# AHIS8221

Caravan Cities

Session 1, Online-flexible 2024

Department of History and Archaeology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Peter Edwell
peter.edwell@mq.edu.au

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
Admission to MAncHist or GradCertAncHist or MA in (Ancient History or Coptic Studies)

Corequisites

Co-badged status
AHIS8221 - Caravan Cities

Unit description
The unit aims to combine archaeology with history in the study of a number of key cities of the Roman Near East. The Silk Road and the Frankincense Road brought great prosperity to a number of cities of the Roman East, especially Petra, Palmyra and Dura Europos. Much of the history of these cities is written from a combination of archaeological reports and literary sources. Students will be given the opportunity to learn how to evaluate archaeological evidence against extant literary sources and also to study the architectural history of the Roman Near East.

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:

UL01: Analyse and express judgement about the development of trade in the Roman Near East and specific features of the main cities involved in this trade in oral and written form.
UL02: Interpret written and archaeological evidence and express appreciation and understanding of their context and modern interpretations of them.
UL03: Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in both oral and written form
UL04: Demonstrate the ability to draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located
evidence to provide an analysis of trade in the Roman Near East and an important element of the cities involved in this trade.

General Assessment Information

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.

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blog</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>11:55pm, Monday, 29 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>11:55pm, Friday, 12 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>11:55pm, Friday, 31 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly written contributions to online discussions.</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
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Blog

Assessment Type 1: Non-academic writing
Indicative Time on Task 2: 15 hours
Due: 11:55pm, Monday, 29 April
Weighting: 10%

A blog focusing on the impact of modern human activity on ancient archaeological sites.
On successful completion you will be able to:

- Interpret written and archaeological evidence and express appreciation and understanding of their context and modern interpretations of them.

**Discussion Paper**

Assessment Type 1: Essay  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 20 hours  
Due: **11.55pm, Friday, 12 April**  
Weighting: **20%**

1,500 word essay from a selection of questions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse and express judgement about the development of trade in the Roman Near East and specific features of the main cities involved in this trade in oral and written form.
- Interpret written and archaeological evidence and express appreciation and understanding of their context and modern interpretations of them.
- Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in both oral and written form
- Demonstrate the ability to draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide an analysis of trade in the Roman Near East and an important element of the cities involved in this trade.

**Research Essay**

Assessment Type 1: Essay  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 50 hours  
Due: **11.55pm, Friday, 31 May**  
Weighting: **50%**

3,000 word research essay focussing a broad question related to the material covered across the entire unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse and express judgement about the development of trade in the Roman Near East and specific features of the main cities involved in this trade in oral and written form.
• Interpret written and archaeological evidence and express appreciation and understanding of their context and modern interpretations of them.

• Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in both oral and written form

• Demonstrate the ability to draw together and judge pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide an analysis of trade in the Roman Near East and an important element of the cities involved in this trade.

Weekly written contributions to online discussions.

Assessment Type 1: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task 2: 20 hours
Due: Weekly
Weighting: 20%

Weekly written contributions to online discussions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Analyse and express judgement about the development of trade in the Roman Near East and specific features of the main cities involved in this trade in oral and written form.

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
Recorded lectures are available via Echo 360 on the unit i-learn page.

Unit Schedule
See schedule in Bibliography and unit resources file on i-learn page.

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
Student Support

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

Unit information based on version 2024.01 of the Handbook