

New Masters Degree Program For Archetypal Cosmology

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Program Coordinator Glenn Perry Says Distance Learning Program Is Collaboration Between The Graduate Institute (TGI) and Academy of AstroPsychology.



Astrological students and those who have never studied the subject before can enroll in a new Master's Degree Program in **Conscious Evolution/Archetypal Cosmology Track** that is being offered by The Graduate Institute (TGI) in Bethany, Connecticut.

Glenn Perry, Ph.D., the lead faculty and program coordinator for the accredited distance learning program, says TGI "is an extraordinary institution that specializes in emerging fields of inquiry — cross disciplinary areas of study that entail the convergence of two or more academic disciplines. Many renowned scholars are involved with TGI, including Bernie Siegel and Carolyn Myss in integrative medicine, Rupert Sheldrake in holistic learning and Ervin Laszlo in conscious evolution."

The new program is the result of collaboration between TGI and the Academy of AstroPsychology, an online school founded by Perry that is committed to the goal of integrating astrology and psychology.

A professional astrologer and licensed psychotherapist in private practice for more than 30 years, Perry has a Masters Degree in Marriage and Family Counseling and a Ph.D. in Consciousness Studies from Saybrook Institute in San Francisco. He has written seven books and more than 100 articles on psychological astrology, and lectures internationally on the application of astrology to the fields of counseling and psychotherapy.

Perry serves as a Board member and qualitative research advisor for the International Society for Astrological Research (ISAR). He has taught graduate courses at the California Institute for Integrated Studies in San Francisco, and has been employed as clinical evaluator and adjunct professor at Antioch College in California, Union College in Schenectady, NY, and Goddard College in Vermont for students integrating astrology into their coursework.

He was featured on the A&E television program, "The Unexplained," as a spokesperson for the application of astrology in the mental health professions. His *AstroPsychology Newsletter* has nearly 3000 subscribers.

In an interview with the Astrological News Service (ANS) he provided the following insights:

ANS: What is unique about the Master's Degree program that is being offered at The Graduate Institute?

GP: What's most unique about the program is archetypal cosmology itself. The term "archetypal cosmology" originated with *Archai: the Journal of Archetypal Cosmology*, which is the brainchild of Educator Richard Tarnas, Journal Editor Keiron Le Grice and a group of scholars in San Francisco. Synchronistically, the journal began just as we were developing our program on the east coast.

As they put it, archetypal cosmology is the study of correlations between cyclical alignments of planets and archetypal patterns in human experience. Beyond this, the program addresses the theoretical basis of these correlations and their implications for a broader, more encompassing worldview that bridges ancient philosophy with new paradigm sciences like chaos and complexity theory.

As an emerging field, archetypal cosmology is cross disciplinary; it draws from a variety of related subject areas, including depth psychology, Neo-platonic philosophy, consciousness studies, mythology, history, the arts, culture and biography. You'll never be bored studying archetypal cosmology!

The program's main goal is to facilitate the evolution of consciousness through archetypal pattern analysis. This involves analysis of the central archetypal dynamics operating in an individual's life as symbolized by the birth chart and manifested in their character and everyday experiences. Archetypal pattern analysis also addresses individual responses to personal astrological transits as well as collective human responses to world transits.

ANS: Is it necessary to have a background in astrology to sign up for the program?

GP: No, not at all. Many students are studying astrology for the first time, while others have over twenty years of experience. Each student brings something unique to the class and we all learn from each other. It's synergistic, just like the astrological chart!

ANS: What does the coursework cover?

GP: Courses include not only the history and theory of astrology, but more importantly how astrology is best utilized in a counseling setting. Students learn astrology as a psychological language, diagnostic tool and developmental model. Its value as an aid to conscious evolution is especially emphasized, most notably through experiential work that combines natal analysis with personal mythology. Support for conscious evolution is built into every course, encouraging students to collaborate with planetary cycles toward the enfoldment of their highest potential. This infuses the learning of astrology with tremendous personal significance. Students keep telling me its like fireworks going off inside their heads.

ANS: What is the Academy of AstroPsychology and what is its involvement in the new TGI program?

GP: The Academy's main purpose is to enrich the field of astrology through the systematic integration of psychological concepts and practices. The Academy offers several courses that are geared to different needs. The Mentorship Program is a three-level correspondence course that enables students to learn at their own pace. By the end of this year, the Mentorship Program will be expanded to six courses of six lessons each and will cover everything from chart synthesis, counseling skills, ethics and transits/progressions as catalysts to growth and development.

Last year the Academy became affiliated with The Graduate Institute. The Masters Degree in Archetypal Cosmology and Conscious Evolution is an external degree program involving two stages: the first six courses are a stand-alone Certificate Program with an option to do four additional courses, a mentorship, and a final project (thesis) for the M.A. degree. Both the Certificate and M.A. program involve weekly, online classes. Whereas the certificate can be earned in nine months, the master's degree is a two-year program that includes twelve days of on-campus learning each year (one six-day symposium every six months).

ANS: What are the program dates?

GP: A new cohort begins every six months. The next will be May 3rd of this year, with another slated for September. Free online informational sessions are planned for Saturday, Feb. 26 at 12 p.m. EST and again on Thursday, March 3 at 7 p.m. EST. Sign up at www.learn.edu/events. Additional information on the program is available at www.astropsychology.org and at www.learn.edu/ceac.

ANS: How did you get started in astrology?

GP: Right after college in 1972 I started reading astrology voraciously, although I had no intention at the time of becoming an astrologer. I had migrated to Hollywood from the east coast to write screenplays. However, my studies in astrology, metaphysics and a host of related subjects took hold and pretty soon I was giving lectures and doing readings. When some of my clients turned out to have issues that I was not equipped to handle, I decided to go to graduate school with the intention of becoming a psychotherapist. I got licensed and started my private practice in 1979. Astrology remained my first love, but immersion in psychology gave my astrological work greater depth, rigor and substance. There's no better way to learn astrology than to work with patients in psychotherapy. You really get to see how they're living their birth charts, and how expression of the chart changes in accord with the client's growth and development.

ANS: Who were the teachers that influenced you the most?

GP: I was very fortunate to have met Richard Idemon in 1975 when I was just getting started. He was lecturing in Los Angeles during a period when there was a general revolt against the traditional, event-oriented, concretely predictive astrology that had preceded it. It's noteworthy that over the last two decades we've been seeing a counter-revolution back towards traditional astrology, which is perhaps a corrective to the excesses of the first psychological wave.

Astrology, like any other field, evolves in a pendulum-like manner, with each movement compensating and swinging back against its predecessor, but always evolving toward higher, more complex levels of understanding.

In any event, Richard was absolutely brilliant. His work was rooted in a Jungian framework, but he also had many original ideas that seemed to derive from his unique ability to synthesize information from a wide variety of sources, including mythology, comparative religion, history, literature and biography. I continued to study with him while I was in graduate school right up until his death in 1987. Unfortunately, his only published books are transcriptions of two live seminars he did with London astrologer Liz Greene that were published after his death.

ANS: You've written several books. Which is your favorite and why?

GP: I suppose my favorite book is whichever one I'm working on at the moment. I'm so consumed with writing that I've never taken the time to actually have them formally published; I just self-publish and move on to the next one. Most of my work is centered on psychological astrology, but I've also written on issues and ethics in the field of astrology and on research methodologies.

To answer your question, however, I think my favorite is *Depth Analysis in the Natal Chart*. It represents the cutting edge of my thinking and breaks new ground in a variety of areas, particularly with regard to psychodynamics of the birth chart. For example, in the book I explore how pathogenic beliefs resulting from developmental trauma can be indicated by certain hard astrological aspects, which symbolize both the origins of psychopathology and its possible consequences.

While I love theory, I tend to be very pragmatic. All of my theoretical formulations are grounded in case histories with actual patients. Concepts like "repetition compulsion" and "compromise formation" may sound somewhat arcane, but they're very learnable and applicable to single session counseling with astrological clients.