



AHIS3202

A History of Magic: From the Magi to Merlin

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2022

Department of History and Archaeology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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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. Multichoice quiz components will be administered via the iLearn page.

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 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted**, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue.

This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). **Late submission of time sensitive tasks** (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) **will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.**

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.

Academic Integrity Quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test Indicative Time on Task ²: 2 hours Due: **23:55 14/8/2022**

Weighting: **0%** **This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)**

Students will complete a short quiz tailored to this unit 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: **23:55 9/9/2022**

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: **23:55 9/10/2022**

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**: Performance Indicative Time on Task **2**: 10 hours Due: **In class 2/11/2022**
Weighting: **15%**

Students in groups construct a magical ritual for performance in the final tutorial.

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.

Examination

Assessment Type **1**: Examination Indicative Time on Task **2**: 20 hours Due: **12:00 17/11/2022**
Weighting: **30%**

A two (2) hour examination during the exam period at the end of the session.

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.

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

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Academic Integrity Quiz	0%	Yes	23:55 14/8/2022 (Week 2)
Mid-Session Quiz	15%	No	23:55 9/9/2022 (Week 7)
Essay	40%	No	23:55 9/10/2022 (Week 9)
Magical Spell	15%	No	In class, 2/11/2022 (Week 13)
Take Home Exam	30%	No	12:00 17/11/22 (Exam period)

Academic Integrity Quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 2 hours

Due: **23:55 14/8/2022 (Week 2)**

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: **23:55 9/9/2022 (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: **23:55 9/10/2022 (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: Performance

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **In class, 2/11/2022 (Week 13)**

Weighting: **15%**

Students construct a magical ritual for performance in the final tutorial.

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.

Take Home Exam

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **12:00 17/11/22 (Exam period)**

Weighting: **30%**

A take home examination during the exam period at the end of the session.

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.

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 through 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 be two one-hour lectures per week. These will be recorded in advance and available via the Echo 360 system.

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 face-to-face on-campus tutorials. Weekly worksheets will be provided to help guide students through the readings and prepare for tutorial-based assessment.

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

Unit Schedule

Week	Lecture 1	Lecture 2	Tutorial	Assessment
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1	Setting the scene: Interrogating magic	The study of manuscripts	Definitions of Magic	
2	Magic in context: ancient and modern perspectives on magic and religion	Scribes and the papyri	Theories of Magic	Academic Integrity Quiz
3	Magic in the Ancient Near East	Magic in Ancient Egypt	Material, form, and content of rituals	
4	Magic in the Greek world	Describing manuscripts	Reconstructing the 'magician'	
5	Magic in Rome	Magic in the context of Judaism and early Christianity I	Ancient legislation against magic	
6	Magic in the context of Judaism and early Christianity II	Magic in Graeco-Roman Egypt	Healing Rituals	
7	Magic in Late Antique Egypt	Ethnicity and the "Other"	Divination	Mid-Sem Quiz
8	Inheritance of magic in medieval traditions	Magic and the Emotions	No Tutorial	
9	Magic in the Middle Ages	Medievalism and Receptions of magic	Curses	Essay
10	Natural Magic in the Renaissance	Witchcraft	Love Magic	
11	Contemporary Magic I	Contemporary Magic II	The Psychology of Magic	
12	Magic, Delusion, and Psychology I	Magic, Delusion, and Psychology II	Preparation for Magical Spell	
13	Magic in Videogaming	Conclusion	Performance of Magical Spells	Magical Spell

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/su\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/su)

[upport/study/policies](#)). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](#) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

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.

Changes from Previous Offering

New content has been added to the lectures (including content on videogaming). A tutorial free week has been added into the unit before the submission of the major assessment. Adjustments have been made to the tutorial content throughout and to the assessment topics and materials (including the introduction of a new referencing system). The late penalty has been updated in accordance with University policy.