



AHIS2301

Archaeology of Death and Burial

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2024

Department of History and Archaeology

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Prof. Ronika Power

ronika.power@mq.edu.au

ZOOM Consultation: 4-5pm Thursdays

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Cemeteries are arguably the most ubiquitous site-types in the archaeological record, providing the greatest portion of artefacts, ecofacts, features, texts and artistic representations from which archaeologists and historians have based their reconstructions of the past.

Notwithstanding these facts, cemeteries are also arguably the most challenging site-type to interpret due to the profound complexity and variability of mortuary behaviour - both within and across cultures. This unit embraces 'complexity' and 'variability' as opportunities to consider how different societies and cultures dealt with the biological imperative of death. By encompassing the fields of archaeology, history, theory, biology, social and cultural studies, politics, and economics, this interdisciplinary unit will invite students to consider the enduring tendency of death to provide individuals and groups with a stage to articulate the complexity, variability and meaning of life.

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: Articulate acquired knowledge and skills pertaining to the archaeology of death and burial across time, geographical regions and cultures

ULO2: Demonstrate critical thinking by solving problems in the interpretation of

ambiguous, complex and contrasting archaeological data

ULO3: Reflect on how knowledge gained in the unit can be applied in modern (ethnographic) contexts

ULO4: Create multimedia content that communicates specific archaeological knowledge and skills

ULO5: Demonstrate ability to work collaboratively as part of team whilst managing different perspectives of individuals

General Assessment Information

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE UNIT

To complete the unit successfully you need a minimum mark of 50% overall.

N.B. 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 SUBMISSION OF ASSESSMENT TASKS - 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.**

No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. online quizzes, online tests.

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.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Online Quiz 1	15%	No	WEEK 4: Friday 16th August 2024
e-Portfolio	30%	No	WEEK 5: Sunday 25th August 2024
Individual Video Task	10%	No	RECESS WEEK 1: Sunday 15th September 2024
Group Video Task	30%	No	WEEK 11: Sunday 20th October 2024
Online Quiz 2	15%	No	WEEK 13: Friday 1st November 2024

Online Quiz 1

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 4 hours

Due: **WEEK 4: Friday 16th August 2024**

Weighting: **15%**

Answer 10 short questions based on the unit content, readings and discussions

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Articulate acquired knowledge and skills pertaining to the archaeology of death and burial across time, geographical regions and cultures
- Reflect on how knowledge gained in the unit can be applied in modern (ethnographic) contexts

e-Portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **WEEK 5: Sunday 25th August 2024**

Weighting: **30%**

Working individually, produce a short multimedia reflection piece. This reflection piece provides an opportunity to express your learning experience in a personalised, creative way. Alongside your other creative assessment outputs for this unit, the e-Portfolio assessment task forms a reflective piece which connects and contextualises your submissions across the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Articulate acquired knowledge and skills pertaining to the archaeology of death and burial across time, geographical regions and cultures
- Demonstrate critical thinking by solving problems in the interpretation of ambiguous, complex and contrasting archaeological data
- Reflect on how knowledge gained in the unit can be applied in modern (ethnographic) contexts
- Create multimedia content that communicates specific archaeological knowledge and skills

Individual Video Task

Assessment Type ¹: Media presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **RECESS WEEK 1: Sunday 15th September 2024**

Weighting: **10%**

Working individually, produce a short video piece from a script you have written using a choice of media and methods to tell a story. This is open to experimental approaches and has a light weighting (ie.10%) to encourage you to practice in the medium.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Articulate acquired knowledge and skills pertaining to the archaeology of death and burial across time, geographical regions and cultures
- Demonstrate critical thinking by solving problems in the interpretation of ambiguous, complex and contrasting archaeological data
- Reflect on how knowledge gained in the unit can be applied in modern (ethnographic) contexts
- Create multimedia content that communicates specific archaeological knowledge and skills

Group Video Task

Assessment Type ¹: Media presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **WEEK 11: Sunday 20th October 2024**

Weighting: **30%**

Working in a group, from an agreed script, produce a short video piece using a choice of media and methods to tell a story. You will be expected to perform any of a variety of roles and 50% of this mark comes from a 500 word reflection on your team work and process.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Articulate acquired knowledge and skills pertaining to the archaeology of death and burial across time, geographical regions and cultures
- Demonstrate critical thinking by solving problems in the interpretation of ambiguous, complex and contrasting archaeological data
- Reflect on how knowledge gained in the unit can be applied in modern (ethnographic) contexts
- Create multimedia content that communicates specific archaeological knowledge and skills
- Demonstrate ability to work collaboratively as part of team whilst managing different perspectives of individuals

Online Quiz 2

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 4 hours

Due: **WEEK 13: Friday 1st November 2024**

Weighting: **15%**

Answer 10 short questions based on the unit content, readings and discussions

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Articulate acquired knowledge and skills pertaining to the archaeology of death and burial across time, geographical regions and cultures
- Reflect on how knowledge gained in the unit can be applied in modern (ethnographic) 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

Delivery and Resources

Consult the Unit's iLearn site for weekly updates on delivery and resources.

Unit Schedule

Consult the Unit's iLearn site for weekly updates on the Unit Schedule.

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.

Accessibility Statement

Your success in this class is important to me. Throughout our learning journeys, we all require accommodations because we all learn and work differently, and have different life experiences. If there are aspects of this unit that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. We can develop strategies together in order to meet both your needs and the learning outcomes of the course.

For students with accessibility requirements, I encourage you to contact [Accessibility Services](#) to ensure that we are supporting your learning appropriately. If you need official accommodations, you have a right to have these met. There are also a range of resources on campus that serve to support and improve student learning and wellbeing, including the [Learning Skills Unit](#), [Peer Support](#) programs, resources for [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students](#), [English Language support](#), and [Student Wellbeing](#) support and resources. Please reach out to these programs if you need them, or contact me directly for further information. We are all here to help.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility & Belonging

The Department of History and Archaeology is committed to the principles of inclusivity, diversity, equity, accessibility, and belonging in education.

- We believe that every aspect of education is enhanced when we acknowledge and engage with the rich diversity present in our learning community.
- We are committed to ensuring that all students and staff can participate safely and on equal terms.
- We are all accountable for upholding and maintaining these principles. This requires respectful language, communication, and behaviour at all times, and an understanding that our classrooms, online spaces, and offices are professional workplace environments.

Please familiarise yourself with Macquarie University's Diversity and Inclusion [initiatives](#) and [policies](#), as well as the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Please also read the guide to writing and speaking about Indigenous Peoples in Australia that is located in your iLearn sites under the Welcome to Country.

If you would like to discuss these matters further, please contact your Unit Convenor or the Head of Department, History and Archaeology: [Prof. Malcolm Choat](#). *Thank you.*

Unit information based on version 2024.01R of the [Handbook](#)