Curriculum Overview: The Symbolic Path to Individuation

This course uses the Tarot de Marseille and the Kabbalistic Tree of Life as a dual-framework for psychological exploration. The goal is to guide students in using external symbols to access internal archetypes, facilitating the Jungian process of individuation—the integration of the conscious and unconscious mind to achieve wholeness.

Module 1: The Grammar of the Image

The first phase focuses on the Tarot de Marseille, specifically its role as a visual language. Unlike modern decks, the Marseille tradition emphasizes structural symmetry and primary colours, making it an ideal tool for objective symbolic analysis before moving into subjective interpretation.

1. Conduct a visual inventory of a selected card. Students list only what they see (e.g., a red cloak, a balanced scale, a downward gaze) without assigning meaning.
2. Introduce the concept of the archetype. Discuss how a symbol is not a sign with a fixed meaning, but a"window" into a universal psychological pattern.
3. Practice active imagination. Students choose a figure in a card and write a dialogue between their
conscious self and the figure, allowing the image to "speak" its own desires and fears.

Module 2: The Architecture of Consciousness

In this phase, students introduce the Kabbalistic Tree of Life as the spatial map for their psychological journey. By mapping the Major Arcana to the 22 paths of the Tree, the students move from isolated images to a structured system of psychic movement.

1. Map the Tree of Life. Students learn the ten Sefirot (spheres) as states of consciousness, from the divine spark (Kether) to the physical manifestation (Malkuth).
2. Assign the Major Arcana to the paths. Students analyze why a specific card (e.g., The Lovers or The Tower) connects two specific spheres of consciousness.
3. Identify the current "station." Students select the Sefirah that best represents their current state of life and
the path (card) they must traverse to reach the next level of integration.

Module 3: Confronting the Shadow

Individuation requires the integration of the Shadow—the repressed or denied parts of the personality. This module uses the "darker" symbols of the Tarot and the lower realms of the Tree of Life to face these projections.

1. Shadow Projection Exercise. Students select a card they instinctively dislike or fear. They list the traits they find repulsive in that image.
2. The Mirror Technique. Through guided meditation, students recognize these repulsive traits as fragmented
parts of their own psyche that have been cast into the unconscious.

3. Ritual Integration. Using the Kabbalistic concept of "Tikkun" (repair), students create a symbolic gesture or

written affirmation to welcome the shadow aspect back into the conscious self.

Module 4: The Synthesis of the Self

The final phase guides the student toward the centre. The goal is to move beyond the duality of light/dark or conscious/unconscious to find the "Self"—the unified centre of the personality.

1. The Fool's Journey as Individuation. Students trace the sequence of the Major Arcana as a met aphor for the human life cycle and the psychological evolution toward maturity.
2. Creating a Personal Mandala. Students select three cards and one Sefirah that represe nt their unique path
of individuation, arranging them in a circular mandala to represent wholeness.
3. Final Reflection. Students write a synthesis paper explaining how the movement from the ima ge (Tarot)
through the structure (Kabbalah) led them to a deeper understanding of their own internal unity.

Major Arcana Path Mapping

Path	Connection (Sefirot)	Major Arcana Card
11	Kether →→ Chokmah	The Fool
12	Kether →→ Binah	The Magician
13	Kether →→ Tiferet	The High Priestess
14	Chokmah →→ Binah	The Empress
15	Chokmah →→ Tiferet	The Emperor
16	Binah →→ Tiferet	The Hierophant
17	Chokmah →→ Chesed	The Lovers
18	Binah →→ Geburah	The Chariot
19	Chesed →→ Geburah	Strength
20	Chesed →→ Tiferet	The Hermit
21	Geburah →→ Tiferet	Wheel of Fortune
22	Chesed →→ Netzach	Justice
23	Geburah →→ Hod	The Hanged Man
24	Tiferet →→ Netzach	Death
25	Tiferet →→ Hod	Temperance
26	Tiferet →→ Yesod	The Devil
27	Netzach →→ Hod	The Tower
28	Netzach →→ Yesod	The Star
29	Hod →→ Yesod	The Moon
30	Netzach →→ Malkuth	The Sun
31	Hod →→ Malkuth	Judgement
32	Yesod →→ Malkuth	The World

The Minor Arcana following a numerical progression

Suit of Wands (Fire/Will)

Card	Meaning
Ace	The birth of a new spark, ambition, or creative impulse.
Two	Planning the future and expanding one's horizons.
Three	The first tangible results of foresight and exploration.
Four	Establishing a stable, celebratory foundation of success.
Five	The friction of competition and the struggle for dominance.
Six	Public recognition and the triumph of the will.
Seven	Defending one's ground and maintaining an advantage.
Eight	The rapid acceleration of events and swift communication.
Nine	The resilience to endure the final stretch of a trial.
Ten	The heavy burden of total responsibility and burnout. (Excess)

Suit of Cups (Water/Emotion)

Card	Meaning
Ace	The overflow of pure, untapped emotional potential.
Two	The initial attraction and union of two souls.
Three	The joy of shared emotion and community celebration.
Four	Withdrawal into apathy and the refusal of new offers.
Five	The pain of loss and the focus on what is gone.
Six	Returning to childhood innocence and nostalgic purity.
Seven	The confusion of too many fantasies and illusions.
Eight	The mature decision to walk away from what no longer serves.
Nine	The achievement of personal wish-fulfillment and satisfaction.
Ten	The ultimate realization of emotional wholeness and family harmony. (Completion)

Suit of Swords (Air/Intellect)

Card	Meaning
Ace	A sudden breakthrough of absolute mental clarity.
Two	A stalemate caused by the refusal to see the truth.
Three	The sharp, piercing pain of betrayal or heartbreak.
Four	A period of mental hibernation and necessary recovery.
Five	A hollow victory won through aggression or deceit.
Six	A gradual transition away from chaos toward calmer waters.
Seven	The use of stealth or cunning to achieve a goal.
Eight	Feeling imprisoned by one's own limiting beliefs.
Nine	The peak of psychological distress, anxiety, and insomnia.
Ten	The absolute end of a cycle through total collapse. (Excess)

Suit of Pentacles (Earth/Material)

Card	Meaning
Ace	The seed of a new financial or physical opportunity.
Two	Learning to balance multiple demands and resources.
Three	The application of skill through collaboration and teamwork.
Four	The attempt to find security through hoarding and control.
Five	The experience of material hardship and spiritual isolation.
Six	The balanced exchange of generosity and support.
Seven	Patiently evaluating the growth and harvest of one's labour.
Eight	The dedicated pursuit of craftsmanship and technical mastery.
Nine	The attainment of luxury, independence, and self-sufficiency.
Ten	The establishment of a lasting legacy and ancestral wealth (Completion)

1. Keter (Crown) The highest Sefirah, representing the divine will and the initial impulse of creation. It is often described as "Sacred Nothingness" because it exists at the threshold between the Infinite (Ein Sof) and the manifested universe. It governs the unconscious source of desire and faith.

2. Chokmah (Wisdom) The first flash of intuition or a seed of an idea. It is the "Sacred Somethingness" that emerges from the nothingness of Keter. In the human soul, it represents the spark of inspiration and the capacity for selflessness.

3. Binah (Understanding) The process of taking the spark of Chokmah and expanding it into a detailed structure. While Chokmah is the "what," Binah is the "how." It is associated with analytical thought, deep comprehension, and the experience of joy.

4. Chesed (Loving-kindness) The attribute of unconditional love and expansive giving. It represents the divine desire to bestow goodness upon creation without limit. Internally, it is experienced as love; externally, it manifests as acts of kindness.

5. Gevurah (Strength / Discipline) The attribute of judgement, constraint, and boundaries. It balances the expansiveness of Chesed by adding limit and discipline. Internally, it is associated with the fear of God and self-sanctification; externally, it manifests as the ability to say "no" or to punish and reprove.

6. Tiferet (Beauty / Glory) The balancing point between Chesed (mercy) and Gevurah (severity). It harmonizes these opposing forces to create a state of equilibrium and beauty. It is the power to seek the glorification of the divine and to act with mercy in all ways.

7. Netzach (Victory / Endurance) The drive to overcome obstacles and persist in one's goals. It represents the active side of the lower emotions, pushing the divine light forward into the world through persistence and conquest.

8. Hod (Splendor / Humility) The attribute of submission and recognition of limits. It balances the drive of Netzach by introducing humility and the ability to yield. It acts as a reflection or "echo" of the higher energies.

9. Yesod (Foundation) The gathering point for all the energies of the previous Sefirot, which it then channels downward. It represents the connection, the bond, and the intense desire to cleave to truth before the energy is manifested physically.

10. Malkuth (Kingdom / Presence) The final Sefirah and the only one that exists in the physical realm. It is the "Dimension of Speech" and embodiment, where the divine flow finally becomes tangible reality. It represents the acceptance of divine sovereignty and the manifestation of all higher spiritual work.