**Essay 1, MMW 12, 2020, 10% of Final Grade**

In the first few weeks of the quarter, MMW 12 explores socio-political transitions from the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire along with major cultural changes, including the rise to dominance of Christianity over other religious beliefs in the Mediterranean world. Reflecting on such transitions, how did political power and religious ideas affect one another?

Choose 1-2 texts from the assigned course readings in Weeks 1-3 for your MMW 12 lecture track to address this question, tailoring the question to the text(s) you choose. You will need to ground your analysis in one or two specific text(s), and focus your argument on those text(s).

Write a 2-3 page (500-750 word) essay making an argument that is supportable by analysis of textual evidence from the readings.

* Narrow the broad question to an issue that you find significant in the specific texts/time/place which you are analyzing
* Write a thesis that takes a stand on the issue you’ve identified, including all the parts of the thesis, as specified in the Writing Assignment Overview (opposition, subject, assertion, reasons)
* Support the assertion with at least 3 reasons you draw from analyzing the text(s)
* Support your reasons with evidence from the text(s): quote, paraphrase, and summarize the text(s) as needed to demonstrate your points
* Consider and address an alternative view of the issue, the counterargument (opposition)
* Cite your sources for all ideas and words you use from any source
* Only use sources approved for the course.

Approved Sources:

* Any assigned course readings
* Sources listed in the MMW 12 Library Guide
* Lecture notes
* Section notes and handouts

Grading:

This assignment is worth **10%** of your total grade and will be assessed according to the criteria detailed here, the Writing Assignment Overview, and “Guidelines for MMW Papers.” These criteria are summarized in the grading rubric in Canvas.

Remember: You are required to submit essay 1 before essay 2 is due to pass this course. Also, remember you can only use approved sources.

**LENGTH and FORMAT**:

* 500-750 words (2-3 pages) + Works Cited page
* 12-point Arial/Times New Roman font
* MLA format
* One of these file formats: .DOC, .DOCX, .PDF

**DUE**: Submit to Canvas “Submit Assignments” module by beginning of the **FIRST** **lecture for your track in Week 4**.

**TURNITIN:**  Submitting your paper to Canvas will automatically submit your paper to Turnitin, a plagiarism-detection service, that compares your paper against all the other papers ever submitted to it and an ever-growing number of online sources. TAs check all Turnitin reports before grading papers. Please do your own work and cite your sources accurately.