

Jeremy Taylor

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CNS5280: Dreams, Archetypes and Personal Mythology

Winter 2007

Meetings: Mondays, 4:30-7pm

Jan 8, 22, 29; Feb 5, 12, 19, 26; March 5, 2007

Description:

Our unconscious symbolic life is the foundation of waking experience. Our dreams give us invaluable clues to these hidden structures of our lives. We will share and work in depth with our dreams and with the great mythic themes and patterns which Jung called "archetypes," and Ralph Waldo Emerson called "intimations of the world soul." We will look at the most important patterns and themes with an eye to identifying our own mythology and uncovering our personal story as its meaning unfolds in the complex, fascinating and always healing narratives we call dreams.

Objectives:

To give students tools to understand and work with their dreams and the dreams of others, with an emphasis on identifying major mythic patterns and themes.

Required Texts:

Please read ONE of these:

Taylor, Jeremy (1998) *The Living Labyrinth: Exploring Universal Themes in Myths, Dreams and the Symbolism of Waking Life*, New Jersey: Paulist Press (ISBN:0809137666)

_____ (1992) *Where People Fly and Water Runs Uphill*, New York:Warner Books (ISBN: 0446394629)

_____ (1983) *Dream Work*, New Jersey: Paulist Press (ISBN: 0809125250)
Basic Dream Work Toolkit – handed out in class

Course Requirements:

Because we'll begin primarily with lecture to provide information and tools for exploring each other's dreams, then move rapidly into sharing and working with dreams, with the instructor clarifying mythic themes as they arise in the work with dreams, it would be preferred that students attend all classes.

Grading:

Letter Grade (unless the student would prefer CR/NR).

Steady attendance and thoughtful participation in class are what is needed here.

Schedule:

The following will be covered. The instructor will not strictly adhere to a specific schedule, preferring to adjust it according to his best judgment of heuristic needs. There will be experiential work with dreams during every meeting (although there

may be some classes when the instructor feels it more important to stay with theoretical discussion). Class will cover:

- Introduction to dream work (why it is important) and introduction to projective dream work in groups
- Discussion of symbolic life in dreams and how it reflects waking experience
- Discussion of archetypes (what are they? Examples)
- Discussion of mythological images and archetypes in our dreams
- Finding mythological patterns in dreams and owning them as ours

Supplemental Book List:

- Bulkeley, Kelly, (2003) *Dreams of Healing: Transforming Nightmares into Visions of Hope*, Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press. (ISBN: 0-8091-4153-1)
- Bulkeley, Kelly, ed. (2001) *Dreams: A Reader on the Religious, Cultural and Psychological Dimensions of Dreaming*, NY:Palgrave (ISBN#0312293348)
- Catford, Lorna & Ray, Michael (1991). *The Path of the Everyday Hero*. NY: Penguin/Putnam –Jeremy Tarcher Books.
- Cousineau, Phil (2001). *Once and Future Myths*. Berkeley: Conari Press.
- Doty, William (2000) *Mythography: The Study of Myths and Rituals (2nd Ed.)* Alabama: The Univ. of Alabama Press
- Eliot, Alexander (1990) *Universal Myths*, Truman Talley Books/Meridian. (ISBN:0452010276)
- Eliade, Mircea, & Rouquet, Claude-Henri, (1984), *Mircea Eliade - Ordeal by Labyrinth*, University of Chicago Press
- Feinstein, David & Krippner, Stanley. *Personal Mythology* (1988). NY: Putnam/Jeremy Tarcher..
- Hathaway, Nancy (2001) *The Friendly Guide to Mythology*, NY:Viking Penguin (ISBN 067085770x)

Bio summary:

Jeremy Taylor, D.Min., an internationally known innovator of group process in dream work, blends the values of spirituality with an active social conscience and a Jungian perspective. He is a Unitarian-Universalist minister and the author of three books; the latest is: *The Living Labyrinth: Universal Themes in Myths, Dreams and the Symbolism of Waking Life*. His earlier books, *Where People Fly* and *Water Runs Uphill*, and *Dream Work*, have been translated into many languages.

He co-founded and is a past president of the International Association for the Study of Dreams and is active in bringing dreamwork to a wide range of venues, from corporate, medical and academic, to prisons and mental health facilities. Most recently he has been presenting workshops in Asia (China and South Korea).