



COURSE DIRECTORS

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Carsten Wilke, Department of History, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

FACULTY

Brian Copenhaver, Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies, University of California in Los Angeles, USA

Moshe Idel, Jewish Thought, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Urszula Szulakowska, formerly at Leeds University, UK

BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

The ambition of humans to elevate themselves beyond their natural means and to acquire transcendental insight and power is as ancient as our cultural history. The goal of this course is to highlight some aspects of this ambition that are related to Western Esotericism, thus to provide a solid picture of some key phenomena of mysticism, magic, and occult trends in intellectual history. Special attention will be paid to the historical period of late Antiquity to the early modern, as well as the post-Romanticism era. The topics of esotericism discussed in the course relate to cultural history, art history, film studies, and religious studies tracing the Judeo-Christian heritage. The learning outcome should be the acquisition of methodological tools in order to approach and assess the highlighted phenomena in a reliable scholarly way: close reading of texts; interpretation of images and films; placing cultural representations in social and historical contexts.

The course is targeted toward individuals (primarily but not exclusively advanced MA students, doctoral students, or young researchers) who have a demonstrated interest and some preliminary scholarly activity in understanding and interpreting Western esotericism related to intellectual history, religious studies, and/or visual culture.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Central European University's summer school (CEU SUN), established in 1996, is a program in English for graduate students, junior or post-doctoral researchers, teachers and professionals. It offers high-level, research-oriented, interdisciplinary academic courses as well as workshops on policy issues for professional development, taught by internationally renowned scholars and policy experts (including CEU faculty). Application from all over the world is encouraged.

<https://summeruniversity.ceu.edu/dignity-2018>

CEU Summer University

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Non-discrimination policy statement

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