

MA CAA SACRED SKIES MODULE
(HPCA 7028) STUDENT DISCUSSION AND TASKS
FEBRUARY – MAY 2026

Week	Timetable
Orientation 4:00 pm Monday ***** 9 February 2026 *****	• Introduction to the module, required reading, shape of course. • Forum posts. • Writing and Referencing Guidelines. • The two essays. STUDENT TASKS FOR WEEK 1 1. Make notes as you watch the videos of lectures for Week 1 and read the PDFS so that you can contribute meaningfully to the discussions. 2. Please <u>observe</u> the reflection of the sky in water near you: clouds, moonlight, sunlight, starlight, the colour blue. Write down what you see and come prepared to discuss this in class in WEEK 3. 3. Please <u>observe</u> where the sun rises and where the sun sets from one observation point in your house or street. We would like you to do this once a week for the entire module and then we will discuss your findings in WEEK 8.
1. 4:00 pm Monday 16 February 2026	THE SKY AND MEASUREMENT – Why and what? BB LIVE Discussion: Measuring in the field: Part 1. Measuring digitally – light and landscape/structures. How the moon moves. How astrologers measure the sky. DG LIVE Discussion: unpacking a sky image and how to approach it. Measurement preparation for Week 2: Bernadette will be discussing how to measure in the field and will be setting you an assignment for discussion in WEEK 2.

	Image-based preparation for Week 2: Darrelyn will be unpacking a sky image and how to approach it and will be giving you two images for discussion in WEEK 2 considering how they are culturally different and the process you went through to get to this understanding. Discussion of Essay 1
2. 4:00 pm Monday 23 February 2026	THE RECEPTION OF THE SKY IN ART AND ARCHITECTURE – PART 1 BB Discussion: We will be discussing the measurement exercise from the previous week. Please come prepared with your results. DG Discussion: We will be discussing the image exercise from the previous week. Please come prepared with your results.
3. 4:00 pm Monday 2 March 2026	THE SKY AS ETERNAL NC Discussion: What is 'Sacred'? What is a religion? How this module links to ecology and spirituality. BB Discussion: The sky as eternal. DG: Student Discussion of the observation set in the Orientation seminar Observations of the reflection of the sky in water near you: clouds, moonlight, sunlight, starlight, the colour blue. Discussion of Essay 1
9 March 2026	READING WEEKS
Research proposals for Essay 2 to be submitted no later than Thursday 12 March 2026.	

4. 4:00 pm Monday 16 March 2026	THE SKY IN MYTH NC Discussion: What is Myth? The myth of the Sun: Summer and Winter Solstice. NC Discussion: What is Enchantment? NC Discussion: What is Culture? BB (lecture/discussion): Sky Myths in culture. The sky creating awe. No students task this week as you are writing your research proposal but think about the following for discussion in WEEK 5: STUDENT TASK FOR WEEK 5 What has been your experience of a past or current sky-related ritual, personal or public? This could be attendance at a summer solstice event, a personal full moon ritual that you do each month, or a festival in celebration of the harvest.
5. 4:00 pm Monday 24 March 2026	SKY AND SOUL BB Discussion: The ascent of the soul (Egypt) NC Discussion: The Des cent of the Soul. Soul Drama DG: Student Discussion of your experience of a past or current sky-related ritual, personal or public, such as the summer solstice or the full moon ritual. Discussion and questions on Essay 1.
6. 4:00 pm Monday 31 March 2026	THE RECEPTION OF THE SKY IN ART AND ARCHITECTURE – PART 2 DG Discussion: Astronomical ceilings as case studies of the desire to place the sky on ceilings. PDF: ‘Sky in Modern Art’ on Moodle. Land Art and Manhattan Henge. NC lecture/discussion: Turner, Xul Solar, Miro. DG: Student Discussion: What key points have you drawn from the lectures that could be applied to your essays?

First essay due **Thursday 2 April 2026.**
Easter week

7.

4:00 pm Monday
13 April 2026

THE SKY IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

DG Discussion: The Sky in Film and Photography

BB Discussion: The way the sky is represented in photographs.

NC Discussion: Space Fashion. Goldsmiths artists.

Gather your 8 weeks' worth of notes regarding where the sun rises and where the sun sets from one observation point in your house or street and be prepared to discuss your findings in **WEEK 8**.

8.

4:00 pm Monday
20 April 2026

SKY AND HABITATS

BB lecture: **Earthing Cosmologies: What makes a Landscape Sacred?**
Egyptian examples.

NC Discussion: Sacred and Cosmic Cities **European examples of medieval cities.**

DG lecture: **Padua (myth)/Cistercians - 'Heavenly Jerusalem' (art and architecture)**

BB/DG: Student Discussion of the work you have done over the 8 weeks:
Sunrise/sunset horizon findings.

Discussion of Essay 2

Second essay due Thursday 30 April 2026.

Assignment timetable

3,000 Word Essay: completion **Thursday 26 March 2026** and submission GMT 11.59 pm
Thursday 2 April 2026.

Marking schedule ESSAY 1:

Essays returned: Thursday 23 April 2026

4,500 Word Essay: completion **Thursday 23 April 2026** and submission BST 11.59 pm
Thursday 30 April 2026.

Marking schedule ESSAY 2:

Essays returned: Thursday 21 May 2026.
