



AHPG830

History Studies: Warfare in the Ancient Near East

S1 Day 2019

Dept of Ancient History

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Kyle Keimer

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Contact via email

AHH, Level 2

By appt.

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MAnchHist or GradCertAncHist or MA in (Ancient History or Coptic Studies)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit offers advanced study of a special topic in History. Topics will be chosen from issues identified in current scholarship, particularly those relevant to methodology in Ancient History, historiography and the study of material evidence. Where available, visiting scholars will participate in this unit. Students will be expected to master relevant scholarship and seek to go beyond it in their research paper. The current topic is Warfare and Society in the Ancient Near East. Conflict was a part of life in the ancient Near East. From local skirmishes to full-scale long-distance campaigns, people fought either to control or to protect each other and their resources. The ways in which they did this evolved over time, but the human condition remained the same. Thus, in any given period developments in warfare can be seen as both the cause and effect of change; there was an inseparable dialectic between warfare and other aspects of civilization—political structure, economic potential, social order, religious understanding, self-identification, technology, artistic expression—that were constantly reacting with each other. This unit will investigate the intimate relationship between warfare and these various aspects of ancient Near Eastern civilizations from the Bronze Age (ca. 3000 BC) to the Roman Period (1st c. AD) through use of both archaeological and textual records.

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:

Learn the methodological approaches to studying ancient warfare and the challenges of modern interpretation.

Contextualise ancient military practices, institutions, and events within the broader socioeconomic and geopolitical framework of the ancient Near East.

Analyze source material, including the archaeological record, ancient sources, and modern scholarship, the critiquing of texts and application of knowledge at an advanced level.

Synthesize acquired knowledge and understanding to produce critical analytical writings.

General Assessment Information

Submission of Assignments: The Research Paper and Book Review are to be submitted via the iLearn site by their respective due dates and times (which are listed according to local Sydney time). For your annotated bibliography, submit a digital copy via the main Forum on iLearn and bring a printed copy to class for me. Access to the internet and the ability to download and/or view unit materials are essential. Ability to work with word processing software is required for written assessments. Any technical issue encountered with accessing unit materials and/or with submitting assignments should be directed to the IT department via ask.mq.edu.au. After lodging a complaint/request with them you must also notify me via email concerning the issue as soon as possible after it is discovered. Contacting me after an assessment's due date to say that you could not submit it on time will not result in an extension for that assessment unless IT provides me with a time-stamped notice.

Assignments will be assessed on their level of completion, coherence, grammar, and comprehension.

Assessment tasks / assignments are compulsory and must be submitted on time. Extensions for assignments can only be granted for medical reasons or on compassionate grounds. Without documentation (medical or counselling certificates) or prior staff approval, late work will not be accepted. If required, applications for extensions should be made to me before the assignment's due date. No assignments will be accepted after assignments have been corrected and feedback has been provided (see also the clause below).

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Tasks 10% or less. No extensions will be granted. Students who have not submitted the task prior to the deadline will be awarded a mark of 0 for the task, except for cases in which an application for Special Consideration is made and approved.

Tasks above 10%. No extensions will be granted. Students who submit late work without an extension will receive a penalty. This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for Special Consideration is made and approved.

Assignment tasks handed in early will not be marked and returned before the due date.

For Special Consideration Policy see under Policies and Procedures.

Note on Assessment - *To complete the unit satisfactorily you will need to achieve an overall mark worth 50% or above.*

IMPORTANT NOTE ON FINAL MARKS: Please note with respect to the marks you receive for work during the session: that the marks given are indicative only; final marks will be determined after moderation. See further the note on **Results** in the Policies and Procedures section below.

It is highly recommended that you come to all class meetings (internals). Further, you should complete the readings and any other work for any given week before that week's meeting.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Research Paper</u>	50%	No	Friday of Week 12
<u>Book Review</u>	30%	No	Friday of Week 7
<u>Bibliography Assessment</u>	10%	No	Friday of Week 4
<u>Participation and Readings</u>	10%	No	Weekly

Research Paper

Due: **Friday of Week 12**

Weighting: **50%**

Students will write a 2500-word research paper on a topic related to the course description. It is advisable to discuss your area of interest with the instructor early in the term.

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- Synthesize acquired knowledge and understanding to produce critical analytical writings.

Book Review

Due: **Friday of Week 7**

Weighting: **30%**

Choose from the following and write a 1500-2000-word long review:

Bahrani, Zainab *Rituals of War: The Body and Violence in Mesopotamia* (Boston: Zone Books/MIT Press, 2008).

Burke, Aaron A. *"Walled Up to Heaven": The Evolution of Middle Bronze Age Fortification Strategies in the Levant* (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2008). [UG432 .M628 B87 2008]

Crouch, C. L. *War and Ethics in the Ancient Near East: Military Violence in Light of Cosmology and History*. (BZAW 407. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2009).

Fales, F. M. *Guerre et Paix en Assyrie: Religion et Impérialisme* (Les Éditions du Cerf: Paris, 2010).

Kang, Sa-Moon. *Divine War in the Old Testament and in the Ancient Near East* (Beiheft zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft 177. Berlin: W. de Gruyter, 1989). [ARC BS410 .Z5 vol177]

Niditch, Susan. *War in the Hebrew Bible: A Study of the Ethics of Violence* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993).

Oded, Bustenay. *War, Peace, and Empire: Justifications for War in Assyrian Royal Inscriptions* (Wiesbaden: Ludwig Reichert, 1992).

Otto, Eckart. *Krieg und Frieden in der Hebräischen Bibel und im Alten Orient: Aspekte für eine Friedensordnung in der Moderne* (Theologie und Frieden 18. Stuttgart: W. Kohlhammer, 1999).

Schmitt, Rüdiger. *Der Heilige Krieg im Pentateuch und im deuteronomistischen Geschichtswerk* (AOAT 381. Münster: Ugarit-Verlag, 2011).

Smith, Mark S. *Poetic Heroes: Literary Commemorations of Warriors and Warrior Culture in the Early Biblical Period* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014).

Van der Deijl, Aarnoud. *Protest or Propaganda: War in the Old Testament Book of Kings and in Contemporaneous Ancient Near Eastern Texts*, (Leiden: Brill, 2008).

You may choose a different volume with my approval.

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Bibliography Assessment

Due: **Friday of Week 4**

Weighting: **10%**

Students will choose one of the weekly topics and compile a comprehensive bibliography for the topic. Assessment will be based on the types of resources compiled (i.e., academic vs. popular; relevant vs. irrelevant; international in scope (i.e., does the bibliography include resources in foreign languages) vs. English-only). The purpose of the assignment is to familiarize the student with the body of secondary literature concerning a specific topic and to hone their search skills for advanced research. Students should be prepared to summarize the state of research on their given topic. Students do NOT have to read all of the resources listed in the bibliography, but they should peruse each well enough that they can rationalize a given source's inclusion in the bibliography.

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Participation and Readings

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **10%**

Students are expected to interact in class, thereby demonstrating familiarity with assigned readings

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- Synthesize acquired knowledge and understanding to produce critical analytical writings.

Delivery and Resources

This class is offered internally and externally. Internal students will meet in-class on Weeks 1-10 while external students will access course material via the iLearn website. Every student, whether internal or external, will need internet access that allows the downloading of resources in order to pass this course. Additionally, access to a library and/or article database such as Jstor will be necessary to complete multiple of the assignments. If individual access to such databases is not possible, access is possible via the Macquarie Library website, although a proxy server may be necessary (for more see the "IT Help" link under the "Policies and Procedures" tab).

All lectures, assignments, and readings will be posted on the course's iLearn site for external students (lectures will be recorded and will be accessible via the Echo360 tab on the right-hand side of the iLearn page). Additional resources, including weblinks and additional directions will also appear there.

REQUIRED READING

Trimm, Charlie. 2017. *Fighting for the King and the Gods: A Survey of Warfare in the Ancient Near East*, Atlanta, SBL Press. (*This book will be available via the Coop Bookstore on campus, but it can also be found online via various booksellers)

There will be additional weekly readings made available via Leganto.

UNIT DESCRIPTION

Conflict was a part of life in the ancient Near East. From local skirmishes to full-scale long-distance campaigns, people fought either to control or to protect each other and their resources. The ways in which they did this evolved over time, but the human condition remained the same. Thus, in any given period developments in warfare can be seen as both the cause and effect of change; there was an inseparable dialectic between warfare and other aspects of civilization—political structure, economic potential, social order, religious understanding, self-identification, technology, artistic expression—that were constantly reacting with each other. This

unit will investigate the intimate relationship between warfare and these various aspects of ancient Near Eastern civilizations from the Bronze Age (ca. 3000 B.C.) to the Roman Period (1st c. A.D.) through use of both archaeological and textual records.

Unit Schedule

1. Introduction: A Philosophical Treatise on War
2. Writing about War: Ancient and Modern
3. Materials, Technology, Tactics, and Strategy
4. Warfare and Geography
5. Warfare and Politics
6. Warfare and Socioeconomics
7. Warfare and Ritual; Warfare and Religion
8. Warfare and the Individual Will
9. Psychological Warfare and Defeatism
10. Revolts, Rebellions, and the Aftermath of War

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Learn the methodological approaches to studying ancient warfare and the challenges of modern interpretation.
- Contextualise ancient military practices, institutions, and events within the broader socioeconomic and geopolitical framework of the ancient Near East.
- Analyze source material, including the archaeological record, ancient sources, and modern scholarship, the critiquing of texts and application of knowledge at an advanced level.
- Synthesize acquired knowledge and understanding to produce critical analytical writings.

Assessment tasks

- Research Paper
- Book Review
- Bibliography Assessment
- Participation and Readings

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Learn the methodological approaches to studying ancient warfare and the challenges of modern interpretation.
- Contextualise ancient military practices, institutions, and events within the broader socioeconomic and geopolitical framework of the ancient Near East.
- Analyze source material, including the archaeological record, ancient sources, and modern scholarship, the critiquing of texts and application of knowledge at an advanced

level.

- Synthesize acquired knowledge and understanding to produce critical analytical writings.

Assessment tasks

- Research Paper
- Book Review
- Bibliography Assessment
- Participation and Readings

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Learn the methodological approaches to studying ancient warfare and the challenges of modern interpretation.
- Contextualise ancient military practices, institutions, and events within the broader socioeconomic and geopolitical framework of the ancient Near East.
- Analyze source material, including the archaeological record, ancient sources, and modern scholarship, the critiquing of texts and application of knowledge at an advanced level.
- Synthesize acquired knowledge and understanding to produce critical analytical writings.

Assessment tasks

- Research Paper
- Book Review
- Bibliography Assessment
- Participation and Readings

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Learn the methodological approaches to studying ancient warfare and the challenges of modern interpretation.
- Contextualise ancient military practices, institutions, and events within the broader socioeconomic and geopolitical framework of the ancient Near East.
- Analyze source material, including the archaeological record, ancient sources, and modern scholarship, the critiquing of texts and application of knowledge at an advanced level.
- Synthesize acquired knowledge and understanding to produce critical analytical writings.

Assessment tasks

- Research Paper
- Book Review
- Bibliography Assessment
- Participation and Readings

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Learn the methodological approaches to studying ancient warfare and the challenges of modern interpretation.
- Contextualise ancient military practices, institutions, and events within the broader socioeconomic and geopolitical framework of the ancient Near East.
- Analyze source material, including the archaeological record, ancient sources, and modern scholarship, the critiquing of texts and application of knowledge at an advanced level.
- Synthesize acquired knowledge and understanding to produce critical analytical writings.

Assessment tasks

- Research Paper
- Book Review
- Bibliography Assessment

- Participation and Readings

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Contextualise ancient military practices, institutions, and events within the broader socioeconomic and geopolitical framework of the ancient Near East.
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- Synthesize acquired knowledge and understanding to produce critical analytical writings.

Assessment tasks

- Research Paper
- Book Review
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