AHIS3202

A History of Magic: From the Magi to Merlin

Session 2, Online-flexible 2023

Department of History and Archaeology

Contents

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Convenor, Lecturer and Tutor
Rachel Yuen-Collingridge
rachel.yuen@mq.edu.au
Contact via via email (with unit code in subject line)
25B Wally's Walk, Office number B163
By arrangement

Lecturer
Malcolm Choat
malcolm.choat@mq.edu.au
Contact via via email (with unit code in subject line)

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: Analyse and critique primary sources about magic from the ancient to early modern periods with a view to understanding how different perspectives impact cultural phenomena.

ULO2: Understand key theoretical concepts and definitions used to describe magical practice over time, how these shape methods of analysis and what the advantages of such approaches might be.

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 use written and oral communication skills appropriate to professional research and in accordance with publication standards using professional guidelines.

ULO6: Work effectively as a team to apply knowledge of ancient practices and their socio-cultural settings to modern contexts.

ULO7: Navigate specialised databases and integrate search results into research reporting.

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.

The use of Large Language Models like ChatGPT as a tool to assist the comprehension of concepts or to help refine expression (as opposed to generating expression, interpretation and analysis for assessments) is permitted. Specific guidance on appropriate use and the ethical issues of LMM will be provided. This technology has significant limitations which may result in poor performance on assessment tasks if appropriate use is not followed.

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 <u>must</u> be submitted via <u>ask.mq.edu.au</u> 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, 10/8/2023 (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 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 use written and oral communication skills appropriate to professional research and in accordance with publication standards using professional guidelines.

Quizzes

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test Indicative Time on Task [2]: 25 hours Due: **23:55 8/9/2023 (Week 7), 23:55 10/11/23 (Exam Period)** Weighting: **40%**

Two online multichoice quizzes covering lecture and tutorial content from throughout the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse and critique primary sources about magic from ancient to early modern periods with a view to understanding how different perspectives impact cultural phenomena.

- Understand key theoretical concepts and definitions used to describe magical practice over time, how these shape methods of analysis and what the advantages of such approaches might be.
- 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.
- Navigate specialised databases and integrate search results into research reporting.

Papyrological Report

Assessment Type [1]: Essay Indicative Time on Task [2]: 35 hours Due: **23:55 15/10/2023 (Week 10)** Weighting: **45%**

A research report featuring manuscript description and analysis of 2000 words (+/- 10%).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse and critique primary sources about magic from ancient to early modern periods with a view to understanding how different perspectives impact cultural phenomena.
- Understand key theoretical concepts and definitions used to describe magical practice over time, how these shape methods of analysis and what the advantages of such approaches might be.
- 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 use written and oral communication skills appropriate to professional research and in accordance with publications standards using professional guidelines.
- Navigate specialised databases and integrate search results into research reporting.

Magical Spell

Assessment Type [1]: Performance Indicative Time on Task [2]: 10 hours Due: **Online 5/11/2023 (Week 13)** Weighting: **15%**

Students in assigned groups construct a magical ritual for video performance for submission in a discussion forum (on **2/11/2023**). Students to answer questions in a discussion forum about their design before the due date.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse and critique primary sources about magic from ancient to early modern periods

with a view to understanding how different perspectives impact cultural phenomena.

- Consider critically the impact of later academic and popular discourses on the scholarly study and general understanding of ancient and medieval magic.
- Effectively and with academic integrity use written and oral communication skills appropriate to professional research and in accordance with publications standards using professional guidelines.
- Work effectively as a team to apply knowledge of ancient practices and their socio-cultural settings to modern contexts.

[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	10/8/2023 (Week 3)
Magical Spell	15%	No	5/11/2023 (Week 13)
Quizzes	40%	No	8/9/2023 (Week 7);10/11/23 (Exam Period)
Papyrological Report	45%	No	15/10/2023 (Week 10)

Academic Integrity Quiz

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 2 hours
Due: **10/8/2023 (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 use written and oral communication skills appropriate to professional research and in accordance with publication standards using professional guidelines.

Magical Spell

Assessment Type [1]: Creative work
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 10 hours
Due: **5/11/2023 (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:

- Analyse and critique primary sources about magic from the ancient to early modern periods with a view to understanding how different perspectives impact cultural phenomena.
- Consider critically the impact of later academic and popular discourses on the scholarly study and general understanding of ancient and medieval magic.
- Effectively and with academic integrity use written and oral communication skills appropriate to professional research and in accordance with publication standards using professional guidelines.
- Work effectively as a team to apply knowledge of ancient practices and their socio-cultural settings to modern contexts.

Quizzes

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 25 hours
Due: **8/9/2023 (Week 7);10/11/23 (Exam Period)**
Weighting: **40%**

Online quizzes covering tutorial and lecture content from the unit

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse and critique primary sources about magic from the ancient to early modern periods with a view to understanding how different perspectives impact cultural phenomena.
- Understand key theoretical concepts and definitions used to describe magical practice over time, how these shape methods of analysis and what the advantages of such approaches might be.
- 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.
- Navigate specialised databases and integrate search results into research reporting.

Papyrological Report

Assessment Type [1]: Report
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 35 hours
Due: **15/10/2023 (Week 10)**
Weighting: **45%**

A research report featuring manuscript description and analysis of 2000 words (+/- 10%).

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Analyse and critique primary sources about magic from the ancient to early modern periods with a view to understanding how different perspectives impact cultural phenomena.
- Understand key theoretical concepts and definitions used to describe magical practice over time, how these shape methods of analysis and what the advantages of such approaches might be.
- Consider critically the impact of later academic and popular discourses on the scholarly study and general understanding of ancient and medieval magic.
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- Effectively and with academic integrity use written and oral communication skills appropriate to professional research and in accordance with publication standards using professional guidelines.
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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 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. These will be recorded and available via the Echo 360 system the day before the in-class tutorials. Study Guide Questions will be provided for each week to help students prepare for assessment.

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 through online forum discussions with video introductions for external students. Weekly worksheets will be provided to help guide students through the readings and prepare for assessment.

Online discussions will be posted weekly on the iLearn page under the relevant week on Wednesday and closed Tuesday evening on the following week. Note that there **are** tutorials in week 1.

Unit Schedule

Week	Lecture 1	Lecture 2	Tutorial	Assessment
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	
3	Magic in the context of Late Period Egypt I	Magic in the context of Late Period Egypt II	Material, form, and content of rituals	Academic Integrity Quiz
4	Magic in the Hellenistic 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	Curses	
9	Magic in the Middle Ages	Medievalism and Receptions of magic	Love Magic	
10	Natural Magic in the Renaissance	Witchcraft	No Tutorial	Papyrological Report
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 Videogames	Conclusion	Performance of Magical Spells	Magical Spell
Exam Period				Final Quiz

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (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/support/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 Advocacy provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

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 lecture content has been added. A tutorial free week has been added into the unit on the week of the submission of the major assessment (Papyrological Report). Adjustments have been made to the tutorial content and to the assessment topics and materials (including the introduction of a new slideshow on referencing). The weighting of quizzes and the papyrological report has been increased and the final exam removed. Lecture content will now be assessable through the quizzes.