

Essay Assignment #2

Essay Assignment #2 is worth 15%. It is part of Module #3 and must be completed and uploaded on Canvas by [Sunday, July 18th at 11:59 pm.](#)

This assignment focuses on **Catullus and his poems covered in Module 3 section C.** To complete the written assignment, you will have to **write and upload a brief essay of at least 900 words (but no more than 1,100) based on the prompt provided below. The essay should be 12 pt font, one-inch margins, and double-spaced.** As you write the essay, you should consult your notes, presentations and the readings. After you have composed and proof-read your essay, you will have to upload it onto Canvas as a **PDF or Word file.**

Prompt:

- 1. Choose the poem of Catullus that you like best (you can alternatively choose two short poems that complement each other).*
- 2. Relate the occasion of its composition, if it is known (i.e., when it was composed, why, for whom) and describe the content and meaning of the poem line by line.*
- 3. Analyze the poem with regard to Catullus' style, themes and language: what characteristics of Catullus' poetry (style, themes and language) can you identify and discuss? Consider also the cultural, social and political context of Catullus' poetry: does the poem also relate to the cultural and political climate of the time? If so, how? Provide at least two direct quotations from the text to complement your analysis (N.B. Although direct quotations from the poem are expected, quotations of several lines should be limited. Direct quotations should not be included in the total word count for the assignment).*
- 4. Explain why you chose it: what makes it stand apart from the rest of the poems for you? What qualities can you see in it? How can you describe it in relation to the rest of the collection of poems (i.e., are there other poems addressed to the same person or with the same theme? If so how does it relate to those poems?).*

In order to complete this assignment, **you only need to consult the reading, notes and handout for the section on Catullus.** For the essay, **you can choose one of the assigned poems or any other poem in the collection,** but keep in mind that your analysis needs to be detailed and you may lack some information on poems that we did not discuss. You should **not use other secondary sources, including the Internet.**

N.B. When you are quoting or presenting information that comes from Catullus' poems, you must reference it in the text. When you reference the poems, you should write in parentheses the author's name – Catullus - followed by the poem's number and the LINE number(s), not the page numbers. For example, if quoting or referencing the text of lines 1 and 2 of Catullus' poem 5, you should write: (Catullus 5.1-2).

Assessment for Written Assignments will be based on the following criteria (see the rubric for more details):

1. The degree to which the essay addresses the prompt (i.e., if all questions are answered and all parts of the prompt are addressed and developed in the essay);
2. The degree to which the essay is carefully written and thoughts are clearly presented (i.e., grammatically correct sentences, clear sentence structure, coherent text written in an academic style)
3. The degree to which the essay follows formatting and citation guidelines (specific guidelines on formatting the text, presence of citations when necessary, as well as length of paper).