

GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA

INDIVIDUAL PROFICIENCY SCHOOL

February 2018-2019
West Omaha Masonic Center
Third Sunday of Each Month from 5:00-7:00 pm

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I. Rationale:

Statistics show Masonry is dying, and with it, the number of Masons who convey ritual to new candidates. Soon there will be no more of either. When the ritual is gone, so is Masonry as we know it. Since today's Masons are busy men who juggle many projects between their personal lives and lodge activities, the Grand Lodge of Nebraska should formalize a process to learn ritual. The purpose of this course is to provide motivation, structure, and assistance to 21st Century Masons to learn and properly deliver Nebraska esoteric ritual work in its entirety.

A new cadre of expert ritualists is needed to save Masonry.

II. Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, graduates will:

- be able to perform all esoteric ritual
- learn to overcome fear of giving lectures in front of their brothers
- help their own and other lodges provide quality ritual
- be eligible to apply for the position of Deputy Grand Custodian
- become certified Individually Proficient by the Grand Custodian
- be among less than one half of one percent of Nebraska Masons who are certified
- personally contribute to the perpetual existence of the fraternity!

III. Our Assumptions:

Due to our mutual ambition to complete a lot of work in a very short period of time, it is necessary to establish certain ground rules to facilitate instructional effectiveness. Your instructors assume you:

- believe ritual is important and necessary
- will not waste valuable class time arguing if your suggestion is not implemented
- enrolled to memorize and deliver the existing ritual, not debate its meaning or relevance
- accept the format of the curriculum
- consent to the sharing of your email and phone number with fellow students
- understand the Grand Lodge of Nebraska is not an accredited educational institution
- believe the Grand Custodian has the authority to and will administer ritual as he sees fit

If for any reason you cannot agree to these assumptions or the format of the curriculum on the first day of class, you may decline to continue and no enrollment fee will be assessed. After the first day your fee will be donated to the Masonic Relief Fund.

(Information in all sections below is subject to change in the best interests of Masonry)

IV. Format and Procedures:

This course will be presented in a combination of lectures and practical exercises. At the beginning of each class you will be evaluated on your memorization of the previous class assignment.

The Round Table: Students will be evaluated in a “Round Table” format both in ungraded progress checks and for formal certification testing. Seated around a table, a designated student will recite the first few lines of a specified ritual passage. The student seated next to him will recite the next few lines, etc., until it comes around again to the first student. This repeats until the entire degree passage is completed. Students will be rotated often and never sit in the same seat twice, therefore they must memorize and be prepared to recite ALL of the ritual, as they never know what dialogue will be theirs.

Students will be provided materials that highlight methods to remember ritual content and order.

V. Course Requirements and Certification:

1. **Class attendance and participation policy:** We hope that you will find yourselves looking forward to attending class meetings. Attendance is not mandatory, but remedial assistance is difficult to justify if you frequently miss class. With the short time allotted to us students risk their ability to be certified if they do not attend. Students may also request to test out early for any segment of instruction. If they fail in an early attempt they may continue the program and re-test with the rest of the class.

2. **Required text:** *Nebraska Masonic Work* (cipher), small or large version.

3. **Assignments:** You will be required to memorize specific passages of the ritual and be evaluated in a progress check at the beginning of the next class meeting.

4. **School of Instruction attendance:** Because it is impossible to teach the entire body of floor work to the large group of students registered for this class, you will be required to attend one of the below Schools of Instruction offered by the Grand Custodian in Papillion or Lincoln. The Grand Custodian, his Deputy, or his Apprentice will have a sign-up sheet at the session. Students must sign in or they will not receive credit for attendance. Those unable to attend will be required to schedule extra sessions with us to receive floor work instruction.

NOTE: Dates and locations of the Schools of Instruction will be announced at a later date.

5. **Round Table formal examination:** At the end of each degree block you will be formally evaluated in the same Round Table format as your monthly progress checks. This, plus the floor work examination in number 6 below, will be for final certification in the applicable degree.

6. **Floor work examination:** At the end of each degree block of instruction you will be evaluated in a lodge room for the entire degree, including floor work. This, plus the Round Table examination in number 5 above, will be for final certification in the applicable degree. Your name may be drawn from a hat for a specific ritual part or the Grand Custodian may select you for one. You will be rotated through different positions during the degree. This requires you to know ALL verbal parts and floor work for this examination.

7. **Certified Individually Proficient:** When a student successfully passes all three formal evaluations in numbers 5 and 6 above, he will be certified Individually Proficient by the Grand Custodian.

VI. Examination Procedures:

You will be evaluated at numerous way points by the Grand Custodian and/or his Deputies on your level of proficiency in the ritual. The decision of the Grand Custodian is final.

VII. Tentative Course Schedule

Since this class is only in its third year, there are certain unknowns that may become clear as the course progresses. Flexibility is key.

Additional class meeting days/hours: We ask students to be open to the need to hold additional class meetings on different days if needed. The possibility of extending existing class hours is also an option. We want you to successfully complete this course!

Pace of learning: We also ask that students be aware the class pace may need to be slowed or accelerated once its flow is established.

With these things in mind, below is the tentative class schedule:

Examination Areas	Assignment due next class
February 18 & 25, 2018 Welcome & Discuss Syllabus	Memorize EA Questions & Answers
March 18, 2018 EA Questions & Answers	Memorize EA Open, First Section, & Close
April 15, 2018 EA Open, First Section, & Close	Memorize EA Second Lecture
May 20, 2018 EA Second Lecture	Memorize EA Third Lecture Esoteric Review for Round Table & Floor Work Exam
June 17, 2018 EA Round Table & Floor Work Exam	Memorize FC Open, First Section, Q&A, & Close
July 15, 2018 FC Open, First Section, Q&A, & Close	Memorize Middle Chamber Esoteric Review for Round Table & Floor Work Exam
August 19, 2018 FC Round Table & Floor Work Exam	Memorize MM Questions & Answers
September 16, 2018 MM Questions & Answers	Memorize MM Open, First Section, & Close
October 14, 2018 MM Open, First Section, & Close	Memorize MM Second Section
November 18, 2018 MM Second Section	Memorize MM Second Lecture
December 16, 2018 MM Second Lecture	Memorize MM Third Lecture Esoteric Review for Round Table & Floor Work Exam
January 21, 2019 MM Round Table & Floor Work Exam	Remedial Training and Review (As Needed)
February 1–2, 2019 Graduation/Certification	162 st Annual Communication – Kearney, Nebraska
March 10, 2018 – School of Instruction West Omaha Masonic Center	Attend Omaha Area School of Instruction

Thank you for your commitment to perpetuate our beloved fraternity!

Individual Proficiency School

Ground Rules

1. No smoking in the building, including e-cigs
2. The class will get one ten-minute break
3. No alcohol allowed on the premises by students
4. Soda, tea, water, etc. are allowed during class
5. Snacking during class is discouraged
6. Excessive coming and going is highly discouraged
7. No side conversations while the instructor or student reciter is speaking
8. Instructors will teach the class – No storytelling by students unless asked by an instructor
9. No correcting a fellow student's ritual – Instructors will do that when necessary
10. Before leaving restore the lodge building to the condition it was in at the start

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Individual Proficiency School

Attendance and Grade Sheet

Name:		
Exam Subject	Results	Signature and Date
March 18, 2018 EA Questions & Answers	Pass or Re-test	
April 15, 2018 EA Open, First Section, & Close	Pass or Re-test	
May 20, 2018 EA Second Lecture	Pass or Re-test	
June 17, 2018 EA Round Table & Floor Work Exam	Pass or Re-test	
July 15, 2018 FC Open, First Section, Q&A, & Close	Pass or Re-test	
August 19, 2018 FC Round Table & Floor Work Exam	Pass or Re-test	
September 16, 2018 MM Questions & Answers	Pass or Re-test	
October 14, 2018 MM Open, First Section, & Close	Pass or Re-test	
November 18, 2018 MM Second Section	Pass or Re-test	
December 16, 2018 MM Second Lecture	Pass or Re-test	
January 21, 2019 MM Round Table & Floor Work Exam	Pass or Re-test	
February 1–2, 2019 Graduation/Certification	162 nd Annual Communication	
March 10, 2018 Omaha Area School of Instruction	West Omaha Masonic Center	