meaning of the symbols incorporated into the artwork of the cards.

The minor cards also receive attention and these were influenced by Islamic traditions, altered by Europeans to suit their society. The four suits were associated with various themes including virtues and social classes and later with Jung's psychological functions.

The next part of the course gives a commentary on the images of the Waite-Smith deck, useful as a guide for interpretation.

Finally the course turns to methods of divination which is communication from the Higher Self or allowing the unconscious mind to craft a message from the cards that appear in the spread. The more we have fed our unconscious minds with details about the symbolism of the cards, the richer the "language" our minds have for gleaning the meaning of the cards being read. Instructions are given for spreads from the simple but versatile 3-card spread to the elaborate twelve-house reading, and key techniques are given to connect the cards to patterns of action, parts of the body, and "houses" or aspects of life.

Altogether what you will learn will provide a sound basis for understanding and working with the Tarot and information that can be used by the beginner or experienced Tarot consultant.

Course web page:

[http://www.kadmon-academy.org.uk/diploma\\_tarot\\_studies.html](http://www.kadmon-academy.org.uk/diploma_tarot_studies.html)

UKCHT main web site URL : <http://www.ukcht.uk>

Email: [contact@ukcht.uk](mailto:contact@ukcht.uk)

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