



AHIX3001

Material Culture and Museum Studies

Session 2, Online-flexible 2026

School of Humanities

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Javier Alvarez-Mon

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

AHIX1250 and AHIX2251

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

An advanced level study of some of the most common categories of material in the ancient world, including metals, stones, clay, animal and plant based fibers, timber and ivory, and various genres of materials production such as architecture, ceramics, sculpture, weaponry and equestrian equipment, with particular emphasis on technology, manufacture, function, style, iconography, chronology and spatial distribution. Material will normally be drawn from a diverse range of cultures, with specific physical examples from the collections of the Museum of Ancient Cultures, and may vary from year to year. Relying on this background, and in parallel, students will also be introduced to the history of museums and museum collections, the illicit trade of antiquities, the manufacture of forgeries, the participation of public museums and private collectors and related repercussions for the reconstruction of the historical record.

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: Understand ancient materials and the cultural contexts in which they were used.

To examine the origin of materials and how things were made.

ULO2: Evaluate methodological and ethical issues associated with the role of Museums in the collection and exhibition of artifacts

ULO3: Acquire skills necessary for research analysis and interpretations. Conducting

independent research and synthesize acquired knowledge.

ULO4: Deliver a power point oral presentation paper (a “Conference Paper”) and communicate effectively with teaching staff and peers through class presentation.

General Assessment Information

Quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Problem-based task Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours Due: **19/10/2026**
Weighting: **30%** Groupwork/Individual: Individual Short extension ³: Yes AI Approach: Open

Quiz on unit content.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand ancient materials and the cultural contexts in which they were used. To examine the origin of materials and how things were made.
- Evaluate methodological and ethical issues associated with the role of Museums in the collection and exhibition of artifacts
- Acquire skills necessary for research analysis and interpretations. Conducting independent research and synthesize acquired knowledge.

Media Presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task Indicative Time on Task ²: 16 hours Due: **05/10/2026**
Weighting: **35%** Groupwork/Individual: Individual Short extension ³: Yes AI Approach: Open

Students prepare a video on a selected topic for 'mini-conference' presentation.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand ancient materials and the cultural contexts in which they were used. To examine the origin of materials and how things were made.
- Evaluate methodological and ethical issues associated with the role of Museums in the collection and exhibition of artifacts
- Acquire skills necessary for research analysis and interpretations. Conducting independent research and synthesize acquired knowledge.
- Deliver a power point oral presentation paper (a “Conference Paper”) and communicate effectively with teaching staff and peers through class presentation.

Research Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours Due: **02/11/2026**
Weighting: **35%** Groupwork/Individual: Individual Short extension ³: Yes AI Approach: Open

Long essay (2000 words long)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand ancient materials and the cultural contexts in which they were used. To examine the origin of materials and how things were made.
- Evaluate methodological and ethical issues associated with the role of Museums in the collection and exhibition of artifacts
- Acquire skills necessary for research analysis and interpretations. Conducting independent research and synthesize acquired knowledge.

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
Quiz	30%	No	19/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Media Presentation	35%	No	05/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Research Essay	35%	No	02/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **19/10/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Quiz on weekly lectures and set readings.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand ancient materials and the cultural contexts in which they were used. To

examine the origin of materials and how things were made.

- Evaluate methodological and ethical issues associated with the role of Museums in the collection and exhibition of artifacts
- Acquire skills necessary for research analysis and interpretations. Conducting independent research and synthesize acquired knowledge.

Media Presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 16 hours

Due: **05/10/2026**

Weighting: **35%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Students prepare a video on a selected topic for 'mini-conference' presentation.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Research Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours

Due: **02/11/2026**

Weighting: **35%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

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Delivery and Resources

Delivery and Resources

Weekly recorded lectures and videos delivered in iLearn; Tutorials delivered on-campus. All materials are made available to students through iLearn

Consultation Hours:

“Contact by Appointment”.

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/su) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/su>)

[pport/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.

- [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 2026.03 of the [Handbook](#)