



AHIS2253

Transition and Renewal: Religion in Roman and Late Antique Egypt

Session 1, Online with attendance for exam, North Ryde 2020

Department of Ancient History

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	2
<u>General Assessment Information</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	3
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	4
<u>Unit Schedule</u>	5
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	6

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convener

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit surveys religion in Egypt from the Roman conquest in 30 BCE to the start of the Abbasid caliphate in 750 CE, set against the background of the Roman Empire's relationship with the religious and cultural traditions of Egypt, and with emergent Christianity. It examines the refocussing of the traditional Egyptian cults in the Roman period and their eventual decline; the operation of the Roman Imperial cult and Graeco-Roman cults in Egypt; Neoplatonic, Neopythagorean and other philosophical developments; the rise, spread of Christianity in all its forms, and its eventual dominance; and the coming of Islam after the Arab conquest of 642. In examining the transition of Egyptian traditions to a new phase in the millennium after the conquest of Alexander in 332 BCE and the renewal of Egyptian literary and religious traditions in the Roman and late antique periods, it sets the study of religion in this period in the historical context of the multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic, and 'colonial' society of first millennium CE Egypt.

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:

ULO1: Identify evidence for religious interaction in Egypt from c. 30 BCE to c. 750 CE in

its historical and cultural context

ULO2: Assess sources within their historical context, to understand the characteristics of their particular type or genre.

ULO3: Reflect critically on how the history of cultural and religious interaction has shaped our view of the past.

ULO4: Rigorously assess perspectives on accommodation and integration in multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic, and multi-religious societies

ULO5: Classify and interpret ancient documentary, literary, and artifactual material

ULO6: Apply skills in using bibliographical resources, research tools, databases, and online resources to the study of the ancient world.

ULO7: Effectively utilise communication skills appropriate to academic presentations and discussions

Assessment Tasks

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Assessment details are no longer provided here as a result of changes due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Students should consult [iLearn](#) for revised unit information.

[Find out more about the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and potential impacts on staff and students](#)

General Assessment Information

Marking criteria and standards

Guidelines on the criteria and standards required for assessment tasks, as well as rubrics where appropriate, will be placed on the iLearn site. Marks given for individual items of assessment are indicative only; final marks will be determined after moderation.

Assignment Submission

ALL written assignments will be submitted via Turnitin.

You are required to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated in the University Examination Timetable. The only exception to sitting an examination at the designated time is because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances, please consult University Policy for the available procedure.

Extensions

ALL deadlines are firm unless an extension has been requested in writing **one (1) week before the due date**. All requests for extensions must be submitted via [ask.mq.edu.au](#) and be

supported by appropriate documentation. A penalty for lateness (see below) will apply unless a medical certificate or other written substantiation is supplied. Assignments handed in early will not be marked and returned before the due date. Always retain a copy of work you submit in case it is lost in the online system.

Late Submission Penalty

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.

*"100" is to be understood as 100% of the marks *for that task*, not the entire unit.

Satisfactory Completion of Unit

In order to complete this unit satisfactorily students must gain a mark of 50% or more, and attempt all assessment tasks.

Delivery and Resources

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19.

Please check here for updated delivery information: https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status

Lectures, Seminars, and Tutorials

The lectures in this unit will cover the history of first millennium Egypt, concentrating on political and religious developments in this period. In the seminars, students will discuss as a cohort issues pertaining to our interpretation and study of ancient Egypt; there will be small amount of reading each week for seminars, but the discussion will mainly be based on students' personal reflections on the issues under discussion that week. Tutorials will focus on interpretation of the ancient sources, with a number of ancient sources, sometimes accompanied by related modern discussions of them, to be read each week and a worksheet supporting that reading.

- Lectures for this unit will take place every Tuesday from 2–3pm in 12 Second Way – 435 Active Learning Space.
 - The lectures will be recorded for external students and placed on the Echo360 System along with the Lecture slides.
- Seminars for this unit will take place every Tuesday from 3–4pm in 12 Second Way – 435 Active Learning Space.
 - Seminars will **not** be recorded: **a weekly video webinar with associated discussion forum on the unit iLearn site will take the place of the seminars**

for external students only.

- Tutorials for this unit will take place every Tuesday from 4–5pm in 12 Second Way – 435 Active Learning Space.
 - Tutorials will not be recorded: **a weekly discussion forum on the unit iLearn site will take the place of the tutorials for external students.**

Engagement in fora (external students)

Participation in the online webinar and tutorial discussion fora will help prepare for the mid semester quiz, the exam, and is essential for the debate. Discussion fora will only be kept open for the scheduled Week; **no late postings (i.e. postings after mid-day Friday of that week) will be read.** Keeping up with the recorded lectures is important to keep on top of the vital background to the assessments. The discussion fora are there to help you ask questions about the weekly worksheets and thus prepare for the mid semester quiz and the final exam. Questions about issues from the worksheets should be addressed in these fora.

Readings

There is no textbook for this unit. Required readings will be available via Leganto on the Macquarie University Library Website, and on the iLearn page.

Technology Used

The unit has an iLearn page which can be accessed at <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/index.php>. PC and internet access are therefore required. Basic computer skills (e.g., internet browsing) and skills in word processing are also a requirement. Material for this unit may be delivered via the unit iLearn page. The lectures will be recorded for external students. Both the plagiarism quiz and the mid semester quiz will be delivered online and will require computer and internet access.

Unit Schedule

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

The unit schedule/topics and any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19. Please consult [iLearn](#) for latest details, and check here for updated delivery information: https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status

Week	Lecture	Seminar	Tutorial
1	Overview: What is a 'nation'?	Egypt and us	Introductions and Assessment
2	Greeks and Egyptians in the first millennium BCE	Textual Criticism	First Contact
3	Ptolemaic Egypt	Papyrology	The Priestly Decrees (Plagiarism Quiz opens)

4	Roman Egypt I: Augustus to Severus	Multilingualism	Roman Views of Egypt
5	Religion I: Egyptian Religion in Graeco-Roman Egypt	Religion	Divination in Roman Egypt (Plagiarism Quiz due)
6	Roman Egypt II: Severus to Diocletian	Ethnicity	Mid Semester Quiz
7	Religion II: Judaism and Christianity in Roman Egypt	Affect Theory	The early history of Christianity in Egypt
8	Roman Egypt III: Constantine to Leo	Colonialism	Essay Writing Week
9	Religion IV: Athanasius and monasticism	The mysterious Orient	The life and death of Hypatia
10	Roman Egypt IV: Leo to 'Amr Ibn al-'As	Museums, objects, and Ethics	Egyptian Religion in Late Antiquity: hagiography and the rhetoric of survival.
11	History IV: Egypt in the Islamic world	Bodies	Child donation texts
12	Religion V: Christianity and Islam	Egypt then and now	Contemporary sources on the Arab conquest of Egypt
13	Overview	Summing up	Debate and Final Discussion

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.**)

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 \(http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](http://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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

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.