

Maynooth University
Department of Ancient Classics
GC350 Essay Project Instructions

GC350: Overview

This module requires students to write an essay of approximately 5000 words on one of a range of topics. **Five topics are offered**, each relating to a module taught in the second-year course or the first semester of third year. All essay topics are available on the GC350 Moodle page, and come with a bibliography and some written guidelines suggesting how it might be approached. In addition, for each topic, there will be one introductory lecture, given in the first three weeks (for the schedule, see below). Since GC350 is specifically designed as an **independent study module**, you are required to do most of the work on your own. You will of course be free to consult the lecturer concerned in his or her consultation times, but the lecturer will not give additional classes on the topic or read and comment on your essay in draft form.

Choosing your topic: Essay Preference Form

Each student will need to indicate his/her preference for a particular essay topic but will not have a completely free choice. A limit of **five** will be imposed on the number of students who can do any particular topic, so there will be 25 slots in all. If more than five students opt for the same essay topic, a ballot will be held to decide which students can do that essay. Those students who are not successful in the ballot will have to do another topic, but will still have some choice, as all students will be asked to express at least three preferences from among the topics on offer.

To indicate your preferences, please mark '1', '2', and '3' for your first, second, and third preferences in the appropriate boxes of the Essay Preference Form (also available on Moodle). You may also indicate additional preferences if you wish. **You should submit this Preference Form electronically to classics@mu.ie by 17:00 on Friday, 29 January 2020.** Any necessary ballot will be held on the following day. Forms submitted after the stated deadline will still be accepted, but if there are no vacancies on the list for your first preference, you will be given your second preference, and if that list is full, your third preference, and so on. **If you do not submit a form stating your preferences, your essay will not be accepted.**

It is possible that some students may wish to switch from the topic for which they are initially signed up to another topic. This is permissible **only** where there is a vacancy on the list for the topic to which the student wishes to switch, or where two students agree to a direct swap. In either case, the students concerned **must put their requests in writing and email them to classics@mu.ie.** No switches will be permitted after 17:00 on Monday 22 February 2020.

All students must follow the procedure set out in the instructions here in order to do a particular topic. If you submit an essay on a topic for which you are not signed up, the essay will not be accepted.

Schedule: Introductory Lectures and due dates

29 January, Friday	Submission of Preference Form to classics@mu.ie
3 February – 17 February	Introductory Lectures ¹
3 February, Wednesday (12:00)	Dr Desmond
4 February, Thursday (9:00)	Dr O'Brien
10 February, Wednesday (12:00)	Dr Davies
11 February, Thursday (9:00)	Dr McGroarty
17 February, Wednesday (12:00)	Dr Cadau
22 February, Monday	Final date for switching topics
7 May, Friday	Completed GC350 essay due

¹ Due to COVID-19 restrictions, these introductory lectures will be held online on the GC350 Microsoft TEAM.