

## **Vlog Group Assignment**

Vlogging can be a good way to communicate academic knowledge to a wider audience in an engaging, accessible manner. In this assignment, students will cooperate in teams of three to make a vlog about the reception of Classical culture for a non-academic audience. A list of topics to choose from is included at the end of the assignment.

The vlog should be 4 to 7 minutes long and present a critical reflection on a Classical theme in post-Classical (modern) culture. It should be recorded in English. Make good use of the course reading material and the lemmas in *The Classical Tradition*. Like an essay, your vlog should have a point to make and have a clear structure with a beginning, middle and end. It should be dynamic, i.e. not just consist of a “talking head” against an unmoving background, but contain a variety of scenes, including footage shot on location and possibly pre-existing video clips or images.

We don't expect you to have any prior experience with vlogging and will provide guidance on how to film a vlog, what software to use for editing, etc. No special equipment is required: you can record everything on your smartphone. Because this assignment is not primarily about cinematography, you won't be assessed separately on lighting, sound editing and other technical aspects.

### *Script and peer review*

By Monday 22 April at noon, every group should upload a one- to two-page document outlining the script for the vlog. It's not necessary to write down line for line what you're going to say, but please include at least the following elements:

- The topic the vlog will be about, including your main question or “angle”;
- The scenes to be included, indicating per scene what point(s) will be made, where it will be shot and what will be on view; also estimate the length of each scene;
- The division of roles between the various team members.

Within a week, each script should receive constructive feedback from the members of another group (the teachers will assign who reviews whom). The feedback should indicate strong and weak points and provide suggestions for improvement. Length: 200-300 words.

The teachers will also provide feedback on the scripts. Please don't start with the actual filming until your script has been assessed, so you can still make changes!

### *Deadline and assessment*

All vlogs should be uploaded on Canvas by Monday 13 May at noon. Please also include a text file with source references for: a) the academic literature you've used; and b) any pre-existing images and video clips you've included in the vlog.

Our assessment will be based on the following criteria:

- 1) Expertise: does the vlog show that its makers have a good grasp of the topic? Have they made good use of *The Classical Tradition* and the relevant course material?

- 2) Argumentation: does the vlog have a clear case to make and does it put forth convincing arguments for this case?
- 3) Communication: does the vlog succeed in communicating academic knowledge to a lay audience in a clear, accessible and engaging manner?
- 4) Originality: does the vlog show an original, creative approach?

The mark for the vlog assignment constitutes 50 % of the final mark for this course. All group members will receive the same mark, unless special circumstances apply. In our assessment, we will also take the quality of the peer feedback into account.

Our final tutorial on Wednesday 22 May will be dedicated to vlog review. We will watch all the vlogs together in class and discuss their contents.

### *Publication*

Vlogs will be uploaded on Canvas and initially only be visible to course participants and teachers. At the end of the course, we will upload the vlogs of those participants who would like to share their video more widely to a public website. This is not part of the assessment. Should you want your vlog to reach a wider audience in this way, please make sure that you use images responsibly: only use images that you hold the rights to or that are in the public domain, and take care to cite sources of images where the license demands this.

## **VLOG TOPICS TO CHOOSE FROM**

### **Tied to tutorials or excursions:**

The Classics and medieval Islam

The Netherlands and the Batavian Revolt

Roman decadence

The iconographic reception of... Orpheus / Oedipus / Aeneas / Medea (\*)

The Classics in Dutch schools (or another country of choice)

The Classics in the Royal Palace at Dam Square

The Classics in the Rijksmuseum

(\*) Choose one or more of these

### **Other topics:**

Classicism in the streets of Amsterdam

(e.g. Rasphuispoortje, Trippenhuis, etc.)

The Classics in Dutch politics (or another country of choice)

Politically incorrect Classics

Democracy, ancient and modern

Imperialism, ancient and modern