

# Magical Elections

Intensive 6-week study course

*Written & delivered by Nina Gryphon*

# STA

*School of  
Traditional Astrology*



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The **STA**

## MAGICAL ELECTIONS COURSE

### Course Overview



The astrological study of celestial phenomena offers us a view into the past, present, and future – but what if we could harness planetary power to achieve personal growth and solve problems? If astrology is the art of diagnosis, magic is the remedy. Astrological magic seeks to capture the fleeting influence of favorable astrological alignments and embody them in physical talismans for long-term influence, or simply use those precious moments for spiritual alignment with celestial beings.

The Hermetic dictum on which astrology is built says “*That which is above is like that which is below*” because the stars and planets move synchronously with events on earth. Hermeticism views humans as microcosms reflecting the greater celestial macrocosm. By analyzing planetary movements and using astrological techniques to identify auspicious moments, we can transform our lives, and most importantly, ourselves, the microcosmos. Further, elected ritual and creation of talismans can be turned toward fine-tuning of the mind and spirit to achieve inner growth.

Since ancient times, many astrologers and philosophers worked with the celestial bodies as deities to be propitiated, viewing them as beings whose energies could be harmonized with the human microcosm to elevate and improve the human condition. The late Platonic philosopher Iamblichus wrote that planetary worship was the highest form of philosophical search for the truth and spiritual growth. Medieval successors, like the famed philosopher and translator al-Kindi, and other Arabic astrologers and occultists, combined Platonic philosophy with their astronomical prowess to develop a sophisticated, highly useable methodology for making astrological talismans. The famous astrologico-magical text, *Picatrix*, and similar works offer a sumptuous feast of mysterious

magical images that inspired occultists and artists well into the Renaissance and beyond. Subsequent thinkers, like the great Renaissance philosopher and Platonist, Marsilio Ficino, rediscovered these ancient writings and further developed the underlying principles and practice of astrological ritual. Our predecessors’ writings have left us a rich trove of practical and theoretical guidance for accessing planetary powers, which we are fortunate to study and practice today, closely following the tradition.

The STA Magical Elections course offers instruction on Western medieval and Renaissance-era astrological magic, with a strong emphasis on its Platonic philosophical roots. In addition to a firm grounding in philosophy and magical theory, the course is designed to introduce students to the practice of electing times for magical workings with celestial bodies, and to teach techniques for astro-magical rituals and the creation of talismans.

This is more than a ‘theory’ course – delegates will be tasked with studying the historical elements of astrological magic, and will be taught how to internalize the philosophical underpinnings of the Hermetic worldview to elect horoscopes and design rituals with correct traditional attributions to support that election. Upon completion of the course, graduates will be equipped to practice astrological magic and talisman creation at a sophisticated level.

By taking this course, students will learn from the finest primary sources on philosophy, astrology, and magic of the last two millennia, curated and explained by Nina Gryphon, an expert in traditional astrology and astrological magic. Throughout history, this information was available to a very few educated occultists and astrologers, and this course is an effort to reunite the long-separated parts of ancient astrological and magical practices.

# Magical Elections

## Course Structure

Magical Elections is a six-week, lecture-based study course taught by Nina Gryphon. Each week, students attend a 1½ - 2 hour interactive lecture via Zoom. Although the lecture is recorded for students who cannot attend the session live, or who wish to review the material later, students are strongly encouraged to attend the live sessions, to ask questions and discuss the material and concepts with the instructor and fellow students.

Attendance on this course requires commitment and engagement throughout the study period. Each week, before the stated deadline, students must submit an assignment to the course forum for assessment by the instructor, and to receive and provide constructive comments to fellow students. The last week's assignment is also the final assignment for the course.

The course has very intensive reading requirements: students must comfortably read at a college level in English, and will be required to read approximately 30-50 pages of text per week prior to each lecture. This means that students will be required to have completed the week 1 reading material before attending the week 1 lecture (and the same for all the subsequent weekly lectures). Students should expect to spend between 4 to 8 hours per week to comfortably make it through all the material and associated exercises.

The course has required reading, including a list of books which must be purchased by each student prior to the course start date. Additional reading material will be provided through the course.

Students will also be required to implement the demonstrated techniques as part of their assignments throughout the course. Therefore, hands-on use of the learned concepts is an essential component of course completion. Auditing the course is therefore not an option, and non-completion of the course requirements will result in an incomplete grade.

## REQUIRED READING

Students need to purchase or possess the following books for this course:

*Picatrix* by Maslamah ibn Ahmad Majriti, translated by Attrell and Porreca.

If you have another edition, that may be acceptable depending on the quality, which has varied dramatically between editions. Whatever edition you use, please ensure it is complete and contains all four books. [Amazon.com]

*Book of Rulerships* by J. Lee Lehman. [Amazon.com]

*Three Books of Occult Philosophy* by H. Agrippa.

Please ensure your edition is complete and contains all three books. Llewellyn's edition edited by Donald Tyson is an affordable and readable option. [Purchase links: support independent bookstores | Amazon.com]

*Christian Astrology* by William Lilly.

It is recommended students purchase both volumes in instances where parts 1 and 2 of the book are sold separately. [Purchase links: support independent bookstores | Amazon.com]

*Three Books on Life* by Marsilio Ficino. [Amazon.com]

## Recommended Reading .....

*Influences* by Mary Quinlan-McGrath. [Amazon.com]

Students will also be provided with digital reading materials by various authors during the course, as well as a fuller list of recommended books.

### Course content themes include:

- *The underlying philosophy, cosmology, and theory of Western astrological magic*
- *Introduction to gods, angels, and spirits of Western astrological and magical tradition*
- *History of astrological magic in the West*
- *Analysis of examples of astrological magic in history*
- *Astrological analysis of common problems*
- *Magical strategies for addressing problems*
- *Goal-setting for rituals and talismans*
- *Natal remediation*
- *Magical uses of the seven visible planets*
- *Advice on working with the malefic planets*
- *Astrological criteria and checklist for electing rituals and creation of talismans*
- *Analysis of ancient astrological directions for talismans*
- *Key techniques of astrological magic: petitions or prayers, planetary charity, vows and sacrifices, planetary ritual, and talismans*
- *When the magic doesn't work: analysis and strategies*
- *Major components of astrological ritual*
- *Invocation of gods, angels, and spirits*
- *Accessing the guardian daimon*
- *Using planetary days and hours*
- *Decan talismans*
- *Fixed star talismans*
- *Lunar mansions*

### COST & ENROLMENT

The full cost of the Magical Elections course is \$525 USD. This includes a nonrefundable enrolment fee of \$100 USD (for the full refund policy, see below).

Enrolment is limited to 25 students per class, due to the intimate, interactive and hands-on nature of this course. Students wishing to enrol after the limit has been reached will be placed on a wait list, which will offer placements to students on a first-come, first-served basis up to two weeks before the start of class in the event an enrolled student drops out of the class.

Registered students will receive a start-up Welcome Pack two weeks before the course formal commencement date. This explains how to access the student account on our dedicated course portal, and how to prepare your computer and yourself for our live presentations.

The course commences with a group tutorial that offers an overview of the content of the course, followed by the live delivery of lesson one. After this is released, the portal allows access to follow up reading assignments, supplementary support material and theme-specific exercises.

### Course Tutor: Nina Gryphon



**Nina Gryphon** is a practicing astrologer and corporate lawyer living in Los Angeles, California. Her predictions have appeared in many major publications, and in the popular media such as radio and TV. She received her JD, and MA/BA from Stanford University, and has completed John Frawley's Horary Apprenticeship, as well as obtaining her Practitioners and Masters Level Diploma in Horary from the STA.

Nina practices traditional astrology with a special emphasis on astrological magic and astrological remediation. She writes regular horary and magical elections columns for *The Mountain Astrologer* magazine, publishes educational astrology and magic videos, and teaches classes and workshops worldwide. Nina also has a popular Patreon focusing on astrology and magic, and publishes a popular monthly guide, *Magical Elections*, which details the best upcoming magical elections and offers guidance for creating astrological talismans.

Nina can be found on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram (*ninagryphon*) and Twitter (*@gryphastrology*), as well as her personal website at *ninagryphon.com*.

## COURSE POLICIES, TERMS, & REQUIREMENTS

- Students on this course do not need to have previous experience in electional astrology. However, this course specialises in advanced-level astrological training, so it is necessary for participants to have a firm understanding of fundamental traditional astrology techniques, to be able to draw up and interpret astrological charts using basic natal techniques, and to have already studied certain principles that are generally taught as part of the study of horary astrology. For example, students need to have a fluent understanding of the essential and accidental conditions that impact on planetary expression. The *STA Practitioners Level Horary Course* is an ideal requisite course for anyone lacking competency and confidence in the traditional astrology techniques that this course employs.
- This is an English language course and students must be fluent in spoken and written English, capable of studying college level texts, and willing to consider and comprehend 30-50 pages of reading material per week, in addition to completing the weekly assignments.
- Students must purchase or have access to the required reading materials at least two weeks prior to the scheduled first lecture, to ensure there is adequate time for reading these prior to the start of the course.
- All assignments must be completed on time and in a satisfactory manner to successfully pass the course.
- The instructor's assessments and decisions are final. STA ensures fairness in its assessment process and has policies in place to eliminate any prospect of favouritism or uneven comparisons. In situations where a student does not pass an assignment or the course, once feedback on the reason for failure has been provided, the instructor's task is complete, and no further correspondence will be engaged in regarding the details of the assignment or work that was not approved. (In case of any complaint, this course adheres to the STA's complaints policy, published online at [www.sta.co/pdf/complaints\\_policy.pdf](http://www.sta.co/pdf/complaints_policy.pdf))
- One of the underlying objectives of this course is to encourage the applicant's development into participation with the community of astrological magicians; for this professional and courteous behaviour is expected in all respects. Students can be removed from the course at the discretion of the administrator or the STA board if anything about their correspondence on the course, or their public conduct off the course is deemed disrespectful or brings disrespect to the study of astrology.
- It is assumed that students have access to a printer, and it is necessary to have stable internet access, as all coursework is done online through the STA Course Portal. Course materials are provided as PDF downloads and our teaching portal is accessible on all modern computers (we do not guarantee reliable access via tablets or mobile phones). Students are required to install a free video program, Zoom, to enable interactive online sessions with the tutor and fellow students.
- All materials used in the delivery of this course are copyrighted and provided for personal study only – no element may be reproduced or recirculated in any form. Video tutorials are not available for download and can only be accessed by logging in to the secure course portal. Graduates are allowed continued access to these videos and other resources on the course portal for 12 months after the formal completion of the course. All in-course discussion and chart examples are to be treated as confidential and never shared with anyone outside the perimeters of the study group.
- This course is the intellectual property of its originator and administrator, Nina Gryphon. The STA school provides monitoring, moderation and help with its development, and acts as its governing body. All financial transactions are made directly between the student and the course administrator, and the STA plays no part in taking money from students; nor will it be held responsible for any refunds that may be due. Expect that receipts for payment will be emailed from the administrator within 3 days of receipt of the transaction. For any problem concerning payments, email the administrator directly at [nina@sta.co](mailto:nina@sta.co).
- If a student pays for the course and then changes their mind for any reason, a cancellation will be arranged and the refund of any payment is allowed within 30 days of that payment, providing the delivery of any formal course material has not yet commenced. Students who have been provided with course materials yet wish to withdraw more than two weeks before the first course session will receive a refund of their payment less the \$100 USD non-refundable deposit. Students who have been provided with course materials and wish to withdraw less than two weeks prior to the first course

session will not be eligible for any refund. This is due to the fact that places on this course are strictly limited and once the course is full we prevent further enrolments: therefore deposits paid to secure and hold a registration are non-refundable and non-transferable after the 30 day 'cooling off' period has expired.

- The administrator reserves the right to make necessary amendments to the schedule of live tutorials.
- In the unlikely event of the course being cancelled, the administrator will refund any course fees paid but will not be liable for any other expenses incurred.
- This course contains revised and expanded content from Nina Gryphon's Kepler College course (2019-2021), so is appropriate for past students who wish to revisit and augment their previous studies and receive an official acknowledgment of successful course completion.

## Completion Criteria & Benefits



Students will learn to elect magical workings, including petitions and physical talismans, by implementing traditional astrological techniques and combining them with medieval and Renaissance-era ritual techniques. Students who successfully complete the course will demonstrate their understanding of the theory and practice of astrological magic as taught in the course.

With student permission, names of graduates are publicly listed to ensure that legitimate graduates of the course are recognized and their interests protected.

To successfully complete the Magical Elections course, students must:

- Receive a passing grade on all assignments, demonstrating a thorough understanding of the lecture material, the reading, and the ability to select magical elections according to the principles taught in class.
- Receive a passing grade on the final assignment: a magical election along with a description of the appropriate ritual with the elements taught in class.

Students who do not successfully complete the course may enroll in future instances of the STA Magical Elections course.

For any further information on this course, email the administrator: [nina@sta.co](mailto:nina@sta.co)

*Truth! Certainty! That in which there is no doubt! That which is above is from that which is below, and that which is below is from that which is above, working the miracles of one. As all things were from One.*

From the *Kitāb Uṣṭuqūs al-uss al-thānī* (ca. 850–950)  
attributed to **Jabir ibn Hayyan**

# COURSE SCHEDULE

Live presentation time is **5pm UTC**, on **Saturdays**

*This equates to:*

*Los Angeles: 10am | New York: 1pm | London: 6pm*

*Istanbul: 8pm | Singapore: 1am Sunday | Sydney: 4am Sunday*

*Click the **hyperlink** in the session time for time conversions in all localities*

2022	Date	Time	Lesson	Theme	Format
		UTC			
		UTC			
Sat	<b>4 Nov</b>	<b>5 pm</b>	1	Philosophy & History of Western Astrological Magic	<i>Live</i>
Sat	<b>11 Nov</b>	<b>5 pm</b>	2	Astrological Analysis & Magical Remediation	<i>Live</i>
Sat	<b>18 Nov</b>	<b>5 pm</b>	3	Astrological Techniques for Electing Rituals & Talismans	<i>Live</i>
Sat	<b>25 Nov</b>	<b>5 pm</b>	4	Elements of Ritual Magic & Talismans	<i>Live</i>
Sat	<b>2 Dec</b>	<b>5 pm</b>	5	Gods, Angels, Spirits, & the Guardian Daimon	<i>Live</i>
Sat	<b>9 Dec</b>	<b>5 pm</b>	6	Special Topics: Fixed Stars, Decans, Lunar Mansions	<i>Live</i>

*We reserve the right to make necessary changes to the delivery schedule should circumstances require this*

**NB:** UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) is the same as GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) but is not to be confused with 'London time' because the UK moves onto British Summer Time in summer months.

(UTC is a time *standard* / GMT is a time *zone*.)

