

CM 375: THEORY OF SUMMONING SYLLABUS

Credits: 3

Pre-requisite: DW 199 or DW 340, CM 110, CM 230

Welcome to CM 375: Theory of Summoning. Embark on a profound journey through the realms of invocation, evocation, and the myriad theoretical underpinnings of summoning in the Western Esoteric Tradition. This course lays the foundation for understanding the intricate layers of summoning, from the historical origins, nuances of binding spells, ritualistic intricacies, to the ethical considerations behind engaging with spiritual entities. Our exploration will span from the early mystics and magicians to the scholarly interpretations of today, providing a comprehensive, in-depth perspective.

While our focus is on the theoretical facets, students should be prepared for a rich and challenging tapestry of readings, analyses, and conceptual exercises. Weaving together lore, philosophy, and ritualistic context, this course aims to offer a thorough grounding that will be instrumental for any future practical summoning endeavors, such as those covered in our advanced courses, CM 397: Goetic Magick or CM 475: Praxis of Summoning.



Lessons

1. Introduction to Summoning Theory:

This opening lesson will provide students with an overview of summoning as a key component of various magickal traditions. We'll trace the historical evolution of these practices, from ancient shamanistic rites to contemporary ceremonial magick. By the end, students will have a clear understanding of the foundational principles that underpin the act of summoning across cultures.

2. Invocation vs. Evocation:

Delve into the nuanced distinctions between invocation and evocation. While both involve calling forth entities, their methodologies and intentions vary. Invocation typically refers to the calling in of deities or higher powers into oneself, whereas evocation seeks to call external entities into a defined space. This lesson will explore the historical, psychological, and magickal implications of both practices, aided by real-world examples and textual references.

3. The Anatomy of Summoning Rituals:

Unpacking the components of a summoning ritual, this lesson will explore everything from ritual tools and sacred spaces to the role of the practitioner. Using primary sources and analytical discourse, we will dissect several notable summoning rites to understand their structure, purpose, and symbolic meanings.

4. Binding Spells: Theoretical Foundations:

Binding has long been a crucial element of summoning, ensuring the practitioner's safety and the spirit's cooperation. This lesson will explore the origins of binding in various cultures, its significance in ensuring a ritual's success, and the theoretical frameworks that underpin different binding techniques.

5. The Ethics of Command and Respect:

Summoning is not merely about wielding power but also about understanding responsibility. This discussion-driven lesson will tackle the moral considerations inherent in summoning, emphasizing the balance between authority and reverence. Through case studies and philosophical discourse, we'll unravel the complexities of ethical summoning.

6. Defenses in Summoning:

A practical and theoretical dive into the protective measures central to safe summoning. This lesson will cover the various shields, wards, barriers, and safeguards that practitioners have employed throughout history. From magickal circles to protective chants, students will learn the theory behind each protective measure.

7. Engaging with Spiritual Hierarchies:

Beyond just summoning an entity, understanding its place in the spiritual hierarchy is key.

This lesson will categorize and detail various spirits, from angels and demons to lesser-known entities. We'll dissect the roles, domains, and attributes of these spirits, providing a clear roadmap for students to engage with them knowledgeably.

8. Responsibilities and Consequences:

Every action has a reaction, especially in magick. This lesson aims to prepare students for the potential outcomes of summoning – both the beneficial results and the possible challenges or pitfalls. Through historical examples and theoretical discourse, we'll explore the broader consequences of summoning on the practitioner and their surroundings.



9. Cross-cultural Perspectives on Summoning:

Summoning is a global phenomenon. By comparing and contrasting Western traditions with global summoning practices, this lesson aims to provide a holistic view of the subject. From

African shamanic rites to Eastern ancestral rituals, we'll gain insights from a myriad of cultural perspectives.

10. The Psychology of Summoning:

Perhaps one of the most intriguing lessons, here we'll dive deep into the mind. How does summoning impact the subconscious? What are the psychological mechanisms at play when one invokes an entity? Merging psychological theory with magickal practice, this lesson offers a fresh perspective on summoning.

11. The Role of Offerings in Summoning:

This lesson delves into the symbolic and practical significance of offerings within summoning rituals. From incense to physical gifts, we'll investigate the rationale

behind offerings, how different cultures and traditions perceive them, and their role in bridging the gap between the material and spiritual realms.

12. The Astral Plane and its Significance:

The Astral Plane is often where much of summoning takes place. Students will understand the multi-layered structure of this metaphysical realm, how it overlaps with our physical world, and its role in serving as a conduit for entities. This lesson merges both ancient wisdom and contemporary insights to paint a comprehensive picture of the astral landscape.

13. The Importance of Names in Summoning:

Names hold power. We'll examine the weight and importance of names within the context of summoning, how the true name of an entity can be both a tool and a risk, and the historical traditions surrounding the secrecy and revelation of names in magickal practice.

14. The Art of the Magickal Voice:

Effective summoning often requires a mastery over one's vocalizations. This lesson delves into the theory behind chants, invocations, and evocations, emphasizing the importance of tone, rhythm, and intention. Practical exercises will help students hone their magickal voice.

15. Temporal Considerations: Time & Astrological Significance:

Timing can be crucial in summoning. We'll dive into the role of lunar cycles, planetary hours, and astrological considerations in summoning, offering students a robust framework to determine the most auspicious moments for their rituals.

16. Sacred Spaces & Temples: Theory of Consecrated Grounds:

Beyond the immediate ritual space, the broader environment can be vital for summoning. From ancient temples to modern sanctuaries, this lesson covers the importance of consecrated grounds and how they amplify the effectiveness of summoning rites.

17. Spiritual Hygiene and Post-Summoning Cleansing:

After engaging with entities, maintaining one's spiritual well-being is crucial. Students will learn the theoretical foundations behind post-summoning cleansing, grounding techniques, and other practices to ensure their spiritual hygiene.

18. The Nexus of Myth & Magick: Understanding Entity Lore:

Many entities in summoning have rich mythological backgrounds. This lesson dives into the stories, myths, and folklore surrounding common entities, helping students understand the deeper cultural and symbolic layers of their practice.

19. Incorporating Divination into Summoning:

Divination tools like Tarot, runes, or pendulums can provide insights before and during summoning. This lesson integrates divination theory with summoning, teaching students how to seek guidance and clarity in their rituals.

20. The Evolving Nature of Entities: Historical vs. Contemporary Views:

How have perceptions of certain entities changed over time? Students will explore the evolving narratives surrounding spirits, demons, and angels, understanding how contemporary views often diverge from historical perspectives.

21. Ecstatic Practices & Summoning:

From dance to trance, ecstatic practices can be gateways to deeper summoning experiences. This lesson explores the theory behind these states of consciousness and their role in summoning rituals.

22. Final Reflections: Personal Journey & Future Explorations:

As the course concludes, students will be encouraged to reflect on their personal growth, the knowledge they've accrued, and the potential directions they wish to explore further in the realm of summoning.



Exercises

(Beginning Examination) A preliminary examination assessing students' foundational knowledge regarding spirits and spiritual entities.

(Lesson 2) Based on the distinctions between invocation and evocation, students will write a brief essay comparing two historical rituals, one invocative and the other evocative, explaining their structure, intent, and potential outcomes.

(Lesson 4) Students will analyze several binding spells from different cultures and time periods, highlighting their commonalities and differences. They will then theorize the underlying principles that make these spells effective.

(Lesson 6) After studying the various protective measures, students will design their hypothetical protective ward. They'll explain the symbols, materials, and theory behind it.

(Lesson 8) Engaging with real-world examples and case studies, students will reflect on potential outcomes of summoning, both positive and negative. They'll propose strategies to handle unintended consequences and challenges.

(Lesson 9) Students will select two summoning practices from distinct cultures and write a comparative analysis, highlighting how cultural values and worldviews influence summoning techniques and beliefs.

(Lesson 11) Students will conduct a small group project researching different offerings used in summoning rituals across various cultures, presenting their findings in a discussion.

(Lesson 13) In a short reflective piece, students will analyze the power names hold in their everyday workings, considering the importance of their own names, as well as the unique position of nicknames and pseudonyms.

(Lesson 15) Given a particular entity and intent, students will be tasked with determining an optimal time for a summoning ritual based on astrological considerations, explaining their choices.

(Lesson 17) After a hypothetical summoning exercise, students will design a spiritual cleansing ritual, utilizing methods discussed in class. This will be a theoretical exercise, focusing on the principles of spiritual hygiene.

(Lesson 18) Selecting a particular entity, students will research its historical and mythological background, presenting their findings in a brief presentation or essay.

(Lesson 19) In a controlled environment, students will use a divination tool of their choice to ask questions about a specific entity or summoning ritual. They will then reflect on the insights gained and their implications.

(Lesson 20) Students will be asked to interview someone older (could be a family member, mentor, or community elder) about their views on spirits, angels, or demons and compare those views with contemporary perspectives discussed in class.

(Course Examination) A comprehensive examination will conclude the course, covering all aspects of the theory behind summoning discussed during the semester.

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

The Keys to the Gateway of Magic – Stephen Skinner

Communing with the Spirits – Martin Coleman

Conjuring Spirits – ed. Claire Fanger

An Excellent Booke of the Arte of Magicke – Legard & Cummins

A Spirit Work Primer – Naag Loki Shivanath

John Dee's Five Books of Mysteries – Joseph Peterson

Spirit Conjuring for Witches – Frater Barrabbas

Goetic Atavisms – Frater Acher & Craig Slee

Diabolical – collected by Scarlet Imprint

Buckland's Book of Spirit Communications – Raymond Buckland

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 Goetia: Lesser Key of Solomon – Mathers & Crowley edition

The Veritable Key of Solomon – Stephen Skinner