

CM 397: GOETIC MAGICK SYLLABUS

Credits: 3

Pre-requisite: CM 375

Welcome to CM 397: Goetic Magick. Together, we will dive deep into the realm of Goetic magick and summoning with this comprehensive course. We will explore the history, grimoires, spirits, spells, rituals, and practical aspects of Goetia, integrating both classical and contemporary insights. This course will lead the student from the artes of the Greek *goes* to the modern day practitioner, surveying various traditions, spirits, and practices along the way, as the latter half culminates in practical Goetic praxis.

Please note that as an advanced course focused both on synthesis and praxis, this course will require intensive practical exercises from the material, as well as a significant amount of literature reading and additional research. Students are expected to have passed CM 375: *Theory of Summoning* with an A or B grade to be successful in this course.

Our core textbook for this course is *Goetic Common Sense* by Frater Acher, who generously provides a free PDF copy of the book on his website. In addition, we will be using a plethora of texts, some of which will be provided through Raventree, some of which may require the student to access them via a library or their own requisition. If you have any concerns regarding accessing required materials, please contact the Office of Student Affairs.



Lessons

1. Introduction to Goetia:

Delve into the ancient origins of Goetia, understanding its evolution and significance within the Western Esoteric Tradition. Grasp the foundational concepts that underlie the Goetic art, setting the stage for the intricacies to come.

2. Primary Goetic Texts:

Navigate the revered Goetic grimoires, with special emphasis on the *Lesser Key of Solomon*. Understand the structural composition of these texts and how they have served as the backbone of Goetia for centuries.

3. Secondary Goetic Texts:

In this section, we will examine some of the exciting secondary literature on Goetic praxis published in the current occult milieu: the works of Frater Acher, Stephen Skinner, Craig Slee, Jake Stratton-Kent, and Alkistis Dimech will be explored.

4. Sigils and Symbols:

Unpack the profound power held within sigils, discovering how these unique symbols channel intent in Goetia. Explore their construction, consecration, and practical application in ritualistic settings.

5. Magickal Implements in Goetia:

Recognize the sacred tools employed in Goetic rites. From the ceremonial dagger to the magickal ring, comprehend their symbolic importance, as well as their practical role in rituals.

6. The Magickal Circle and Triangle:

Delve deep into the significance of the magickal circle and triangle in Goetic rituals. Understand their protective and directive capacities, along with methods for correctly inscribing them.

7. Goetic Hierarchy - Kings and Dukes:

Begin the exploration of the Goetic spirits by understanding the most powerful among them: the Kings and Dukes. Grasp their attributes, domains, and how to approach these formidable entities.

8. Goetic Hierarchy - Princes and Prelates:

Discover the unique attributes and workings of the Princes and Prelates. Understand their roles within the hierarchy, and their potential aid or hindrance to the practitioner.

9. Goetic Hierarchy - Marquises and Counts:

Deepen your understanding by focusing on the Marquises and Counts. Explore the breadth of powers they possess and the circumstances under which they might be invoked.

10. Goetic Hierarchy - Knights and Presidents:

Finalize your study of the traditional Goetic spirits by learning about the Knights and Presidents. Appreciate their distinct powers, domains, and the nuances of working with them.

11. Safety and Ethics in Goetia:

Address the paramount concerns surrounding the ethical and safe practice of Goetia. From ensuring personal protection to respecting entities, establish a balanced and harm-free approach.

12. Spiritual Allegiances and Pacts:

Making agreements with Goetic entities is a significant aspect of the tradition. Dive into the historical, ethical, and practical dimensions of forming pacts with these spirits. Unpack the nature of these agreements, the implications of forming them, and the tangible and intangible exchanges that often underscore these spiritual contracts. How do practitioners ensure that they uphold their end, and what safeguards can one put in place to ensure the spirits do likewise?

13. Aleister Crowley's Goetia:

Crowley, a towering figure in Western occultism, had his own interpretations and modifications of the Goetic system. Examine his unique contributions, the nuances he introduced, and the controversies surrounding his adaptations. Understand how his approach fits within the larger Goetic tradition and what practitioners today can glean from his methodologies.

14. Goetia in Modern Practice:

As times change, so do magickal practices. Dive into the ways in which Goetia has been adapted, modified, and practiced in contemporary contexts.

15. Psychological Interpretations of Goetia:

Delve deeper into the psychological facets of Goetia. Explore theories suggesting that the spirits of the Goetia may represent archetypal aspects of the human psyche. How might

evocations serve as profound psychological exercises, bringing to light hidden aspects of one's own mind? We draw from both traditional sources and modern psychological perspectives, including the works of Jung.

16. Elemental and Planetary Correspondences:

The Goetic spirits, like many elements in Western esotericism, have associations with specific elements and planets. Explore these correspondences in-depth, understanding the elemental qualities and planetary energies each spirit embodies. Reflect on how these associations influence the nature of rituals and the outcomes one might expect from interactions with each spirit.

17. Integration with other Magickal Systems:

The Goetic system, while distinct, shares many commonalities with other esoteric traditions. Investigate the intersections of Goetia with systems like Kabbalah, the Tarot, and even Astrology. Understand how a holistic approach, blending Goetia with other traditions, can provide a richer magickal tapestry for the practitioner.

18. Ritual Design and Implementation:

Crafting a successful Goetic ritual requires more than just following prescribed steps. Dive into the nuances of ritual design, from setting clear intentions to choosing the appropriate time and space. Explore the importance of personal touches in rituals and how to adapt traditional methods to suit one's unique needs and circumstances.

19. Physical Preparations:

Before embarking on a Goetic ritual, certain physical preparations are crucial. Delve into the selection and consecration of ritual tools, the crafting and use of sigils, and the importance of offerings. Discuss the significance of each tool's material, shape, and purpose, and how these factors influence the ritual's efficacy.

20. Mental and Emotional Preparations:

Goetic evocations demand a specific mental and emotional state for success. Explore techniques to achieve the right mindset, from meditation to visualization exercises. Delve into the emotional challenges that might arise during an evocation and strategies to navigate these intense experiences safely.

21. Advanced Goetic Rituals:

For seasoned practitioners, Goetia offers even deeper mysteries. Delve into intricate rituals that involve multiple spirits, extended periods of invocation, and complex sigil work. Understand the risks and rewards of such advanced practices and the prerequisites required for undertaking them.

22. Magickal Diaries and Record Keeping:

The practice of maintaining detailed records is pivotal in the Goetic tradition. We consider the importance of documenting one's magickal experiences, including successes, challenges, and insights. Examine historical examples of magicians' diaries and understand the significance of maintaining consistency, clarity, and reflection in one's personal records. Additionally, explore the potential insights that emerge from regularly revisiting past entries.

23. Post-Ritual Practices:

Once the evocation is complete, the work isn't over. Delve into methods for properly closing the ritual space, grounding oneself, and integrating the experiences. Understand the significance of showing gratitude to the spirits, deconstructing the ritual space, and the importance of self-care in the aftermath of intense Goetic work.

24. Interpreting Goetic Experiences:

Not all encounters with Goetic spirits are straightforward. Explore methodologies for analyzing and deriving meaning from one's interactions. Draw from historical interpretations, dream symbolism, and personal intuition to decode the multifaceted messages and insights that spirits may convey.



25. Challenges and Overcoming Obstacles:

Goetic practice isn't without its hurdles. Delve into common challenges faced by practitioners, from unexpected spiritual resistance to personal fears. Students will be equipped with strategies to navigate these obstacles, emphasizing the importance of persistence, protection, and adaptability.

26. Comparative Goetia:

While Goetia is a distinct system, other cultures and traditions have their own methods of spirit invocation. Engage in a cross-cultural exploration, analyzing the Goetia alongside other summoning traditions from around the world. Discover common themes, divergent techniques, and gain a more comprehensive understanding of spirit work globally.

27. Goetia and Personal Transformation:

Beyond the external, Goetia has profound implications for personal growth. We will reflect on the transformative potential of consistent Goetic practice. Students will explore how encounters with these spirits can facilitate shadow work, personal healing, and the expansion of one's magickal capacities.

28. Community and Group Goetic Rituals:

While many approach Goetia as a solitary practice, group rituals offer their own dynamics and rewards. Examine the logistics, challenges, and power of collective Goetic evocations.

Understand the roles participants might play, the amplification of energy in a group setting, and the communal bonds forged through shared magickal experiences.

29. Contemporary Voices in Goetia:

Goetia is an evolving tradition, with modern practitioners offering fresh perspectives. Explore the works, methodologies, and philosophies of influential contemporary Goetists. Engage with various schools of thought and consider how these modern interpretations enrich and expand the tradition.

30. Future Trajectories of Goetia:

We end by speculating on the potential evolution of Goetic magick in the decades to come. Drawing from current trends, technological advancements, and shifts in esoteric scholarship, we envision possible directions for Goetia. Students will reflect on the implications of these trajectories for future generations of practitioners.



Exercises

- I. **(Beginning Examination)** A brief examination recapping materials from CM 375: Theory of Summoning. Students who receive a low or failing grade on this pre-test may wish to consider their enrollment in this course.
- II. **(Lesson 3)** Students will write a research paper tracing the historical roots of Goetia, focusing on its origins and significance within broader Western esoteric traditions.
- III. **(Lesson 5)** Students will create or craft one of the magickal implements discussed in the course, or consecrate and imbue a tool that they have acquired. This will be documented as part of their overarching course project.
- IV. **(Lesson 12)** After examining some pacts and bindings made with spirits from practical texts as well as literature, students will select one example and consider it from a magician's lens. What went well, what went awry? Is every Goetic pact a Faustian bargain?
- V. **(Lesson 13)** After considering the primary literature and Crowley's own designs on the Goetia, students will craft an analysis comparing and contrasting the two approaches, and pinpoint what they see as Crowley's own biases or personal contributions to the art.
- VI. **(Lesson 18)** Students will select and alter a Goetic ritual as needed. *This assignment must be reviewed by the instructor before continuing with the praxis in the course.*
- VII. **(Lesson 19)** Students will design and create an incense for their Goetic ritual. *This assignment must be reviewed by the instructor before being carried out.*
- VIII. **(Lesson 20)** Students will journal and detail their mental and emotional preparations before their ritual, as discussed in the course, with additional support and structure from the instructor.
- IX. **(Lesson 22)** After consulting with their instructor, students will attempt the ritual of their choice to engage with a Goetic spirit. *Students must communicate with their instructor before attempting this exercise. Instructors may suggest additional study or preparation before the exercise is conducted.*
- X. **(Lesson 27)** Students will reflect in a group discussion, if they feel comfortable, on their experiences, or submit their reflection directly to the instructor.
- XI. **(Magickal Journal)** Students will turn in their magickal diary during which they recorded their practical experiences and preparations for the exercises above. This will be graded on rigour, authenticity, and the students' reflections and perspectives from before and after their praxis.
- XII. **(Course Examination)** Students will take a comprehensive course examination focused on the Goetic spirits, liturgy, praxis, and historical perspectives.

References & Suggested Reading

The True Grimoire – Jake Stratton- Kent

Geosophia – Jake Stratton-Kent

The Testament of Cyprian the Mage – Jake Stratton-Kent

Pandemonium – Jake Stratton-Kent

The Grimoire Encyclopedia, vol. I & II – David Rankine

Goetic Atavisms – Frater Acher & Craig Slee

Diabolical – collected by Scarlet Imprint

Howling – collect by Scarlet Imprint

The Goetia of Dr. Rudd – Stephen Skinner

Ritual Magic – Elizabeth M. Butler

Knowing Demons, Knowing Spirits in the early Modern Period – ed. Michelle D. Brock, Richard Raiswell, David R. Winter

Testament of Solomon (Recension C) – Brian Johnson

Howlings from the Pit – Joseph Lisiewski

Consorting with Spirits – Jason Miller

Clavis Goetica: Keys to Chthonic Sorcery – Frater Acher & Jose Gabriel Alegria Sabogal

Goetic Evocation – Steve Savedow

Ars Theurgia Goetia – Gary St. M. Nottingham

Tools of the Greater Key – S. Aldarnay

The Pentacles of Solomon – S. Aldarnay

The Gotetia: Lesser Key of Solomon – Mathers & Crowley edition

The Veritable Key of Solomon – Stephen Skinner