

## Assignment 2

**Deadline: 1:00pm, Thursday 12 July, 2018**

Recently NASA announced their further investigation into the ocean on Enceladus, a satellite of Saturn (<https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-missions-provide-new-insights-into-ocean-worlds-in-our-solar-system>).

We will soon discuss in our course that the existence of water bolsters the possibility of life on Enceladus. Just like the case for water on Earth, the origin of the liquid water on Enceladus is an important question but never a simple one to answer.

### *Your individual task*

**Write an essay in no more than 800 words (excluding references) to answer both of the following questions:**

- (i) With reference to Threshold 2-4 of our course, could you tell us a history about the ocean on Enceladus?
- (ii) Considering also Threshold 5, what are your opinions on the possibility of life on Enceladus?

Similar investigation stories of water on Europa, a satellite of Jupiter (<http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/europa>) as well as on Mars (<http://www.nasa.gov/jpl/msl/nasa-mars-rovers-weather-data-bolster-case-for-brine> and <http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-confirms-evidence-that-liquid-water-flows-on-today-s-mars>) may give you some useful ideas.

### *References*

References should be properly included whenever you refer to others' ideas and opinions. They are also important in enhancing the credibility of your arguments, by showing the readers that your arguments are based on evidences and facts from reliable sources.

**You can choose your own style of referencing** so long as an interested reader should be able to locate the references you provide.

### *Weight and Assessment Criteria*

This assignment, together with (probably two) other assignments, will count for 40% of the course mark. Your essay will be assessed on their **contents**, and the **quality of the presentation**. You may refer to the corresponding document for more details about the marking descriptors.

### *Policy for Late Submission*

The grade of your essay will be penalized by **20% for every day late**. Your essay will receive 0 mark if it is late by 5 days.

### *Plagiarism*

Please be reminded that plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will be handled seriously with zero tolerance. This means you should provide proper citations whenever you quote others' words or make use of others' ideas. It would be even better for you to integrate ideas from several sources and re-express them in your own way together with your own opinions.