The alchemists were so steeped in their inner experiences that their sole concern was to devise fitting images and expressions regardless of whether these were intelligible or not. Although in this respect they remained behind the times, they nevertheless performed the inestimable service of having constructed a phenomenology of the unconscious long before the advent of psychology……At any rate we no longer believe that the secret lies in alchemical substance, but that it is rather to be found in one of the darker and deeper layers of the psyche, although we do not know the nature of this layer. Perhaps in another century or so we shall discover a new darkness from which there will emerge something we do not understand either, but whose presence we sense with utmost certainty.

The Psychology of the Transference (CW16 par 497)
Course Requirements

Required Texts
Mircea Eliade, *The Forge and the Crucible*
Lawrence Principe, *The Secrets of Alchemy*
C.G. Jung, *Psychology and Alchemy* (CW 12)
Edward Edinger, *Anatomy of the Psyche*
Stanton Marlan, *The Black Sun*

*Source Book* = (SB) Unique Copy Center
*Handouts* = (H)
*Interesting and helpful Websites*
Alchemywebsite.com

Assessment
- You are expected to attend class and participate in class discussions. More than two absences will result in a **one whole grade point lowering** for the course (for example if you do B work your grade will be lowered to C). Please email requests for permission before the date of your absence. **Participation means preparing the readings for discussion and bringing your books to class.**

- Please note: your active participation in seminar discussions will have a significant impact on your final grade.

- All handheld electronic devices may not be used during class. This includes **cell Phones** and **Computers** are to be turned off. **Personal notes** and **texting** to fellow students during class time are **not permitted.**

- **Eating in class is not permitted!**

- **Class begins at 9:30 sharp—not 9:40 or 9:50**

Assignments and percentage of grade
- Class preparation, participation and attendance=25%
- Three in class reflections=25%
- One response paper and one class presentation=25%
- Alchemy Project (in groups)=25%

Standards for written work and evaluation
Evaluation of Written Work:
All written work should be submitted **on time**; this includes papers and exams. **Late work submitted without written documentation of a medical or personal emergency will not be accepted.** Written work must be typed or word-processed, double-spaced with 1” margins. You many **not email** your papers. Written work will be assessed according to the following scale.
- A=Outstanding work distinguished by a high degree of originality, clarity, detail and depth of analysis. Secondarily, “A” work is also well written, without obvious grammatical and spelling errors, and well organized.

- B=Above average work which is original, clear and well conceived. Secondarily, “B” work is well written, but may contain some grammatical errors and awkwardness.

- C=Average and competent work which is well written and clear. “C” work is not substandard work, but may be lacking in originality and depth of analysis.

- D=Substandard work which does not fully answer a given question or grapple with a topic on an appropriate level. “D” work is generally not well written and organized. Anyone receiving a “D” should make an appointment to meet with the instructor to discuss outside referrals to academic or writing tutors.

- F=Work which fails to meet Gallatin standards in terms of content and or presentation. Any student receiving an “F” must make an appointment with the instructor. Failure to submit any written work will result in an automatic “F”.

- “I” (Incompletes) are strenuously discouraged, but can be arranged should a personal or medical emergency arise. The appropriate forms must be obtained from the Assistant Dean’s office and signed by the instructor.

Please take note of Gallatin’s policy on academic integrity:
As a Gallatin Student you belong to an interdisciplinary community of artists and scholars who value honest and open intellectual inquiry. This relationship depends on mutual respect, responsibility and integrity. Failure to uphold these values will be subject to severe sanctions, which may include dismissal from the University. Examples of behaviors that compromise the academic integrity of the Gallatin School plagiarism, illicit collaboration, doubling or recycling coursework and cheating. Please consult the Gallatin Bulletin or Gallatin website (www.Gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/policy/integrity.html) for a full description of the academic integrity policy.

Part I

Course Schedule
First Week Origin and History of Alchemy
Jan. 29
- Introduction to the course
Jan. 31
- H The Alchemy Reader 12-19
- H Splendor Solis Introduction 1-22
- Edward Edinger: Anatomy of the Psyche 1-15
Second Week Origin and History of Alchemy con’t
Feb. 5 Iron Age, Babylonian and Greco- Roman Period “Chemeia”
- Lawrence Principe: The Secrets of Alchemy Introduction 1-7; chpt one 9-26
- Mircea Eliade: The Forge and the Crucible 19-42; 71-78
Feb.7 Arabic –Islamic Period “al-Kimiya”
- Principe: The Secrets of Alchemy 27-50

Third Week Origin and History of Alchemy
Feb.12
Feb.14
- FIRST REFLECTION

Fourth Week Origin and History of Alchemy con’t
Feb. 19 Chinese Alchemy
- Eliade: The Forge and the Crucible pp. 109-16
- SB C.G. Jung: “Commentary on the secret of the Golden Flower” from CW 13 pars1-56
Feb. 21 Indian Alchemy
- Eliade: Forge 127-141
- SB Eliade: “Yoga and Alchemy” from Yoga Immortality and Freedom, 274-292

Fifth Week
Feb.26 Medieval Alchemy
- Principe: Chapter 3, 51-82
- *Rosarium Philosophorum images: Lecture and slides with Diane Fremont
Feb. 28 Interlude— ego/self—What is it? Why is it in need of Transformation?
- SB Sigmund Freud: “The Dissection of the Psychical Personality” 57-80
- H C. G. Jung: ‘Ego” 425 and “Self” 460-461 from CW 6; “Ego” 3-7 and “Self” 23-25 from CW 9.2
- SB D.W. Winnicott: “Ego Distortion in Terms of the True and False Self” 140-152

Sixth Week
Mar. 5
- SB Christopher Bollas: “The Transformational Object” 13-29
- SB Bhikkhu Bodi: “Self-transformation” 1-4
- Principe: 94-104
Mar.7
- RESPONSE PAPERS ON SELF DUE—Student Presentations
Seventh Week Readings for the Alchemy Project
March 12
- Preparation, Incubation, Illumination and Formation of groups
- SB L. Robbins “The Alchemy Project”—Healing with the Alchemical Imagination in the Undergraduate Classroom 1-15
- SB F. David Peat “The Alchemy of Creativity” 1-21
March 14
- SECOND REFLECTION

Eighth Week
Mar. 19 and 21
- SPRING BREAK

The Process of Alchemical Transformation

Ninth Week
Mar. 26 The Golden Age of Alchemy
- Principe: 107-136
- Eliade: Forge “Petra Genetrix” 43-52
Mar. 28 “Calcination”
- Edinger: Anatomy of the Psyche 17-46
- Eliade: Forge 65-86; 79-86

Tenth Week
April 2 “Solutio” and “Coagulatio”
- Anatomy 47-81; 83-115
April 4 “Sublimatio”
- Anatomy 117-145
- Forge 142-1

Eleventh Week
April 9 “Mortificatio”
- Anatomy 142-182
- Stan Marlan: The Black Sun 3-26
April 11 “Mortificatio” con’t
- Black Sun 27-64

Twelfth Week
April 16
- THIRD REFLECTION
April 18 “Separatio” and “Coniunctio”
- Anatomy 183-209; 211-232
- *Black Sun* 65-96

**Thirteenth Week**
April 23 Revisiting the Self
  - *Black Sun* 148-214
April 25
  - Principe: *The Secret of Alchemy* 137-210

**Fourteenth Week**
April 30
  - Alchemy Project
May 2
  - Alchemy Project

**Fifteenth Week**
May 7
  - Alchemy Project
May 9
  - Last class and Evaluations