



AHIX3251

State Formation in the Ancient World

Session 2, Online-flexible 2023

Department of History and Archaeology

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Professor

Javier Alvarez-Mon

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

AHIX1250 and AHIX2250

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines the origin and development of the "state" in the ancient world, from the earliest states in Egypt and the ancient Near East to the foundation of the medieval world, via investigation of the archaeological, historical, textual, and artistic evidence. Particular attention is paid to the processes involved in the formation of the first states in Egypt and Mesopotamia, with theoretical models for understanding what a state is and does forming the foundation upon which the ancient evidence is overlaid.

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: Interpret theories on the rise and fall of cultural complexity.

ULO2: Recognise the various factors that led to state formation in the ancient world.

ULO3: Relate theory to reality in a discussion of state formation in the Ancient World.

ULO4: Articulate the benefits and drawbacks of various theoretical frameworks based on archaeological and textual data.

General Assessment Information

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE UNIT To complete the unit successfully you need a minimum mark of 50% overall. You must attempt every piece of assessment to pass this unit. In accordance with Clause 129 of the University Assessment Policy, non-submission of an Assessment Task will result in a FA grade - Fail Absent.

GRADES F / FA: 0-49% P: 50-64% CR: 65-74% D: 75-84% HD: 85-100%

LATE ASSESSMENT 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.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON FINAL MARKS Please note with respect to the marks you receive for work during the session: grading decisions for each assessment task will be moderated against the set criteria and standards before task results are released. See further the note on Results in the Policies and Procedures section below. It is highly recommended that you come to all seminars. Further, you should complete the readings and any other work for any given week before that week's meeting.

ATTENTION: LARGE LANGUAGE MODEL (LLM or AI) USE FOR ASSIGNMENTS

The use of AI (eg. Chat GPT) for assessment completion in AHIS3251 / AHIX3251 is discouraged. Choosing to use AI in your writing will result in lower marks.

In scraping the internet to generate a result, AI can miss material, make up references, and provide incorrect information or content that is too general or wrong. It may even plagiarise its source material. The style and cadence of the language produced by AI is also obvious to the reader. Assignments will be scrutinised for signs of AI use and this will be taken into consideration to a higher degree in the marking process accordingly.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Annotated Bibliography	25%	No	2355 hrs Saturday 26/08/2023 Week 5
Oral Presentation	35%	No	2355 hrs Saturday 7/10/2023 Week 9
Written Essay	40%	No	2355 hrs Saturday 04/11/2023 Week 13

Annotated Bibliography

Assessment Type ¹: Annotated bibliography

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **2355 hrs Saturday 26/08/2023 Week 5**

Weighting: **25%**

Produce an annotated bibliography (min. 10 references) from a list of topic choices.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Recognise the various factors that led to state formation in the ancient world.
- Relate theory to reality in a discussion of state formation in the Ancient World.
- Articulate the benefits and drawbacks of various theoretical frameworks based on archaeological and textual data.

Oral Presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **2355 hrs Saturday 7/10/2023 Week 9**

Weighting: **35%**

Short oral presentation (15 min.) on a topic from a list of topic choices.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Interpret theories on the rise and fall of cultural complexity.
- Recognise the various factors that led to state formation in the ancient world.

- Relate theory to reality in a discussion of state formation in the Ancient World.

Written Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours

Due: **2355 hrs Saturday 04/11/2023 Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

Written essay of 2500 words on a topic from a list of topic choices.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Interpret theories on the rise and fall of cultural complexity.
- Recognise the various factors that led to state formation in the ancient world.
- Relate theory to reality in a discussion of state formation in the Ancient World.
- Articulate the benefits and drawbacks of various theoretical frameworks based on archaeological and textual data.

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

Access to the internet, MQ library, and various online databases will be necessary for successful completion of this unit. Ability to work with word processing programs and powerpoint (or comparable programs) will also be necessary to complete unit assessments.

There is no textbook for this unit; readings will be drawn from a number of sources via the unit's Leganto page or on our iLearn page.

External / on-line students will have access to lecture recordings and other content via iLearn. Several face-to-face zoom calls will be scheduled during the Semester for external students to meet with the Unit lecturers. See the iLearn page for more details.

Unit Schedule

The Unit will commence with introductory lectures and class discussions on the emergence

of social complexity, the nature of the state, and theories of state formation in ancient world studies. This will be followed by a focus on the early pristine states of Mesopotamia and Egypt, applying theoretical concepts to archaeological, environmental and textual data. From Weeks 8 to 13, the unit content will move onto theories of societal collapse, followed by an assessment of later empires from the Hellenistic period to Late Antiquity.

For further information, consult the Unit's iLearn site for the Unit Schedule and weekly updates.

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 \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](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 \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](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 since First Published

Date	Description
25/07/2023	I have added a section on LLM / AI in the General Assessment Information