



AHIS8210

History Writing in Antiquity: Herodotus and Thucydides

Session 2, Online-flexible 2026

School of Humanities

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Samantha Mills

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MAnCHist

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

In antiquity Herodotus was regarded as the father of history. Thucydides is widely acknowledged as the creator of political history. This unit examines a range of historiographical approaches to the reading of these two influential Greek historians. The aim of this unit is both to understand Herodotus and Thucydides as writers and to evaluate the different historiographical approaches taken by the modern scholars who have studied them.

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: Demonstrate understanding of principal historiographical approaches to the texts of key ancient historians.

ULO2: Identify, critically assess and evaluate approaches to the writing of ancient history.

ULO3: Research and interpret texts, using appropriate historiographical approaches to analysis.

ULO4: Communicate effectively with teaching staff and peers, demonstrating an informed respect for professional (academic) and ethical principles and values.

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 11.59pm. 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:** Grading decisions for each assessment task will be moderated against the set criteria and standards before task results are released.
- 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 mostly because they tend to summarise *generally* without building a useful or indeed convincing argument; it certainly cannot replace critical *human* thinking. The assignment questions rely heavily on your opinions and interpretations based on close readings of Herodotus and Thucydides and secondary readings. It is always better, I think, to know your material and engage with it one-to-one for the maximum learning experience!

Historiographical Analysis:

Assessment Type ¹: Case study/analysis Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours Due: **13/09/2025**
Weighting: **25%** Groupwork/Individual: Short extension ³: No AI Approach:

A short written paper that requires historiographical analysis: your word limit is 1500 words.
Further details on this task are on the unit's ilearn page.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of principal historiographical approaches to the texts of key ancient historians.
- Identify, critically assess and evaluate approaches to the writing of ancient history.

Critical Evaluation of your weekly posts.

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours Due: **18/10/2025**
Weighting: **25%** Groupwork/Individual: Short extension ³: No AI Approach:

Compose a reflective, critical evaluation of your engagement with the unit's topics in your weekly posts: your word limit for this task is 1500 words. Further details on this task are on the unit's ilearn page.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of principal historiographical approaches to the texts of key ancient historians.
- Identify, critically assess and evaluate approaches to the writing of ancient history.
- Research and interpret texts, using appropriate historiographical approaches to analysis.

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours Due: **08/11/2025** Weighting: **50%**
Groupwork/Individual: Short extension ³: No AI Approach:

This is a longer written assessment task: your word limit is 2500 words. Further details on this task are on the unit's ilearn page.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of principal historiographical approaches to the texts of key ancient historians.
- Identify, critically assess and evaluate approaches to the writing of ancient history.
- Research and interpret texts, using appropriate historiographical approaches to analysis.
- Communicate effectively with teaching staff and peers, demonstrating an informed respect for professional (academic) and ethical principles and values.

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](#).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Historiographical Analysis	25%	No	13/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Critical Evaluation of your weekly posts.	25%	No	18/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
<u>Essay</u>	50%	No	08/ 11/ 2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Historiographical Analysis

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **13/09/2026**

Weighting: **25%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

A short written paper that requires historiographical analysis: your word limit is 1500 words. Further details on this task are on the unit's ilearn page.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of principal historiographical approaches to the texts of key ancient historians.
- Identify, critically assess and evaluate approaches to the writing of ancient history.

Critical Evaluation of your weekly posts.

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **18/10/2026**

Weighting: **25%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Compose a reflective, critical evaluation of your engagement with the unit's topics in your weekly posts: your word limit for this task is 1500 words. Further details on this task are on the unit's ilearn page.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of principal historiographical approaches to the texts of key ancient historians.
- Identify, critically assess and evaluate approaches to the writing of ancient history.
- Research and interpret texts, using appropriate historiographical approaches to analysis.

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **08/11/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

This is a longer written assessment task: your word limit is 2500 words. Further details on this task are on the unit's ilearn page.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of principal historiographical approaches to the texts of key ancient historians.
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Delivery and Resources

Schedule: There are no face-to-face lectures; all weekly lectures are recorded and made available on the ilearn site from week 1 - lectures can be found in the 'Lectures' folder which will take you to Echo360 where the audio-recorded lectures are stored for this unit. There is also also be a weekly online discussion forum, which will also be the basis for the written assignments; note that weeks 2-9 are mandatory to complete for the Critical Evaluation assessment.

Method: AHIS/AHIX8210 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; microsoft word. 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.

All modern readings are available through the unit's Leganto page; please view these readings regularly as you are required and certainly expected to engage with the weekly readings (ancient and modern) each week and for your assessments. Suggested companion volumes for Herodotus and for Thucydides are listed at the bottom of the Leganto list - students may wish to look at these volumes for research and additional reading in preparation for their essays.

Unit Schedule

Please view the 'Seminar programme' pdf available on the iLearn website for weekly readings and forum discussion questions to which students must respond.

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 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.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [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 <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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 2026.02 of the [Handbook](#)