AHIX242
The Roman Eastern Frontier
S1 OUA 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

Kyle Keimer
kyle.keimer@mq.edu.au

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
All enrolment queries should be directed to Open Universities Australia (OUA): see www.open.edu.au

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.open.edu.au/student-admin-and-support/key-dates/

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse and express your judgement about the history of the Roman Eastern Frontier from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in written form.
2. Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding of their context and modern interpretations of them.
3. Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in written form.
4. Plan, revise and submit written work according to schedule.
5. Draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide an analysis of an important aspect of the Roman Eastern Frontier.

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion topic essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
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http://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/79792/unit_guide/print
Discussion topic essay

Due: **Week 6**
Weighting: **30%**

You must choose **one** of the discussion topics in weeks 3-6 and write a 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.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Analyse and express your judgement about the history of the Roman Eastern Frontier from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in 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 written form.
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Online discussions

Due: **Ongoing**
Weighting: **20%**

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

Discussion questions are available in a PDF of weekly study guides uploaded to the unit ilearn site. I will also post the questions when I open the discussions on the Monday morning of each week. I will close each week's discussion 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.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• Analyse and express your judgement about the history of the Roman Eastern Frontier from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in 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 written form.
• Plan, revise and submit written work according to schedule.

Major Essay
Due: Week 13
Weighting: 50%

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.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• Analyse and express your judgement about the history of the Roman Eastern Frontier from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in written form.
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• Plan, revise and submit written work according to schedule.
• Draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide an analysis of an important aspect of the Roman Eastern Frontier.

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).

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 discussion questions and bibliographies are available in a PDF 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

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 Introduction & welcome
Lecture 2 Geography of the Eastern Frontier
Introductory discussions only

Week 2
Lecture 3 Historical Background 1 (Rome)
Lecture 4 Historical Background 2 (Iran)
Discussion 1 Historical background

Week 3
Lecture 5 The Sasanian “revolution”
Lecture 6 Rome’s early wars with the Sasanians – Severus Alexander & Gordian III
Discussion 2 The Early Sasanians

Week 4
| Week 5 | Lecture 9 | Palmyra – 1\textsuperscript{st} & 2\textsuperscript{nd} centuries AD |
| Lecture 10 | Palmyra – 3\textsuperscript{rd} century and after. |
| Discussion 4 | The portrayal of Zenobia in ancient sources |

| Week 6 | Lecture 11 | The Persian Wars of Diocletian and Galerius |
| Lecture 12 | The *Strata Diocletiana* |
| Discussion 5 | Sources on the wars of Diocletian and Galerius |

| Week 7 | No lectures or discussions. |

| Semester Break | Monday, 17 April – Friday, 28 April |

| Week 8 | Lecture 13 | Christianity & the Eastern Frontier |
| Lecture 14 | Manichaeism & the Eastern Frontier |
| Discussion 6 | Christianity and Manichaeism on the Eastern Frontier |

| Week 9 | Lecture 15 | Frontier theory and the Eastern Frontier |
| Lecture 16 | Constantine & Persia |
| Discussion 7 | Constantine and the Christians of Persia |

| Week 10 | Lecture 17 | The Role of Armenia between Rome and Persia |
| Lecture 18 | The Role of the Arabs |
| Discussion 8 | Armenian Historiography |

| Week 11 | Lecture 19 | The Persian wars of Constantius II -1 |
| Lecture 20 | The Persian Wars of Constantius II-2 |
| Discussion 9 | The eastern frontier under Constantius II |

| Week 12 | Lecture 21 | The Persian campaign of Julian-1 |
Learning and Teaching Activities

Online Discussion
1 x online discussion per week

Lectures
2 x 1 hour recorded lectures per week.

Policies and Procedures

Late Submission

Unless otherwise stated, late submission of written work will result in a deduction of 10% of the mark awarded for each week or part of a week beyond the due date, or date to which an extension has been granted.

Extension Request


The University recognises that students may experience disruptions that adversely affect their academic performance in assessment activities.

The disruption to studies policy (http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) applies only to serious and unavoidable disruptions that arise after a study period has commenced.

Serious and unavoidable disruption

The University classifies a disruption as serious and unavoidable if it:

- could not have reasonably been anticipated, avoided or guarded against by the student; and
- was beyond the student's control; and
• caused substantial disruption to the student’s capacity for effective study and/or completion of required work; and
• occurred during an event critical study period and was at least three (3) consecutive days duration, and/or
• prevented completion of a final examination.

If you feel that you’ve been impacted by a serious and unavoidable disruption to study situation, submit an application as follows:

1. Visit Ask MQ (https://ask.mq.edu.au) and use your OneID to log in via 'Current student domestic and international'
2. Under 'Forms' select 'disruptions' and fill in your relevant details.
3. Attach supporting documents by clicking 'Add a reply', click 'browse' and navigating to the files you want to attach, then click 'submit form' to send your notification and supporting documents
4. Please keep copies of your original documents, as they may be requested in the future as part of the assessment process

Review
Once your submission is assessed, recommendations are sent to your unit convenor to ensure an appropriate solution for affected assessment(s) is organised.

OUA Specific Policies and Procedures

OUA Special Circumstances Process

Special Circumstances refers to late withdrawal from a unit and your request to have your circumstances taken into account for a possible refund of fees and removal of a "fail" result.

Applications for Special Circumstances are to be submitted to Open Universities Australia directly:


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


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/](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](http://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/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

**Learning Skills**

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://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 Enquiry Service**

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

**Equity 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.

**IT Help**

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).
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 the Roman Eastern Frontier from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in written form.
• Draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide an analysis of an important aspect of the Roman Eastern Frontier.

Assessment tasks

• Discussion topic essay
• Online discussions
• Major Essay

Learning and teaching activities

• 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 written form.
• Plan, revise and submit written work according to schedule.

Assessment tasks

• Discussion topic essay
• Online discussions
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 task

• Major Essay

Learning and teaching activity

• 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 written form.

Assessment tasks

• Discussion topic essay
• Online discussions
• Major Essay

Learning and teaching activities

• 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 the Roman Eastern Frontier from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in written form.
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- Plan, revise and submit written work according to schedule.
- Draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide an analysis of an important aspect of the Roman Eastern Frontier.

**Assessment tasks**

- Discussion topic essay
- Online discussions
- Major Essay

**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 the Roman Eastern Frontier from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in written form.
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• Discussion topic essay
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• Major Essay

Learning and teaching activities

• 1 x online discussion per week
• 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 the Roman Eastern Frontier from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in written form.
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• Draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide an analysis of an important aspect of the Roman Eastern Frontier.

Assessment tasks

• Discussion topic essay
• Online discussions
• Major Essay

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 the Roman Eastern Frontier from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in 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 an analysis of an important aspect of the Roman Eastern Frontier.

**Assessment tasks**

- Discussion topic essay
- Online discussions
- Major Essay

**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 the Roman Eastern Frontier from the 3rd-4th centuries AD in written form.
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• 1 x online discussion per week
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