“CLIMB UP ON THE WAY AND ITS VIRTUE AND GO DRIFTING AND WANDERING, NEITHER PRAISED NOR DAMNED, NOW A DRAGON, NOW A SNAKE, SHIFTING WITH THE TIMES, NEVER WILLING TO HOLD TO ONE COURSE ONLY, NOW UP, NOW DOWN, TAKING HARMONY FOR YOUR MEASURE, DRIFTING AND WANDERING WITH THE ANCESTOR OF THE TEN THOUSAND THINGS.”

Alan Watts

Course of Study

Intensives of 15 days occur in August – September, October – November, January – February and April – May for the first two years of the program. During the third year, two clinical Intensives will be held in August – September and again in January – February with additional material interspersed a few days at a time. Homework is given quarterly, between Intensives. Due to the cumulative nature of the curriculum, satisfactory understanding of all material from previous years is a prerequisite to beginning the final year.

C301: Classical Five-Element Acupuncture 9
This course deepens diagnostic skills through viewing videos showing Professor Worsley treating clients. These sessions are thoroughly discussed. Voice tapes demonstrating different voice sounds are used for deepening the student’s skill in hearing. Students continue Clinical observation between Intensives.

CL311: Clinical Supervision 1
This first clinical experience prepares the student with a solid base for the clinical internship that follows. Under supervision of the Clinical Director and/or an assisting supervisor, each student sees two clients as a primary practitioner. When not serving as the primary student practitioner, students assist their classmates with other clients. Participatory discussions are held after each Traditional Diagnosis (TD) and treatment. Practical sessions promote competency in all aspects of each treatment performed, including professional demeanor, intake skills, record keeping, treatment planning, preparation, pulse taking, physical examination, time management, client management, and confidentiality.

P301: Points 9
Students review all points and point procedures needed during treatments in the Clinical Intensive. Facility with Clean Needle technique is gained. Head points and their locations are taught, along with more formalized protocols. General review of points prepares the student for clinical internship. Emergency first aid points are taught. In planning treatments, all the knowledge the student has gained about the spirits of the points is applied. Included practical sessions provide students with the opportunity for hands-on experience before performing actual treatments on their clients.
PM301: Practice Management 1
Subjects relating to the management of an acupuncture practice are covered. These include client management, client homework, informed consent, dealing with the client’s family, ‘red flags’, childbirth, treatment of infants and children, transfer of clients, and special symptom situations. Between Intensives until graduation, students assist in managing and running the student clinic, and pursue topics of interest related to practice management.

CL310: Clinical Supervision Lab
Students obtain continuing clinical experience under supervision. Students must log 510 hours of Traditional Diagnoses and treatments, with a maximum of 250 hours of assisted treatments, to fulfill the requirements for this course. ITEA’s Clinical Director and/or Academic Dean must supervise 50 hours of primary treatments.

PM310: Practice Management Lab
Students complete three semester credits of work in required duties and independent tasks. Required duties include presentation of a case study and giving public talks. Independent tasks include presenting a business report and managing the student clinic.

C302: Classical Five-Element Acupuncture 10
This course evaluates and reviews the student’s training to-date.

HP302: Chinese History and Philosophy 2
Elisabeth Rochat presents information on the Meridians and Extra Meridians with all Vital Circulations and their Organization, Liquids in the Body, Bodily Fluids, Blood and Qi. Elisabeth, scholar of ancient Chinese history and philosophy for more than 25 years, has been primary lecturer and General Secretary of the Ricci Institute, senior lecturer for the European School of Acupuncture, and holds degrees in Philosophy and the Classics, and Chinese Studies. She is co-author of many exquisite books on Chinese philosophy. Elisabeth enlightens students through explanation of the meanings of Chinese characters, and their evolution through history.

HS302: Western Medical Tests
Students are introduced to a variety of medical testing procedures and results, such as: X-ray, CAT scan, MRI, ultrasound, arthroscopy, endoscopy, EEG, EKG, EMG, and PET scans. Examples are presented, read and analyzed.

P302: Points 10
Students review all points on the body, and take a point location exam.

PM302: Practice Management 2
Students study with different faculty during a variety of seminar days, learning about setting up a practice. The value of continuing education, the political arena, and different acupuncture organizations are explained.

PM303: Practice Management 3
Subjects relating to the management of an acupuncture practice are covered. These include: public relations, integration of other therapeutic modalities, an overview of complementary medicines, natural remedies, information on electrical equipment, basic reference sources, terminal illness, and ethics.

PM304: Practice Management 4
This course includes seminar days, consisting of presentations from a variety of faculty members about setting up a practice. Insurance will also be covered.

P303: Points 11
Students review all points and point procedures needed during treatments in the Clinical Intensive. Explanation of other formalized treatments is given. In planning treatments, all the knowledge the student has gained about the spirits of the points is applied. Included practical sessions provide an opportunity for hands-on experience before performing actual treatments on clients.

PM304: Points 12
Students review all points on the body and hone their location technique.

C303: Classical Five-Element Acupuncture 11
This course further deepens diagnostic skills through additional viewing of videos showing Professor Worsley treating clients. Videos are thoroughly discussed. New information is also covered in lecture format.
C304: Classical Five-Element Acupuncture 12
In this course, students expand their diagnostic ability by interviewing clients and by attending a seminar with Dr. Judy Worsley, if possible.

PH303: Pharmacology 3
The course covers the pharmacology of corticosteroids, insulin, thyroid and sex hormones, general anesthetics, analgesics, anxiolytics, and issues related to use of drugs in children and the aged.

CL313: Clinical Supervision 2
In this course, students continue their clinical experience. Each student sees two clients a primary practitioner, under supervision of the Clinical Director and/or an assisting supervisor. Students also assist fellow student practitioners with other clients. Participatory discussions are held after each intake and treatment. Included practical sessions promote competency in all aspects of each treatment performed, including professional demeanor, intake skills, record keeping, treatment planning, preparation, pulse taking, physical examination, time management, client management, and confidentiality.

CL314: Senior Project
Students complete individual projects which interest them. Chosen topics promote Classical Five-Element Acupuncture or ITEA and, in some way, lend value to the medicine and the Institute.

T404: NCCAOM Exam Prep 1
This course covers basic concepts of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and the eight principals. Topics covered include: the history of acupuncture in China, systems of nomenclature, yin, yang, qi, jin, ye, jing, blood, the eight parameters, jing luo, the four levels, the six stages, the Zang Fu functions and relationships, tongue diagnosis, pulse qualities, point Indications and functions, and syndromes. The National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) exam is explained and guidance for further study is given.

T405: NCCAOM Exam Prep 2
Students review the basic concepts of TCM and the eight principals. Covered topics include: hand points, scalp points, ear points, 13 ghost points, four needle protocol, bleeding, cupping, and Guasha. Extensive review sessions are held, and individual case studies presented as students prepare for the exam. A mock exam is given at the end of the course.

HP402: Chinese History and Philosophy 3
Elisabeth Rochat discusses Yin/Yang, Heaven/Earth, Five Elements, Life, Essences, Fu, Po, Hun, Shen, Yi and Hi. Elisabeth, scholar of ancient Chinese history and philosophy for more than 25 years, has been primary lecturer and General Secretary of the Ricci Institute, senior lecturer for the European School of Acupuncture, and holds degrees in Philosophy and the Classics, and Chinese Studies. She is co-author of many exquisite books on Chinese philosophy. Elisabeth enlightens students through explanation of the meanings of Chinese characters, and their evolution through history.

“I USED TO THINK I KNEW THE ANSWERS. PERHAPS YOU HAVE TO PERSUADE YOURSELF YOU KNOW THE ANSWERS, OTHERWISE YOU NEVER DO ANYTHING. I KNOW THE ANSWERS TO DIFFERENT THINGS NOW. PERHAPS THAT’S IT: WE’RE ONLY CAPABLE OF KNOWING THE ANSWERS TO A CERTAIN NUMBER OF THINGS AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME.”

Julian Barnes