AHIS2210

From Alexander the Great to Augustus: The Hellenistic Age

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

School of Humanities

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Convenor
Ian Worthington
ian.worthington@mq.edu.au
Contact via Email
B109 Arts Precinct
by appointment

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit studies the reigns of Philip II of Macedonia (359-336 BC) and especially his son Alexander the Great (336-323 BC) as well as the history of the Hellenistic period to the Roman seizure of Egypt in 30 BC by the future emperor Augustus. Specific areas of study include Alexander the Great as king, general, and man; his Successors and the formation of the Hellenistic kingdoms; Greek and Macedonian inter-state relations; Ptolemaic Egypt; Seleucid Syria; and Roman imperialism in the eastern Mediterranean. As well as political and military matters, we will discuss cultural and intellectual matters in the Hellenistic period. Lessons for today will be considered, including Alexander's military legacy and the lives of indigenous people in the Ptolemaic and Seleucid empires.

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: Illustrate a broad working knowledge of the history of the period from Alexander the Great to the end of the Hellenistic era, including the approach of some modern historians to it.

ULO2: Examine and critically evaluate historical evidence, appreciating its significance and limitations.

ULO3: Understand connections between the ancient world and the modern.

General Assessment Information

1) **Follow the rubrics for the assignments carefully so as to gain maximum marks** and submit your work on Turnitin – under each assignment below is a submission button.

2) **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. (The times are Sydney times.)

3) **IMPORTANT NOTE ON FINAL MARKS**: Assessment tasks will be further moderated against the set criteria and standards of the tasks before final grades are calculated, hence your final assignments' marks may be different from the original ones.

4) **Do not plagiarise**: plagiarism will not be tolerated: see 'MQ Academic Integrity Policy' below.

5) **AI:** An increasing number of students is turning to the various AI programmes when writing assignments, a practice much discussed at department and faculty levels. It is impossible to detect the use of AI accurately hence banning its use is to little avail. But I do urge you to be terribly careful if you resort to using such programmes as they are a double-edged sword: they do make errors and these are obvious during the marking process, and so will count against you. Also, the assignment questions rely heavily on your opinions and interpretations based on readings, so when it comes time to justifying your views in your answers an AI programme won't be of much help. It is always better, I think, to know your material and engage with it one-to-one for the maximum learning experience!

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Essay	25%	No	23/03/2025		No	
Poster	25%	No	04/05/2025		No	
Essay	50%	No	08/06/2025		No	

Essay

Assessment Type [1]: Essay
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 20 hours
Due: **23/03/2025**

Weighting: **25%**
Groupwork/Individual:
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach:

Qualitative assessment on a topic to do with ancient sources

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Illustrate a broad working knowledge of the history of the period from Alexander the Great to the end of the Hellenistic era, including the approach of some modern historians to it.
- Examine and critically evaluate historical evidence, appreciating its significance and limitations.
- Understand connections between the ancient world and the modern.

Poster

Assessment Type [1]: Poster
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 20 hours
Due: **04/05/2025**
Weighting: **25%**
Groupwork/Individual:
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach:

One slide only of text and 2-3 illustrations arranged and put together by students as they wish as long as on only one slide on a topic to do with Alexander the Great

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Illustrate a broad working knowledge of the history of the period from Alexander the Great to the end of the Hellenistic era, including the approach of some modern historians to it.
- Examine and critically evaluate historical evidence, appreciating its significance and limitations.
- Understand connections between the ancient world and the modern.

Essay

Assessment Type [1]: Essay
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 40 hours
Due: **08/06/2025**
Weighting: **50%**
Groupwork/Individual:
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach:

2,000 words on a topic to do with the Hellenistic era

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Illustrate a broad working knowledge of the history of the period from Alexander the Great to the end of the Hellenistic era, including the approach of some modern historians to it.
- Examine and critically evaluate historical evidence, appreciating its significance and limitations.
- Understand connections between the ancient world and the modern.

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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
- Academic Success 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.

[3] An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the Service Connect Portal.

Delivery and Resources

Schedule: There are no face-to-face lectures; all weekly lectures are recorded and uploaded onto the Echo 360 site by 3.00pm Monday each week. There will be face-to-face tutorials in most weeks for internal students and any external student able to attend them: see iLearn Syllabus for details. In addition, a recorded 'definitive' tutorial will be uploaded onto the Echo 360 site after the tutorial in question fo external/OUA students.

Method: AHIS2210 is delivered in blended mode as a Macquarie University unit of study.

Webpage: Online units can be accessed at: http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/

Technology used and skills required: PC and Internet access are required. Basic computer skills (e.g., internet browsing) and skills in word processing are also a requirement.

Please contact IT staff for any further, more specific, requirements, to do with technology.

Required and recommended resources

No required purchase books.

eReserve readings on leganto (see 'Unit Readings' in iLearn Syllabus and weekly lecture and tutorial readings for information).

Unit Schedule

Week 1: Macedonia and Greece before Philip II

Week 2: Philip II of Macedonia – A 'Great' King?

Week 3: Alexander's Invasion of Persia (1)

Week 4: Alexander's Invasion of Persia (2)

Week 5: Alexander, Central Asia, and Modern-era Warfare

Week 6: Alexander, India and Final Years; Generalship & Leadership Skills and 'Greatness'

Week 7: The Wars of the Successors and the Birth of the Hellenistic Kingdoms

Week 8: Macedonia and Greece

Week 9: Ptolemaic Egypt

Week 10: Pergamum and Rhodes

Week 11: The Seleucid Kingdom and its Successor States

Week 12: A Tale of Two Cities: Hellenistic Athens

Week 13: 'Captive Greece Conquered Its Rude Conqueror'

(The above subject to change in the later weeks)

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 connect.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/

Academic Success

Academic Success 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 the Service Connect Portal, 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 2025.01R of the Handbook