Dear students,

Just a small further clarification from a question raised by a student,

The remote control of computers for exams undertaken at home is common in American universities. This often involves installing third-party software (one of the most popular ProctorU) during the exam which completely takes control over the computer to prevent cheating. However, because they are expensive solutions, it is rare to find this in European universities. Most French universities have looked into this but dismissed it because of the costs involved.

In our case, the remote control of the computer is of course completely consensual and technically can only be undertaken with the consent of participants since Zoom does not allow me to take control over computers arbitrarily. You also have the choice of opting out entirely of the exam.

Naturally, I will not be undertaking a search and reading through private emails, social media accounts, etc. That would be highly illegal and an intrusion into your private life. What I would be interested in is if the metadata on the computer shows that during the exam period, social media/emails were accessed, thus suggesting cheating.

Take care and good luck!

Best,
xxxx

Le 27 avr. 2020 à 13:48, XXXX <XXXX@u-paris2.fr> a écrit :

Dear students,

This email only concerns students choosing to undertake the mid-term exam. If you are choosing the research essay, you can ignore this email entirely.

Mid term exams
Throughout this year, I have recognised that you have a right to be involved in administrative decisions that affect you. That has meant that we have had democratic deliberative assemblies where we have decided on the nature and structure of class assessments. However, to protect the value and the integrity of your mid-term exam marks, I am unilaterally imposing the following online mid-term exam conditions. If you do not agree, you can choose the research essay option instead.

Technical conditions
1. You must have a functioning web camera turned on the entire duration of your exams. This is to verify that it is only you who is completing the exam.
2. Remote controlled access over your computer. You must give me remote control access over your computer during the entire duration of the exam. This is so that I can verify that the only thing you are doing on your computer is working on the exam. We will do a practice run at 7:30am on Sunday 10th May since it requires you to restart your computer in order to give me permission to take control.
3. You must have a stable high speed internet connection. If the connection cuts during the exam, this may be considered as evidence of an attempt to interfere with exam supervision.

If you do not have a webcam, if you have privacy concerns or if you do not wish to handover remote controlled access to your computer (which may include me accessing your social media accounts, emails and messages to verify that you have not been communicating with friends), you must choose the research essay option instead. The technologies I may be using include eyeball tracking so if you are constantly looking elsewhere like the ceiling instead of the computer screen, an investigation may follow to verify that you are not receiving unauthorised assistance.

There will be other technical measures, including but not limited to encryption technology but these other measures will remain secret as they do not affect the functioning of the exam for students following the rules.

Exam format
As stated during our SGM, the mid-term exam will have three sections but a few slight modification, inspired by droit civil and other exam currently taking place:
1. There will be a linking words section composed of fifteen questions
2. There will be a reading comprehension section with fifteen questions with for an article that is 3 pages in total
3. There will be an essay question with a word count of 450 words +/- 10%. The marking schedule of the essay may be changed compared to what is written in the syllabus to reflect the online nature of the exam.

Each exam will be completely different. To ensure, equality, a lottery system will be used to randomly assign exam papers. I reserve the right to make further changes to protect the integrity of the exam by changing sections or the content within the sections.

Exam conditions
All students will receive exams at 7:55:00 (HH:MM:SS). Students must then upload the mid-term exam into the anti-plagiarism software before 9:35am. Please note, the anti-plagiarism software accepts only a limited number of file types and it does not accept Pages or Keynote documents. You must use the 5 minutes to upload it onto the system or give me remote control over your computer if you are unable to do so. Failure to upload it before 9:35am will result in penalties.

Additional oral exam
To verify the authenticity of the mid-term exam, you must also do an oral exam of 25 minutes. This will be composed of three parts: (1) a 10 min oral presentation which you will be given 3 topics to choose from and 15 minutes to prepare. (2) 10 minutes of questions related to the expose and (3) 5 minutes questions on other topics in the booklet. The oral exam will be held on Saturday 9th May 7pm-10pm and Sunday 10th May 1pm-5pm and 7pm-
10pm, depending on your convocation. You will receive your convocation by 12pm Saturday 9th May at the latest and you must be present at the oral exam, unless you have a justification i.e. medical certificate, death certificate, etc.

If the mid-term exam mark is significantly higher (i.e. more than 1 point) than in the mid-term of semester 1, your oral mark will be analysed. If the oral exam mark is higher than the semester 2 mid-term exam mark, your semester 2 mid-term exam mark will be kept. If it is lower, your oral mark becomes your semester 2 mid-term exam mark.

Additional authentication measures
I have electronic copies of your semester 1 mid-terms which I will use to verify your semester 2 mid-term exams by analysing sentence structures and mistakes committed.

Enrolment for mid-term exam
The deadline to sign up for the mid-term exam is Wednesday 29th April. If you do not agree to the exam conditions presented above, you can choose the research essay instead.

If you sign up for the mid-term exam but later decide to change to a research essay, you will be penalised so if you have already signed up, send me an email requesting me to remove your name from the list before the deadline.

Kind regards,

xxxx