

# Introduction to Lamplighting: Course Outline



## Description and Purpose:

This course introduces lamplighting, my term for bringing light to a troubled world through the power of blended imagination, vision, story, and possibility. By the end of the course, you should be able to discuss how reimagining our guiding stories can lead to positive changes in the world, explain why storytelling is influential, mention several examples of lamplighting making change in the world, and decide on a personal style of lamplighting to try out.

## Logistics and Etiquette:

- We will meet weekly via Zoom. Please email me if I haven't sent you the URL yet. I've scheduled an hour and a half for each meeting. The format will alternate between presentation, discussion, and practices to try out.
- Camera on, please, unless you have a temporary event on your end to deal with. To decrease background noise, please remain muted until ready to speak. [Here is a guide](#) if you are new to Zoom.
- Recommendation: For the first session, show up five minutes early to make sure your tech is working. If you need to miss a live session, I'm recording them and can send you a link to the recording.
- Please be mindful of how you show up, including how much time you take when speaking. We want to be sure everyone gets a chance to participate.
- Keep an eye on your dreams throughout the course. We can make space for discussing why they are important.

## Schedule:

### Week 1: Lamplighting, Imagination, and Story for Change

In Week 1 we will go over what lamplighting is, the need for it, examples of it, four types of lamplighting, our theory of how groups and organizations change, and lamplighting's foundation in imagination (or "imagiknowing"), inspiration, vision, storytelling, care, and possibility. We will also consider the importance of reenchancement. Lamplighting welcomes in the "redemptive unminded": exiled but vital aspects of human experience. We will go over why storytelling of various kinds, including art and dreams, can reach farther than argument or exposition.

### Week 2: Restorying Our Lore

The basis of human perception and action in the world is our internal, partially shared keystone fictions. When they change, everything built on them changes as well. Using the lens of *loreology*, an approach that turns literalisms (stucknesses) back into lore, we will go over in Six Phases how reimagining guiding stories melts them down into fresh possibilities, thereby fulfilling the ancient alchemical dictum "dissolve and coagulate." As

we do this, we will be guided by Jung's insights into active imagination and accessing the helpful autonomy of imaginal figures and guides in our fantasies and dreams.

### Week 3: Worldview Therapy

In this session we consider various practices for reshaping lore into *loreways*: creative, storied wisdom paths that align intent and archetype, conscious and unconscious, self and world, desires and relationships. We will also look into [enchantivism](#) (a storied way to make change by picturing possibilities), consider the difference between revolution and transrevolution, and go over what an Earth-honoring worldview to fit our time would require.

### Week 4: Mythologies Old and New

Folklore, including mythology, contains valuable lessons for understanding current as well as internal events. We will practice detecting folkloric motifs around and within us, examine the differences between conscious and unconscious mythology, consider a lifespan model of myth, and discuss the need for a new mythology for our time and what it might be like. In this session we will also talk about next steps and how to build and maintain *heartsteads* (conscious communities) of lamplighters.