

Art 197  
Art and the Occult

Paper I:           RENAISSANCE ASTROLOGY

Interpret an astrological chart according to the principles of Renaissance astrology. Although there are many texts available, for this assignment, please consult John Gadbury, *Doctrine of Nativities*.

Although the astrologer traditionally spent much time in the actual construction of the horoscope itself, you will be given a modern chart calculated according to the WinStar computer program. You may either use your own birth data, or the data of a famous person from the Renaissance.

This paper is due in class on Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Be prepared to discuss in class some of the discoveries and challenges of this assignment.

Your paper should include:

1. The astrological data redrawn into the standard Renaissance format. Blank forms will be available, or you can draw it yourself.
2. An interpretation of the positions of the planets and the houses, primarily as they would be understood in the early modern period. Remember, Neptune, Uranus, and Pluto were unknown. The astrologer also looks closely at the Ascendent, Part of Fortune, and Nodes.
3. A sense of the dominant character of the chart. Is this person under the special influences of one or two planets? Is there a dominant aspect?
4. Finally, if you feel ambitious, try to correlate the chart to what you know of the life of the person involved. How might you proceed if you find that some things about the chart don't fit the person properly?

This assignment is designed to give you first-hand experience in reading astrological texts of the pre-modern period, and to become familiar with the meanings and symbolism of the astrological system.

Materials to help you with this assignment are online in the classwebsite:

<http://merlin.allegheny.edu/employee/a/acarr/occult/>

User: Art197

Pwd: Tarot