

Department of Ancient Classics
2019-2020 Semester 2

Changes to Assessment in Greek and Roman Civilization Modules
(Take-Home Papers)

To students taking modules GC152, GC215, GC218, GC306, and GC316

As you will all be aware, the Covid-19 virus has become a worldwide pandemic and is severely disrupting life across the globe. Maynooth University is no exception and has cancelled face-to-face classes and regular exams for Semester 2. To replace these exams, the Department of Ancient Classics has been asked to provide appropriate substitutes.

To replace the regular Semester 2 exams, we will be setting what are basically **take-home papers** requiring you to write **two short essays**, to be completed over a period of about four weeks. The lecturer/s for each module will, over the next week or so, give you more information about their paper and how you should prepare for it, but the following will provide you with an outline of the general format. You can use this as a guide for how to approach your study, reading, and preparation over the coming weeks. We are aware of the difficulties of solitary and distance learning, and are doing our best to tailor the modules and online materials so that you can still do as well as possible.

Please note the following regarding **coursework essays/other assignments**:

- Concerning the **regular optional essays** in modules GC215, GC218, GC306, and GC316, **nothing has changed** (except that, as previously indicated, the submission deadline is now **Monday 20 April (by 17:00) in all modules**). In other words, for assessment purposes, optional essays will be treated exactly as before, i.e. the mark awarded will count **only if it is to the student's advantage**.
- In module GC152, the **second written assignment** has been scrapped. This means that the take-home paper will count towards **90%** of the total mark for the module, with the remaining 10% coming from the first written assignment (as now).

Here is a checklist for how things will proceed regarding the **take-home papers**:

- Around **Monday 20 April**, the take-home papers will be posted online on the respective Moodle pages of the modules listed above.
- Each paper will consist of **six** (or more) essay questions.
- You will be asked to choose **two** of these questions, and to **write a short essay of approximately 1200 words (inclusive of footnotes but not of bibliography) on each**.
 - For both essays, you should stay close to this 1200-word guideline. If you write less than 1000 words, you will probably not have written enough. If you exceed 1300 words, the essay may not be read to the very end.
 - Please provide a **full word-count** for each essay at the end of that essay.
- You should compose each essay as if it were a regular coursework essay. So you should:

- Use full sentences and formal English.
- Reference primary and secondary sources with the proper formats (as recommended in the Student Handbook for your course, which is accessible at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/ancient-classics/current-students>).
- Provide at the end of each essay a bibliography, which should give the details **only** of the books, articles, etc., that you have cited in the essay.

We will, however, **not** expect quite the same depth of engagement as we would in the case of a regular coursework essay. We will be looking for indications that you have done *some* independent reading (i.e. you should not depend entirely on the lectures and lecture-notes), thought carefully about the question, sought to support your argument with relevant detail, and attempted to structure your answer effectively.

- You will have **approximately four weeks to complete** the paper (consisting of the two essays). The exact submission deadline (date and time) will be announced soon, but it will be in **mid-May**.
- When you have completed the paper, you should attach to it a completed Departmental essay cover-sheet (in which you **affirm that the work is your own and is free from plagiarism**). Cover-sheets may be downloaded from <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/ancient-classics/current-students>.
- **Email the complete paper, with the cover-sheet, if possible as a PDF file (otherwise as a Word document), to**
 - The relevant lecturer (in the case of GC152, Dr Maeve O'Brien)
 - AND**
 - The Department (classics@mu.ie)

The lecturer/s for the relevant module will provide you with more information via Moodle over the next week or so.

We hope you are managing to study reasonably effectively in the current circumstances. Please stay well!

Thursday 2 April 2020