Class Organization: Students are required to prepare for lectures by fulfilling reading assignments prior to attendance. Each week, two to three students will lead discussion on the readings for that meeting. Each week’s team will send an email to everyone in the class, *by no later than the Sunday before class*, containing the following elements:

1) A short (1-2 page) analysis of the readings (including, where possible, discussion of images)
2) A list of at least 5 questions about the readings, which will serve as the basis for our in-class seminar discussion.

Readings: During the first week of class, all students must purchase a Course Reader from The Alternative, 6556 Pardall Road, Isla Vista. The contents of the reader are as follows:

Eric Holmyard, *Alchemy*, pp. 68-82
Stanton J. Linden, *Darke Hieroglyphicks: Alchemy in English Literature from Chaucer to the Restoration*, pp. 6-36
Barbara Obrist, ed., *Constantine of Pisa, The Book of the Secrets of Alchemy*, pp. 3-5; 227-33; 246-53; 266-71
Raphael Patai, *the Jewish Alchemists, A History and Source Book*, pp. pp. 6-80; 152-69; 218-33
John Read, *From Alchemy to Chemistry*, pp. 41-57
________________, *The Alchemical Body*, pp. 203-206
________________, “The Ocean of Mercury,” pp. 1-8
Schedule of Class Meetings and Assigned Readings

September 29  Orientation, Disorientation, Reorientation
October 6    Fundamentals of Alchemy
Eliade, “The Myth of Alchemy,” pp. 7-23
Levere, Transforming Matter, pp. 1-13

October 13   Greek Philosophy and Hellenistic Alchemy
Brock, Chemistry, pp. 8-19
Burckhart, Alchemy, pp. 196-201
Lindberg, Beginnings, pp. 35-58
Roberts, Mirror of Alchemy, pp. 13-26

October 20   Medieval Alchemy
Read, From Alchemy to Chemistry, pp. 41-57
Obrist, Constantine of Pisa, pp. 3-5; 227-33; 246-53; 266-71
Roberts, Mirror of Alchemy, pp. 45-63

October 27   Renaissance and Newtonian Alchemy
Dobbs, Alchemical Death & Resurrection, pp. 1-34
Linden, Darke Hieroglyphicks, pp. 6-36

November 3   Jewish Alchemy
Patai, Jewish Alchemists, pp. 60-80; 152-69; 218-33

November 10  Islamic Alchemy
Holmyard, Alchemy, pp. 68-82
Ryding, “Islamic Alchemy,” pp. 121-33

November 17  Hindu Alchemy
White, Alchemical Body, pp. 203-206
White, “Indian Alchemy,” pp. 241-4

November 24  Taoist Alchemy
Boehmer, “Taoist Alchemy,” pp. 57-78

December 1  Conclusions