AHIS3202

A History of Magic: From the Magi to Merlin

Session 2, Online with attendance for exam, Exam centre within Australia 2020

Department of Ancient History

Contents

Disclaimer

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Notice

As part of Phase 3 of our return to campus plan, most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to timetable viewer. To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Convener
Malcolm Choat
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Tutor
Rachel Yuen-Collingridge
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Credit points
10

Prerequisites
130cp at 1000 level or above or (20cp in AHIS or AHST units at 2000 level)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit surveys the history of magic from the ancient world to the present day, covering cultures from the Ancient Near East, Egypt and the Graeco-Roman world, Late Antiquity, Medieval and Renaissance Europe, down to the early modern world, as well as aspects of cognitive psychology such as perceptual illusions and delusional beliefs. It provides thorough coverage of the way magic has been defined, understood, and used in these civilisations, and the way it has been conceived and studied in the history of modern scholarship over the past two centuries. Students will focus closely on the material sources for ancient magic, especially handbooks of spells and amulets on papyrus. There will also be close consideration of the construction of magic as an antithesis to religion in the ancient and modern worlds, and a focus on the role, use, and understanding of magic in wider historical, literary, and scientific contexts.

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 the understanding and practice of magic from the ancient to

early modern world.

ULO2: Assess the ways in which definitions of "magic", labelling of magical and religious phenomena, and the cultural processes via which they developed, affects our study of them.

ULO3: Consider critically the impact of later academic and popular discourses on the scholarly study and general understanding of ancient and medieval magic.

ULO4: Classify and interpret textual, documentary, and artifactual material in terms of technical or genre-based aspects, types of discourses, and their aims and functions.

ULO5: Effectively and with academic integrity utilise communication skills appropriate to academic written and oral presentations.

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.

Assignment Submission

ALL written assignments must be submitted via Turnitin within iLearn.

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.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Academic Integrity Quiz	0%	Yes	Friday Week 3
Mid-Session Quiz	15%	No	Week 7
Essay	40%	No	Week 9
Magical Spell	15%	No	Week 13
Online Test	30%	No	Exam period

Academic Integrity Quiz

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 2 hours
Due: **Friday Week 3**
Weighting: **0%**
This is a hurdle assessment task (see assessment policy for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

Students will complete a short quiz that gives examples of academic dishonesty. Students must gain full marks in this quiz to progress to the other assessment.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Effectively and with academic integrity utilise communication skills appropriate to academic written and oral presentations.

Mid-Session Quiz

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 10 hours
Due: **Week 7**
Weighting: **15%**

An online quiz covering the material from the first half of the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify evidence for the understanding and practice of magic from the ancient to early modern world.
- Assess the ways in which definitions of "magic", labelling of magical and religious phenomena, and the cultural processes via which they developed, affects our study of them.
- Consider critically the impact of later academic and popular discourses on the scholarly study and general understanding of ancient and medieval magic.

Essay

Assessment Type [1]: Essay
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 30 hours
Due: **Week 9**
Weighting: **40%**

A major essay of 2000 words (+/- 10%).

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Identify evidence for the understanding and practice of magic from the ancient to early modern world.
- Assess the ways in which definitions of "magic", labelling of magical and religious phenomena, and the cultural processes via which they developed, affects our study of them.
- Consider critically the impact of later academic and popular discourses on the scholarly study and general understanding of ancient and medieval magic.
- Classify and interpret textual, documentary, and artifactual material in terms of technical or genre-based aspects, types of discourses, and their aims and functions.
- Effectively and with academic integrity utilise communication skills appropriate to academic written and oral presentations.

Magical Spell

Assessment Type [1]: Creative work
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 10 hours
Due: **Week 13**
Weighting: **15%**

Students work in small groups to create a magical spell and upload a video of its performance to

an online forum.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Assess the ways in which definitions of "magic", labelling of magical and religious phenomena, and the cultural processes via which they developed, affects our study of them.
- Classify and interpret textual, documentary, and artifactual material in terms of technical or genre-based aspects, types of discourses, and their aims and functions.
- Effectively and with academic integrity utilise communication skills appropriate to academic written and oral presentations.

Online Test

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 20 hours
Due: **Exam period**
Weighting: **30%**

An online test covering material from the whole unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify evidence for the understanding and practice of magic from the ancient to early modern world.
- Assess the ways in which definitions of "magic", labelling of magical and religious phenomena, and the cultural processes via which they developed, affects our study of them.
- Consider critically the impact of later academic and popular discourses on the scholarly study and general understanding of ancient and medieval magic.
- Classify and interpret textual, documentary, and artifactual material in terms of technical or genre-based aspects, types of discourses, and their aims and functions.
- Effectively and with academic integrity utilise communication skills appropriate to academic written and oral presentations.

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[1] If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the Writing Centre for academic skills support.

[2] Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Required and Recommended Reading

Readings required for each week's tutorial and for the essay will be placed on the iLearn site or be available electronically or in hard copy though the library.

Technology

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. Content, readings, and discussions for this unit will be delivered via the unit iLearn page. The lectures for this unit will be recorded and the audio recordings and accompanying slides will be available on the Echo 360 system. Readings will be available via the library and iLearn; other digital resources will also be placed on the iLearn site.

Lectures

There will two one-hour lectures per week.

Tutorials and Online Discussions

Discussions in which we will focus on the historical interpretation of the sources for magic and assessment of the modern scholarship on it will take place in two formats: in face-to-face on-campus or zoom tutorials for internal students, and online discussions for external students.

Tutorials (on-campus or zoom) will be held on Wednesday at 2 and 3 pm. Note that there **are** tutorials in week 1.

Online discussions will be posted weekly on the iLearn page under the relevant week.

Unit Schedule

Week	Lecture 1	Lecture 2	Tutorial
1	Setting the scene	Conceptualising Magic	Introductions
2	Magic and religion: ancient views	Magic and religion: modern views	Definitions of magic

3	Magic in the Ancient Near East	Magic in Ancient Egypt	Material, format, and classification
4	Persia, Egypt, Greece, and Herodotus.	Magic in Greece	The structure of rituals
5	Magic in Rome	Judeo-Christian Magic	The Construction of the magician
6	Magic in Graeco-Roman Egypt	Magic in Graeco-Roman Egypt	Language and Images
7	Magic in Late Antique Egypt	Magic in Late Antique Egypt	Healing
8	Merlin and the inheritance of magic in Medieval traditions	Merlin and the inheritance of magic in Medieval traditions	Love
9	Natural Magic in the Renaissance	Witchcraft	Curses
10	Receptions of Magic	Magic in TV, Film, and Games	Protection
11	Contemporary Magic	Contemporary Magic	Planning the spells
12	Magic, Delusion, and Psychology	Magic, Delusion, and Psychology	The writing of the spells
13	Conclusions	Conclusions	The casting of the spells

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). 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). 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).

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.