# Course Design Worksheet

# Course Design Sheet (Appropriate for Syllabus)

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| **Course Title:** | W102 An Introduction to Modern Western Methods of Refining Natal Chart Interpretation |
| **Course Content:** | The course introduces students to the basics of astrological symbolism and applications developed in Western cultures and in current use. W102 introduces students to natal patterns and chart points that clarify natal interpretation, such as: house systems, moon phases, sign divisions, harmonics, declinations, configurations, sensitive points and minor bodies such as asteroids. |
| **What’s the benefit of taking this course?**  | The benefit is learning to apply the analysis model to various systems of Western astrological tradition from medieval to modern use and to distinguish between the tools most appropriate for refining the natal chart interpretation. |
| **What prerequisites would help the student be successful?** | Students should have an understanding of the basic components of chart interpretation: planets, signs, houses and aspects. |
| **How does each week contribute to the overall goal for the course?** | Weekly practice of each new interpretive technique is presented through reading, practical application, discussion board post, live chat and optional self-directed quiz. |
| **Required books (max $30-$35 for a five week class, $50-$60 for 10 weeks)** | \*Burk, Kevin. 2001. Understanding the Birth Chart. Llewellyn Books: St. Paul, MN. (paperback $7.00 – 17.95, kindle $16.88 Amazon)\*George, Demetra. 2008. Astrology and the Authentic Self, Ibis Press, Florida. (paperback $20.49 - 24.95 Amazon\*Hand, Rob. 1981. *Horoscope Symbols,* Whitford Press, Atglen, Pennsylvania.(paperback $24.95 new, $13.47 used, kindle $19.99 Amazon) |
| Student Learning (Appropriate for Syllabus) |
| **What key things should students know by the end of the course?** | Students should know the lineage of each method and any controversy surrounding it. As well, they should understand the importance of a broad range of natal interpretation methods before specializing in one tradition. Finally, students should be able to confidently understand and practice astrology interpretation basics to join the astrology community in local and international conferences. |
| **How will evaluation be determined: Quizzes, assignments, forums, labs, student presentations, online discussion?** | Students are evaluated weekly on homework based on the reading and its practical application to a natal chart, as well as their discussion board posts and live chat participation. Quizzes are optional, but the final exam is open book. |
| **What is necessary for the student to pass: Is a percentage assigned to each activity in determining final grade?** | 36% homework, 30% live chat participation, 18% discussion participation, 16% final exam = 100% Final Assessment Total: 94-100% Pass with Distinction, 70-93% Pass, 0-69%, Incomplete/Not passing, or 0% Audit (not for credit) |

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| Summary Course Description Are you curious about the wealth of additional information to be gleaned from the astrology basics: planets, signs, houses and aspects? W102 provides interpretive tools to distinguish: 1. A planet’s strength through additional modifiers 2. A general “sun sign” to personal clarity; 3. A “whole sign house” to birth location relevance; 4. A clarity and emphasis from the “the conversation” between planets in close aspect in both longitude and declination. W102 provides a major step toward more personally specific chart interpretation. |

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| Weekly Outlines – Week one establishes the setting. Final week is course project and student evaluation. |
| **Week \_1\_\_** | **How does this week fit into the overall goal for the course:** | 1. Provides an “Overview” of what is to be studied to modify, clarify and personalize the natal chart interpretation2. Briefly introduces the wide range of astrological “Traditions” over 5,000 years and importance of broad learning before specialization |
|  | **Presentation: Primary & secondary topics - historical origins / traditions / controversies**  | Philosophically, a wide range exists in the astrology community on “fate vs free will” and what can be seen in the chart.  |
|  | **Students will be familiar with the following concepts:**  | From reading the “philosophical excerpts” from twelve noted astrologers, students become aware of the diverse range of opinion on one’s degree of “fate vs free will” and how the chart is interpreted. |
|  | **Students will apply the following techniques/principles:** | In written homework students respond to, “Where do you stand along the continuum of fate vs free will?” |
|  | **Topic for discussion forum:** | Please share your background and particular areas of interest in astrology. How long have you studied astrology? What do you hope to learn in this course?  |
|  | **Other assignments (quiz, lab, reading, etc):**  | Weekly expectations: 1. Completion of reading, 2. Completion of homework, 3. Discussion Board post, 4. Live Chat participation |
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| Weekly Outlines – Week one establishes the setting. Final week is course project and student evaluation. |
| **Week \_10\_** | **How does this week fit into the overall goal for the course:** | Week 10 provides convincing evidence of the students’ skill level in natal chart interpretation, with instructor noted strengths to carry forward, and any weaknesses for future practice. |
|  | **Presentation: Primary & secondary topics - historical origins / traditions / controversies**  | Week 10 is total student practicum of “sight reading” significant features of natal charts in live chat, then completing both parts of the final exam. |
|  | **Students will be familiar with the following concepts:**  | 1. The importance of tools that modify the expression of planets, signs, houses and aspects to clarify and personalize the chart for the client2. The importance of close aspects, relevant to the planets/angles/signs/houses involved, in identifying major life themes |
|  | **Students will apply the following techniques/principles:** | To a given natal chart:1. Interpret planet/angle close aspects and declination emphasis 2. Interpret major asteroids in chart plus any major stars to ASC or MC3. Interpret at least 3 house systems and explain why they are used4. Interpret Moon phase and significance of Lunar Nodes in the chart5. Interpret significant midpoints of Lights/Angles |
|  | **Topic for discussion forum:** | What was your favorite lesson and why? What was your least favorite lesson and why? |
|  | **Other assignments (quiz, lab, reading, etc):**  | 1. Live Chat Practicum: chart interpretation practice2. Open Book objective exam 60% and Delineation essay 40% |
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