

Assessment

A note on assessment

Assessment methods are designed to test the extent to which you have satisfied the learning outcomes listed above. Masters level degrees are designed to teach certain qualities and skills. The core skills required by the MA in Cultural Astronomy are taught in the compulsory modules and the success with which you achieve them, as expressed by this module's learning outcomes, is assessed by the three assessment tasks. Part of the assessment depends on the demonstration of knowledge and understanding. Most of the assessment criteria, though, evaluate your critical thinking, communication and analytical skills. The evidence is important but success at Masters' level depends on your ability to evaluate the evidence in order to advance a clear argument.

1. 1500 word critical review of an article or other text in the subject area (25% of total marks).

Due date: end week 8.

A 2000-word critical review of Gumerman, George J., and Miranda Warburton, 'The Universe in a Cultural Context: An Essay', in Fountain, John W., and Rolf M. Sinclair (eds.), *Current Studies in Archaeoastronomy: Conversations Across Time and Space*, Durham NC.; Carolina Academic Press, 2005, pp. 15-24.

This paper is available as a PDF at the top of the Introduction to Cultural Astronomy and Astrology module page

This assessment task satisfies learning outcome 1.

Please see the document on 'Writing Critical Academic Reviews', as well as other documents on writing essays, under 'Reading, Writing and Assessment Guidelines' on the MA CAA General Information page.

2. A 4500 word essay written on a topic within the subject area (75% of total marks).

Due Date: end week 11

A 5000-word essay on one of the following titles:

- A. It is widely argued that astrology is a divinatory system. Do you agree?
- B. Is the universe deterministic?
- C. Does the cosmos still have meaning in a secular world?

D. Is a post-modern astrology possible?

Your essay must:

- be clearly structured
- be fluently written
- make use of appropriate primary sources
- include a clear introduction setting out the question and your approach
- make reference to major protagonists in the field
- evaluate competing arguments
- recognise the problem of contested or incomplete evidence
- include clear and thorough referencing and bibliography
- contain a clear conclusion

The word count includes direct quotations, which should not comprise more than 10% of the total.

This assessment task satisfies learning outcomes 1-6.