



AHIS1240

Ancient Israel and the Near East

Session 1, Fully online/virtual 2020

Department of Ancient History

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General Information

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit of study provides an introduction to the wide sweep of cultures that have shaped the ancient Near East. Using archaeological, textual and artistic evidence, students will learn about domestication and the development of agriculture, the emergence of the first villages, cities and states, the earliest forms of writing, and how civilizations developed in rich and varied ways across the ancient world. Material is based within a broad chronological framework, beginning in ca. 10.000 BC with the growth of the first farming villages and going on to explore the rise of kingdoms and empires, with particular emphasis made on the cultures that developed in ancient Israel and Iran, until the arrival of Alexander the Great in 323 BC.

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: Demonstrate a broad and coherent body of knowledge, with depth in the underlying principles and concepts of the civilizations that emerged in the ancient Near East.

ULO2: Illustrate knowledge of historical developments, research principles and discipline specific methodologies relevant to the ancient Near East.

ULO3: Explain the principles and processes by which archaeological, artistic and textual data from the ancient Near East is analysed, evaluated and interpreted.

ULO4: Engage with contemporary cultural perspectives and practices and contextualize historical knowledge and issues related to the study of ancient Near Eastern civilizations according to intellectual and/or methodological conventions.

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

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 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.

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

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.

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 tutorials (internals). Further, you should complete the readings and any other work for any given week before that week's meeting.

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

This class is offered In Person (Internal) and Fully Online Virtually (OUA is Fully Online Virtual only) (External). Internal students will meet in-class for lectures and tutorials while external students will access course material via the iLearn website. Lectures will be recorded every week and made available via iLearn for external students. Every student, whether internal or external, will need internet access that allows the downloading of unit content and additional resources in order to pass this course.

There is no Required Textbook for this unit. Weekly readings that accompany the lectures and those for the tutorials will be posted on the Unit's **Leganto** page (which can be accessed via the Unit's iLearn page). Be sure to complete any readings listed for a given week **before** coming to class for that week.

Recommended Texts:

Van De Mieroop, Marc. *A History of the Ancient Near East: 3000–323 BC* (3rd Ed.; Wiley 2016). ISBN: 978-1-118-71816-2 (there is also an ebook version)

Ben-Tor, Amnon (ed). 1992 *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel*. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT. ISBN 0300059191

Mazar, Amihai. 1990 *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, 10,000-586 B.C.E.* Doubleday, New York. ISBN: 0385425902

Richard, Suzanne. 2003 *Near Eastern Archaeology: A Reader*. Eisenbrauns: Winona Lake, IN. ISBN: 1575060833

Stern, Ephraim. 2001 *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, Volume II: The Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian Periods (732-332 B.C.E.)*. Doubleday, New York. ISBN: 0385424507

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

1. Intro and Geography and Chronology
 1. Tutorial: Introduction and the Place of Geography in History
2. Sapiens, Hunter-Gatherers (Gobekli Tepe) and Catal Huyuk (10,000-6700)
 1. Tutorial: Domestication: the worst mistake in history?
3. Village to Town, Uruk and the Invention of Writing (6700-3000)
 1. Tutorial: Cuneiform Writing (a hands-on approach)
4. First States and Empires. City States, Akkadian Empire, UrIII, EB (3000-2000)
 1. Tutorial: Sumero- Akkadian Literature
5. Kingdoms and States (2000-1500)
 1. Tutorial: Us vs. Them: Identify formation, re-formation, Immigrants, and the “other”
6. The International Age (1500-1200/1050)
 1. Tutorial: Ancient Scripts and Languages
7. Collapse! Local Players (1200-950)
 1. No Tutorial
8. Elamites
 1. Tutorial: on Art and the Environment
9. Early Israel
 1. Tutorial: Text as artefact
10. The Assyrians
 1. Tutorial: Reading pottery
11. The Neo-Babylonians
 1. Tutorial: On the Discovery of the Ancient Near East
12. The Persians
 1. No Tutorial
13. Study for Final Exam

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.m) (<https://staff.m>

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.