



AHIS342

The Roman Eastern Frontier

S1 External 2019

Dept of Ancient History

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Peter Edwell peter.edwell@mq.edu.au Australian Hearing Hub 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
<u>Discussion topic essay</u>	15%	No	by week 6
<u>Discussion Topic Essay</u>	15%	No	By Week 13
<u>Online discussions</u>	15%	No	Ongoing
<u>Major Essay</u>	35%	No	Week 13
<u>Weekly quizzes</u>	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 responds to the questions for that particular week. You may respond to the three questions separately or altogether. 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 week to which the questions relate. For example, if you choose to write a paper on the topic for week 4 (ie the week beginning Monday, 18 March) you must submit that paper through turn-it-in by 9pm, Sunday 24 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 week to which they relate. For example, if you choose to write a paper on the topic for week 4 (ie the week beginning Monday, 18 March) you must submit that paper through turn-it-in by 9pm, Sunday 24 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 in your opinion were the three most important ways in which the Roman and Sasanian Persian Empires interacted from ca. AD 224-363? How did the relationship between the two empires change during this period?

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** (Level 2, Australian Hearing Hub, 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 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 but you may also purchase it via online book stores such as Amazon and it is available in a Kindle edition. It also worth checking <http://www.abebooks.com> for second hand copies. **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, 25 February
Semester Break:	Monday, 15 April to Friday, 26 April
Semester recommences:	Monday, 29 April – Friday, 7 June
Examinations commence:	Tuesday, 11 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 Leganto, Multisearch and iLearn; other digital resources may also be placed on the iLearn site.

Unit Schedule

Lecture Schedule

Week 1

Lecture 1	Week commencing 25 February	Introduction & welcome
Lecture 2		Geography of the Eastern
Frontier		
Introductory discussions only		

Week 2

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

Week 3

Lecture 5	Week commencing 11 March	The Sasanian “revolution”
Lecture 6		Rome’s early wars with the
Sasanians – Severus Alexander & Gordian III		
Discussion 2	The Early Sasanians	

Week 4

Lecture 7	Week commencing 18 March	The invasions of Shapur I
Lecture 8		The siege and capture of Dura
Europos		
Discussion 3	Different traditions - Roman/Byzantine sources and the SKZ	

Week 5

Lecture 9	Week commencing 25 March	Palmyra – 1 st & 2 nd centuries AD
Lecture 10		Palmyra – 3 rd century and after.
Discussion 4	The portrayal of Zenobia in ancient sources	

Week 6

Lecture 11 and Galerius	Week commencing 1 April	The Persian Wars of Diocletian
Lecture 12		The <i>Strata Diocletiana</i>
Discussion 5	Sources on the wars of Diocletian and Galerius	
Week 7	No lectures or discussions.	
Semester Break	Monday, 15 April – Friday, 26 April	
Week 8		
Lecture 13	Week commencing 29 April	Christianity & the Eastern Frontier
Lecture 14 Frontier		Manichaeism & the Eastern
Discussion 6	Christianity and Manichaeism on the Eastern Frontier	
Week 9		
Lecture 15 Frontier	Week commencing 6 May	Frontier theory and the Eastern
Lecture 16		Constantine & Persia
Discussion 7	Constantine and the Christians of Persia	
Week 10		
Lecture 17 Rome and Persia	Week commencing 13 May	The Role of Armenia between
Lecture 18		The Role of the Arabs
Discussion 8	Armenian Historiography	
Week 11		
Lecture 19 II -1	Week commencing 20 May	The Persian wars of Constantius
Lecture 20 II-2		The Persian Wars of Constantius
Discussion 9	The eastern frontier under Constantius II	
Week 12		
Lecture 21 Julian-1	Week commencing 27 May	The Persian campaign of
Lecture 22 Julian-2		The Persian campaign of
Discussion 10	Sources on the Persian invasion of Julian	

Week 13

Lecture 23 Week commencing 3 June Rome and Persia in Art & Coins

Lecture 24 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](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

Late Submission Policy

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.

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

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.