# AHPG817

Topics in Early Chinese History

S1 External 2016

Dept of Ancient History

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## Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MAncHist or GradCertAncHist or MA in (Ancient History or Coptic Studies or ECJS or Egyptology or History or Late Antiquity or Ancient Art and Architecture) or PGDipArts in (Ancient History or ECJS) or PGCertArts in (Ancient History or Coptic Studies)

Corequisites

Co-badge status

Unit description
This unit provides in-depth analysis of selected topics in early Chinese history and archaeology. Particular attention will be paid to the impact of modern archaeological discoveries and to the interpretation of written records. Specific areas of interest are the Historical Records of Sima Qian, which is the earliest of all Chinese histories and the fountainhead of the dynastic history tradition in China; China's relationship with nomadic peoples who traded with and fought against the Chinese; the opening of the Silk Road; and the evidence concerning the introduction of foreign religions into China.

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:

- Ability to find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in a written format to a high standard.
- Ability to evaluate how historical information may be extracted from ancient sources, written and archaeological.
- Ability to formulate arguments and articulate ideas to an advanced level.
- Application of advanced research methods and skills.

General Assessment Information

Assessment criteria

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/60168/unit_guide/print
The **Primary Source Analysis** will be marked against the following criteria: (1) analysis of the primary source, (2) use of secondary works, (3) structure of argument, (4) formal presentation, including correct referencing, English language grammar, spelling and punctuation.

The **Book Review** will be marked against the following criteria: (1) description of the content of the book, (2) assessment of book based on author’s objectives, (3) assessment of book based on the reviewer’s criteria, (4) contextual discussion, (5) structure of argument, (6) formal presentation including correct referencing, English language grammar, spelling and punctuation.

The **Essay** will be marked against the following criteria: (1) knowledge of the relevant subject matter, (2) the range of primary sources used and their analysis, (3) the range of secondary works consulted and the depth of engagement with them, (4) correct citation of sources, (5) structure of argument, (6) formal presentation including correct referencing, English language grammar, spelling and punctuation.

**Submission of assessment tasks**

All assessment tasks must be submitted via Turnitin.

**Extensions and penalties**

Extensions can only be granted in exceptional cases and may only be sought in consultation with the unit convenor and before the assignment is due.

Assessment tasks / assignments are compulsory and must be submitted on time. As a general rule, extensions will not be granted without a valid and documented reason (e.g. medical certificate). Late submissions will be penalised by 2% for each day (including weekends) the assignment task is late. Assignments submitted two weeks late or more will not be accepted.

Course work handed in early will not be returned before the due date.

For Disruption to Studies Policy see under Policies and Procedures.

**Completing the unit**

To complete the unit satisfactorily, students must study all lectures in the Unit Reader. Recommended texts (see below: Delivery and resources) should also be studied or consulted. Students must submit all items of assessment and hand in work which is formatted in accordance with Department of Ancient History guidelines, spell-checked, written in good English, and demonstrating both an understanding of the material in the lectures and readings and independent reflection on the subject of the assessment.

An overall mark of 50% or above must be achieved to complete the unit satisfactorily.

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Source Analysis</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>4 April 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>9 May 2016</td>
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Primary Source Analysis

Due: 4 April 2016  
Weighting: 30%

One primary source analysis in essay form (with footnotes and bibliography) in max. 1,500 words addressing the question: To what extent can the portrayal of the First Emperor of China in Sima Qian’s Historical Records be trusted?

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Ability to find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in a written format to a high standard.
• Ability to evaluate how historical information may be extracted from ancient sources, written and archaeological.
• Ability to formulate arguments and articulate ideas to an advanced level.
• Application of advanced research methods and skills.

Book Review

Due: 9 May 2016  
Weighting: 20%


On successful completion you will be able to:

• Ability to find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in a written format to a high standard.
• Ability to evaluate how historical information may be extracted from ancient sources, written and archaeological.
• Ability to formulate arguments and articulate ideas to an advanced level.
• Application of advanced research methods and skills.

Essay

Due: 30 May 2016  
Weighting: 50%
One major essay of approx. 3,000 words on one of the following topics:

1. What do the bronzes unearthed at Anyang tell us about Late Shang society, religion and culture?
2. In what ways did warfare change during the Eastern Zhou dynasty - and why?
3. How was Buddhism introduced into China and what were the reasons for its success in the period from Han to Tang?
4. How serious a threat to the Han dynasty was the Xiongnu confederation in the 2nd c. BCE?
5. Evaluate the role of steppe peoples in the development of early medieval China (c. 400 - 900 CE).
6. What were the reasons for the persecution of foreign religions by Tang emperor Wuzong?
7. What methods did the Tang employ to acquire and administer new territories? To what extent were they successful?

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Ability to find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in a written format to a high standard.
- Ability to evaluate how historical information may be extracted from ancient sources, written and archaeological.
- Ability to formulate arguments and articulate ideas to an advanced level.
- Application of advanced research methods and skills.

Delivery and Resources

This unit is offered externally only. There are no recorded lectures. The Unit Reader contains all lectures.

The unit has an online presence. Login is via: https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/ Students are required to have regular access to a computer and the internet. Mobile devices alone are not sufficient. - For technical support go to: http://mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/informatics/help - For student quick guides on the use of iLearn go to: http://mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/guides.htm

Materials are available for the unit in Macquarie University Library's Reserve and online; see further Detailed Bibliography in iLearn.

Required texts:

AHPG817 Topics in Early Chinese History – Unit Reader (Macquarie University 2015). The Unit Reader is the main text-book for the course; it is sold by the Co-op Bookshop, tel. (02) 8986 4000, http://www.coop-bookshop.com.au.

See also under Assessment tasks: Book Review.

Recommended texts:


**Policies and Procedures**

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/learning_and_teaching/) of Policy Central.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the [Student Code of Conduct](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/).

**Results**

Results shown in *iLearn*, 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 Support

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

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

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.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Assessment task

- Book Review
PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Ability to find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in a written format to a high standard.
- Ability to evaluate how historical information may be extracted from ancient sources, written and archaeological.
- Ability to formulate arguments and articulate ideas to an advanced level.
- Application of advanced research methods and skills.

**Assessment tasks**

- Primary Source Analysis
- Book Review
- Essay

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Ability to find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in a written format to a high standard.
- Ability to evaluate how historical information may be extracted from ancient sources, written and archaeological.
- Ability to formulate arguments and articulate ideas to an advanced level.
- Application of advanced research methods and skills.

**Assessment tasks**

- Primary Source Analysis
- Book Review
PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Ability to find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in a written format to a high standard.
- Ability to evaluate how historical information may be extracted from ancient sources, written and archaeological.
- Ability to formulate arguments and articulate ideas to an advanced level.
- Application of advanced research methods and skills.

**Assessment tasks**

- Primary Source Analysis
- Book Review
- Essay

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Ability to find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in a written format to a high standard.
- Ability to evaluate how historical information may be extracted from ancient sources, written and archaeological.
- Ability to formulate arguments and articulate ideas to an advanced level.
- Application of advanced research methods and skills.

**Assessment tasks**

- Primary Source Analysis
• Book Review
• Essay