

WEA Epsom & Ewell – August 2012.

Text for A4 poster to be displayed at Bourne Hall

A course of 7 sessions at Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell starting 9 October 2012 on Tuesdays 10.30am to 12.30pm. The fee is £60.

Astronomy History: Babylonians to Copernican Revolution.

Main topics are: the motivation of ancient civilizations to study the night sky and techniques used.

Movement of the Sun, moons and planets across the sky and reasons.

Techniques used to measure vast distances to solar system bodies and beyond.

Sudden appearance of transient objects such as comets, novae and “guest stars”.

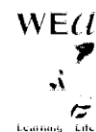
The life and role of Copernicus in reviewing Earth’s role in the Universe.

No qualifications needed. The course will be taught by Guy Hurst at general interest level 3. The tutor is a former president of the British Astronomical Association and editor of “The Astronomer”.

To reserve a place please contact Graham McVey on mmevey123@btinternet.com or 01372 361548 or booking direct at www.wea.org.uk

Workers' Educational Association

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Course Outline

This course outline describes what will be covered in your course.

It also sets out what you should expect to learn. There will be an opportunity for course members to discuss the course content with the tutor.

Course Title	ASTRONOMY: Babylonians to Copernican Revolution		
Course ID	C3732696	Tutor	Guy Hurst
Start date	09/10/2012	Day(s)/time(s)	Tuesday 10:30am-12:30
No. of sessions	7	Hours per session	2
		Fees	£60
Venue: Bourne Hall (Ewell/Epsom)			
Branch/Partner	WEA Epsom/Ewell Branch		
Branch/Partner contact details	Graham McVey 01372 361548 Internet: mmcvey123@btinternet.com		
Publicity Description			
The Sumerians and Babylonians investigated the night sky when astronomy and astrology were inextricably linked. We trace later civilisations who continued to unravel the mysteries of the universe until Copernicus no longer left Earth at the centre of everything!			
Course Aims			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce how early civilisations tracked the movement of planets and the secrets revealed • Discuss how the Sun, Moon and Earth were pieced together in a Solar System 'jigsaw' • Reviews efforts to measure the vast distances of planets and stars • Investigate Chinese efforts to watch and record sudden changes in the night sky 			
Study the 'Revolution of Celestial Spheres' and how our understanding of the Universe changed for ever			
This is linked to a further optional WEA history course beyond the era of Copernicus			
Main Topics Covered			
Motivation of ancient civilisations to study the night sky and techniques used			
Movement of the Sun, Moons and Planets across the sky and reasons			
Techniques used to measure vast distances to Solar System bodies and beyond			
Sudden appearance of transient objects such as comets, novae and 'Guest Stars'			
The life and role of Copernicus in reviewing Earth's role in the Universe			
Pre-course preparation, reading, internet research etc.			
Purchase Planisphere (see below) if not already owned			
Reading optional via purchase or library borrowing			
TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	
Planisphere 51.5deg N	-	Philips ISBN 0-540-08817-X	
Mapping the Universe	Dr. Paul Murdin	Carlton Books Limited	



Essential costs/materials
Planisphere approx. cost £5-8
Entry Requirements/Level
No qualifications are needed, merely enthusiasm to gain knowledge of the night sky! The course will be taught at general interest level 3.
Teaching and learning methods used
Weekly Powerpoint slide presentations Weekly basic research exercises in which learners can participate Use of WWW to access pages linked to the historical subject matter of the course Regular class debates and discussion
Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course learners will be able to: 1. Explain how astronomy and astrology gradually parted company 2. Describe the composition of our Solar System and its link to the stars 3. Study one 'Guest Star' or comet event and evaluate the knowledge acquired 3. Discuss the role of Copernicus in challenging long held beliefs of Earth's role in the Universe
How will you know you are learning?
Quizzes, Q&A, weekly project exercise and feedback from tutor in remarks and discussion
Suggested Further Study and Progression Routes
This course is linked to a further optional WEA course " Herschel family lead basis for modern observing "
Brief tutor profile: Lecturer in many WEA centres, editor of 'The Astronomer' since 1975, former president of the British Astronomical Association and recipient of their top 'Walter Goodacre award'. In 2005 honoured by the Royal Astronomical Society of professionals with an international award for 'services to astronomy'. Now promoting use of robotic telescopes overseas via the Internet.

If you would like more information about other WEA activities and courses please contact WEA London and Southern Regions' Support Centre.
The WEA is committed to equality of opportunity and inclusive learning.

Services for Learners contains information about support and progression opportunities for learners and will be made available to you when you start your course. However, if you would like to receive a copy before the start of your course, please telephone the learner enquiry, freephone line on 0800 328 1060.

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You can now enrol and pay online. Go to: www.wea.org.uk

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