



AHIS342

Rome's Persian Wars

S1 External 2017

Dept of Ancient History

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Peter Edwell peter.edwell@mq.edu.au W6A 516 By appointment
Credit points 3
Prerequisites 39cp at 100 level or above or (6cp in AHIS or AHST units at 200 level)
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit is an in-depth study of Rome's attempts to defend itself against a resurgent Iran in the late-third and early-fourth centuries CE. Students have the chance to study both military and diplomatic history of the two great empires, as well as religious change. Archaeological evidence is used extensively to help us to reconstruct our knowledge of Roman defensive systems.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Analyse and express your judgement about the history of Rome's Persian Wars from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in oral and written form.

Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding of their context and modern interpretations of them.

Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in both oral and written form.

Plan, revise and submit written work according to schedule.

Draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide analysis of

important aspects of the history of Rome's Persian Wars.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Discussion topic essay	15%	No	by week 6
Discussion Topic Essay	15%	No	By Week 13
Online discussions	15%	No	Ongoing
Major Essay	35%	No	Week 13
Weekly quizzes	20%	No	Ongoing

Discussion topic essay

Due: **by week 6**

Weighting: **15%**

You must choose **one** of the discussion topics in weeks 3-6 and write a 1,000-1,500 word essay which answers the questions for that particular week. The essay should include footnotes/endnotes and a bibliography and should conform with the requirements of undergraduate essays in the Department of Ancient History. Footnotes/endnotes and the bibliography are not included in the word count but should not be excessive.

Papers must be submitted through turn-it-in by 9pm on Sunday evening of the immediately preceding week. For example, if you choose to write a paper on the topic for week 4 (ie the week beginning Monday, 20 March) you must submit that paper through turn-it-in by 9pm, Sunday 26 March. It is not possible to submit these papers late because a summary of the discussions from each week will be posted on Monday morning and it is not fair for students to have access to that summary before submitting their papers.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse and express your judgement about the history of Rome's Persian Wars from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in oral and written form.
- Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding of their context and modern interpretations of them.
- Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in both oral and written form.
- Plan, revise and submit written work according to schedule.
- Draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide analysis of important aspects of the history of Rome's Persian Wars.

Discussion Topic Essay

Due: **By Week 13**

Weighting: **15%**

You must choose **one** of the tutorials in weeks 8-13 and write a 1,000-1,500 word essay which answers the questions for that particular week. The essay should include footnotes/endnotes and a bibliography and should conform with the requirements of undergraduate essays in the Department of Ancient History. Footnotes/endnotes and the bibliography are not included in the word count but should not be excessive.

Papers must be submitted through turn-it-in by 9pm on Sunday evening of the immediately preceding week. For example, if you choose to write a paper on the topic for week 4 (ie the week beginning Monday, 20 March) you must submit that paper through turn-it-in by 9pm, Sunday 26 March. It is not possible to submit these papers late because a summary of the discussions from each week will be posted on Monday morning and it is not fair for students to have access to that summary before submitting their papers.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse and express your judgement about the history of Rome's Persian Wars from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in oral and written form.
- Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding of their context and modern interpretations of them.
- Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in both oral and written form.
- Plan, revise and submit written work according to schedule.
- Draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide analysis of important aspects of the history of Rome's Persian Wars.

Online discussions

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **15%**

Contributions to online discussions will be assessed on the basis of both quality and quantity.

Discussion questions are the same as the internal tutorial questions. I will open the discussions on the Monday morning of each week and close them with summary comments on the following Monday morning. You therefore have the whole week to contribute to the discussions. The discussion in week 1 will be introductory only and does not contribute to the assessment of the online discussions. There will be no discussions in weeks 7 and 13.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse and express your judgement about the history of Rome's Persian Wars from the

3rd-4th centuries AD in oral and written form.

- Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding of their context and modern interpretations of them.
- Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in both oral and written form.
- Plan, revise and submit written work according to schedule.
- Draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide analysis of important aspects of the history of Rome's Persian Wars.

Major Essay

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **35%**

What are the key features of the relationship between Rome and Sasanian Persia from ca. AD 224-363? How did the relationship between the two empires change during this period?

In your response you need to provide coverage of military, diplomatic, religious and economic (mostly trade) factors. The word limit is 3,000 words not including footnotes. Footnotes should not contain excessive amounts of content.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse and express your judgement about the history of Rome's Persian Wars from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in oral and written form.
- Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding of their context and modern interpretations of them.
- Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in both oral and written form.
- Plan, revise and submit written work according to schedule.
- Draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide analysis of important aspects of the history of Rome's Persian Wars.

Weekly quizzes

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Weekly online quizzes will be available on the ilearn site and appear under the week heading for which they are relevant. There will be 10 quizzes in all. There is no quiz in weeks 1, 7 and 13. The quizzes require you to answer 10 multiple choice questions and there is a time limit of 15 minutes in which you are required to answer the questions. The quizzes are based closely on the material covered in lectures. It will be very difficult to successfully complete the quizzes without listening to the recorded lectures.

Quizzes will open on the Monday morning at 9am of the week for which they are relevant and close at 9pm on the following Sunday. Once the quiz closes it is not possible to attempt it and it is not possible for me or even IT to give access to it. Please be aware that once you start a quiz you have 15 minutes to complete it and you may only attempt each quiz once.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse and express your judgement about the history of Rome's Persian Wars from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in oral and written form.
- Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding of their context and modern interpretations of them.
- Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in both oral and written form.
- Plan, revise and submit written work according to schedule.
- Draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide analysis of important aspects of the history of Rome's Persian Wars.

Delivery and Resources

Staff Contact details

The convenor and main lecturer for this unit is **Dr Peter Edwell** (Rm. 516, W6A, e-mail address: peter.edwell@mq.edu.au).

Please note: Apart from the first lecture which will act as a brief introduction, lectures in this unit are recorded only and will not be delivered live. It is very important to listen to the recorded lectures because weekly assessable quizzes are closely based on the material covered in the recorded lectures.

Required Unit Materials

The only compulsory book for this unit is M.H. Dodgeon & S.N.C. Lieu (eds), *The Roman Eastern Frontier and the Persian Wars AD 226-363*, 2nd edition, Routledge, London & New York, 1994. It is essential to purchase this book because it contains most of the material which forms the basis of tutorial questions and discussions. Weekly tutorial questions and bibliographies are available on the unit's iLearn web page.

The co-op bookshop at Macquarie has ordered some copies of this book. You may also purchase it via online book stores such as Amazon. It also worth checking <http://www.abebooks.com> for second hand copies. The book is also available in a kindle edition. Be very careful not to accidentally purchase Volume II which is edited by Greatrex and Lieu and covers the period from 363 - 630.

Important dates

Semester Commences: Monday, 27 February

Semester Break: Monday, 17 April to Friday, 28 April

Semester recommences: Monday, 1 May – Friday, 9 June

Examinations commence: Tuesday, 13 June

Lecture and Tutorial Times

The first lecture will be given live and will be fairly brief and introductory. Please note (as also noted above), lectures in this unit are recorded only and will not be delivered live. It is very important to listen to the recorded lectures because weekly assessable quizzes are closely based on the material covered in the recorded lectures.

Lecture_1 Recorded only except for first lecture	Class_01	Tue	12	W5C320
Lecture_2 Recorded only	Class_02	Fri	11	W5C220
Tutorial_1	Class_03	Tue	14	X5B134
	Class_03	Tue	15	X5B134
	Class_03	Fri	12	W5C211

Technology Used

Students are required to have regular access to a computer and the internet. Mobile devices alone may not be sufficient.

The lectures for this unit will be recorded and the audio recordings will be available on the Echo 360 system. There is also an iLearn page for the unit which can be accessed at <http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/>. Readings will be available via Multisearch and iLearn; other digital resources may also be placed on the iLearn site.

Unit Schedule

Lecture Schedule

Week 1

Lecture 1	Tuesday, 27 February	Introduction & welcome
Lecture 2	Friday, 3 March	Geography of the Eastern Frontier
Introductory discussions only		

Week 2

Lecture 3	Tuesday, 7 March	Historical Background 1 (Rome)
Lecture 4	Friday, 10 March	Historical Background 2 (Iran)

Discussion 1 Historical background

Week 3

Lecture 5 Tuesday, 14 March The Sasanian “revolution”

Lecture 6 Friday, 17 March Rome’s early wars with the Sasanians –
Severus Alexander & Gordian III

Discussion 2 The Early Sasanians

Week 4

Lecture 7 Tuesday, 21 March The invasions of Shapur I

Lecture 8 Friday, 24 March The siege and capture of Dura Europos

Discussion 3 Different traditions - Roman/Byzantine sources and the SKZ

Week 5

Lecture 9 Tuesday, 28 March Palmyra – 1st & 2nd centuries AD

Lecture 10 Friday, 31 March Palmyra – 3rd century and after.

Discussion 4 The portrayal of Zenobia in ancient sources

Week 6

Lecture 11 Tuesday, 4 April The Persian Wars of Diocletian and Galerius

Lecture 12 Friday, 7 April The *Strata Diocletiana*

Discussion 5 Sources on the wars of Diocletian and Galerius

Week 7 **No lectures or discussions.** This is due to Good Friday falling on 14 April and complications caused with the internal version of the unit.

Semester Break Monday, 17 April – Friday, 28 April

Week 8

Lecture 13 Tuesday, 2 May Christianity & the Eastern Frontier

Lecture 14 Friday, 5 May Manichaeism & the Eastern Frontier

Discussion 6 Christianity and Manichaeism on the Eastern Frontier

Week 9

Lecture 15 Tuesday, 9 May Frontier theory and the Eastern Frontier

Lecture 16 Friday, 12 May Constantine & Persia

Discussion 7 Constantine and the Christians of Persia

Week 10

Lecture 17 Tuesday, 16 May The Role of Armenia between Rome and
Persia

Lecture 18 Friday, 19 May The Role of the Arabs

Discussion 8 Armenian Historiography

Week 11

Lecture 19 Tuesday, 23 May The Persian wars of Constantius II -1

Lecture 20 Friday, 26 May The Persian Wars of Constantius II-2

Discussion 9 The eastern frontier under Constantius II

Week 12

Lecture 21 Tuesday, 30 May The Persian campaign of Julian-1

Lecture 22 Friday, 2 June The Persian campaign of Julian-2

Discussion 10 Sources on the Persian invasion of Julian

Week 13

Lecture 23 Tuesday, 6 June Rome and Persia in Art & Coins

Lecture 24 Friday, 9 June Unit summary

Summary discussion. Does not count towards assessment.

Learning and Teaching Activities

Online Discussion

1 x online discussion per week

Lectures

2 x 1 hour recorded lectures per week.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html

Disruption to Studies Policy (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be

imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Analyse and express your judgement about the history of Rome's Persian Wars from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in oral and written form.
- Draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide analysis of important aspects of the history of Rome's Persian Wars.

Assessment tasks

- Discussion topic essay
- Discussion Topic Essay
- Online discussions
- Major Essay
- Weekly quizzes

Learning and teaching activities

- 2 x 1 hour recorded lectures per week.

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Analyse and express your judgement about the history of Rome's Persian Wars from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in oral and written form.
- Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding of their context and modern interpretations of them.
- Draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide analysis of important aspects of the history of Rome's Persian Wars.

Assessment tasks

- Online discussions
- Major Essay

- Weekly quizzes

Learning and teaching activities

- 2 x 1 hour recorded lectures per week.

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in both oral and written form.

Assessment tasks

- Major Essay
- Weekly quizzes

Learning and teaching activities

- 2 x 1 hour recorded lectures per week.

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Analyse and express your judgement about the history of Rome's Persian Wars from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in oral and written form.
- Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding of their context and modern interpretations of them.
- Draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide analysis of important aspects of the history of Rome's Persian Wars.

Assessment tasks

- Discussion topic essay
- Discussion Topic Essay
- Online discussions
- Major Essay
- Weekly quizzes

Learning and teaching activities

- 1 x online discussion per week
- 2 x 1 hour recorded lectures per week.

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Analyse and express your judgement about the history of Rome's Persian Wars from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in oral and written form.
- Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding of their context and modern interpretations of them.
- Draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide analysis of important aspects of the history of Rome's Persian Wars.

Assessment tasks

- Discussion topic essay
- Discussion Topic Essay
- Major Essay
- Weekly quizzes

Learning and teaching activities

- 1 x online discussion per week
- 2 x 1 hour recorded lectures per week.

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing

data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Analyse and express your judgement about the history of Rome's Persian Wars from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in oral and written form.
- Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding of their context and modern interpretations of them.
- Plan, revise and submit written work according to schedule.
- Draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide analysis of important aspects of the history of Rome's Persian Wars.

Assessment tasks

- Major Essay
- Weekly quizzes

Learning and teaching activities

- 2 x 1 hour recorded lectures per week.

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Analyse and express your judgement about the history of Rome's Persian Wars from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in oral and written form.
- Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding of their context and modern interpretations of them.
- Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in both oral and written form.
- Plan, revise and submit written work according to schedule.
- Draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide analysis of

important aspects of the history of Rome's Persian Wars.

Assessment tasks

- Discussion topic essay
- Discussion Topic Essay
- Online discussions
- Major Essay
- Weekly quizzes

Learning and teaching activities

- 1 x online discussion per week
- 2 x 1 hour recorded lectures per week.

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in both oral and written form.
- Plan, revise and submit written work according to schedule.

Assessment tasks

- Online discussions
- Major Essay
- Weekly quizzes

Learning and teaching activities

- 1 x online discussion per week
- 2 x 1 hour recorded lectures per week.

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active

participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Assessment tasks

- Online discussions
- Major Essay
- Weekly quizzes

Learning and teaching activities

- 2 x 1 hour recorded lectures per week.