

MA in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology

Assessments for Heavenly Discourses Module - 2020 term

There will be two pieces of work required for the module.

The first will be a 2000 word paper.

The second piece will be a sky journal and this will be 3000 words in length. For more information on the sky journal assignment please see the separate documents in the topic.

2000 Word Essay:

Completion Monday 1 June and submission BST 11.59 pm Monday 8 June.

3000 Word Essay:

Sky Journal:

Your Sky Journal proposal needs to be approved by Friday 26 June.

Completion Monday 17 August and submission BST 11.59 pm Monday 24 August.

Please note you should complete your essay by the completion date and then allow a period for editing, polishing and revision prior to submission. You can send a tutor 20% of your final draft for feedback before you submit your paper.

Please read these instructions carefully and follow them clearly.

A note on assessment

The assessment requires a total of 5000 written words. We are dividing this into two assignments, one an analysis of primary sources, the other more theoretical. You should allow time each week for considering and working on the assignments in order to complete the tasks comfortably.

Assessment methods are designed to test the extent to which you have satisfied the learning outcomes listed on the official module description. 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 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, using a critical appraisal of the evidence and scholarly material.

You should read and the guidelines under ‘Writing and Reading Guidelines’ on the General Information page and the guidelines on ‘Writing a Critical Review’. These are posted clearly on the MA Cultural Astronomy and Astrology Homepage.

1. ASSIGNMENT 1

2000 word essay (40% of total marks).

Compare and contrast the expression or representation of the sky in two works of film, music, art, architecture, celestial cartography or literature in their expression or representation of the sky.

Guidance on essay 1.

The purpose of this exercise is to engage you with the use of the primary sources, that is, original documents. These texts may be, for example, written texts, paintings, buildings, maps or musical compositions. You must post details of the texts you are using on the Forum, provided for this purpose. Explain briefly why you have chosen the texts you have.

Your essay must:

- be clearly structured
- be fluently written, avoiding grammatical and punctuation errors
- make use of appropriate primary sources
- make use of the secondary sources (scholarly work) in the field.
- include a clear introduction setting out the question and your approach
- evaluate competing arguments
- critically debate, discuss and analyse the material
- include clear and thorough referencing and bibliography according to the required format
- contain a clear and balanced conclusion

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

Remember: you may also use course material from modules you have studied previously.

**Make sure that you stay within 5% of the required word length.
Please review the essay writing guidelines**

2. ASSIGNMENT 2

3000 word Sky Journal (60% of total marks).

Please see separate instructions.