



AHIS341

The Hellenistic Age

S2 Day 2018

Dept of Ancient History

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Christopher Forbes

christopher.forbes@mq.edu.au

Contact via christopher.forbes@mq.edu.au

Australian Hearing Hub, Level 2 S W95

Wednesday 11-12pm, Thursday 1-2pm

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

39cp at 100 level or above or (6cp in AHIS or AHST units at 200 level)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

The Unit is co-badged with the OUA Unit AHIX341

Unit description

Alexander the Great's extraordinary conquests (towards the end of the fourth century BCE) opened up vast areas of the ancient Near East to Greek influences. This unit deals with the political and cultural history of the eastern Mediterranean and the Near East, beginning with the death of Alexander. It follows the fortunes of his successors in the third and second centuries BCE, the developments brought on for both Greeks and those they conquered, the "Hellenisation" of native peoples, and reactions to cultural change, down to the end of the first century BCE, under the Roman Empire.

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:

Learning from a variety of ancient text types and other ancient sources relevant to the aftermath of the career of Alexander the Great, and the political, social and cultural history of the subsequent Hellenistic period

Showing an awareness of the differing kinds of ancient evidence (including textual,

epigraphic, numismatic and archaeological evidence) and appropriate methods for dealing with them

Contextualising particular ancient documents and other sources of information within their wider cultural environment

Gaining a comprehension of ancient world-views and cultural concepts

Gaining an awareness of the complexity of ancient accounts of past events and experiences

Conducting independent research on a chosen topic

Engaging with and responding critically to a variety of scholarly opinions

Formulating an independent view in dialogue with both ancient evidence and modern interpretations

General Assessment Information

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct, and particularly with the Academic Honesty policy. (Links to both will be found under "Policies and Procedures" below.) *Note particularly* that any work found to be plagiarised will normally receive 0%. The issue of plagiarism will be specifically discussed in the first tutorial, but it is the responsibility of the student to be aware of University and Departmental policy on academic honesty.

Late Assignments:

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON FINAL MARKS: Please note with respect to the marks you receive for work during the session: that the marks given are indicative only; final marks will be determined after moderation. See further the note on Results in the Policies and Procedures section below.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Short Paper (c. 1,000 words)</u>	20%	No	Variable
<u>Major Essay</u>	35%	No	Monday October 8th
<u>Tutorial / Forum Participation</u>	15%	No	End of Semester/Exam Date
<u>Examination</u>	30%	No	November 12th - 30th

Short Paper (c. 1,000 words)

Due: **Variable**

Weighting: **20%**

The Short Paper topics, which also form the basis for Tutorial discussion (Internal students) and Web Forum discussion (External students), are given in the main Unit Booklet. You must hand in **one** Short Paper (of approximately 1,000 words) **from one of Weeks 2-7**.

Internal students must submit their Short Paper *before* the tutorial *after* the one in which it is discussed: i.e. within a week of the relevant Tutorial discussion. Thus Week 2's Short Paper is due before the Tutorial for Week 3, etc.

External students must submit their Short Paper by the end of the week *after* the one in which it is discussed. Thus Week 2's Short Paper is due before midnight on Sunday at the end of Week 3, etc.

For each week you will find a number of questions on the document(s) or other evidence set, and an overall interpretative question. All of these ought to be prepared for the weekly Tutorial or Forum. When you decide to hand in the short paper based on a particular week's topic, you should write on the overall interpretative question, using the individual questions as a guide as to what ought to be discussed to answer that question.

The Short Papers are exercises in careful and critical examination of ancient evidence. Their aim is to develop skills of analysis and deduction, and the ability to write a lucid short answer to a precise set of questions. They are *not* primarily exercises in the collection of the opinions of others, even if those others are great scholars. The assignments will be marked primarily on *your understanding of the sources themselves*.

Please note that essay form is required for all work submitted. Point form or extended notes are not good enough. Footnotes should be given, and should conform to the rules laid out in "Anchist - Assignment Presentation Style Guide.pdf", which is available online from the Unit iLearn page.

Short Papers are to be submitted via Turnitin on the Unit iLearn page for the relevant week.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Learning from a variety of ancient text types and other ancient sources relevant to the aftermath of the career of Alexander the Great, and the political, social and cultural history of the subsequent Hellenistic period
- Showing an awareness of the differing kinds of ancient evidence (including textual, epigraphic, numismatic and archaeological evidence) and appropriate methods for dealing with them
- Contextualising particular ancient documents and other sources of information within their wider cultural environment

- Gaining an awareness of the complexity of ancient accounts of past events and experiences
- Conducting independent research on a chosen topic
- Formulating an independent view in dialogue with both ancient evidence and modern interpretations

Major Essay

Due: **Monday October 8th**

Weighting: **35%**

The essays, of approximately 2,500 words, are due on Monday October 8th. Wider reading is required for the essays. Essay formalities should follow the guidelines in “Anchist - Assignment Presentation Style Guide.pdf”, which is available online (as above). Footnotes and a full Bibliography are required. A list of topics with basic bibliographies will be made available early in Semester.

Major Essays are to be submitted via Turnitin on the Unit iLearn page.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Learning from a variety of ancient text types and other ancient sources relevant to the aftermath of the career of Alexander the Great, and the political, social and cultural history of the subsequent Hellenistic period
- Showing an awareness of the differing kinds of ancient evidence (including textual, epigraphic, numismatic and archaeological evidence) and appropriate methods for dealing with them
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- Gaining a comprehension of ancient world-views and cultural concepts
- Gaining an awareness of the complexity of ancient accounts of past events and experiences
- Conducting independent research on a chosen topic
- Engaging with and responding critically to a variety of scholarly opinions
- Formulating an independent view in dialogue with both ancient evidence and modern interpretations

Tutorial / Forum Participation

Due: **End of Semester/Exam Date**

Weighting: **15%**

Internal students will be marked on participation during tutorials. External students will be marked on their weekly participation in the Online Forum.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Learning from a variety of ancient text types and other ancient sources relevant to the aftermath of the career of Alexander the Great, and the political, social and cultural history of the subsequent Hellenistic period
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- Gaining an awareness of the complexity of ancient accounts of past events and experiences
- Engaging with and responding critically to a variety of scholarly opinions
- Formulating an independent view in dialogue with both ancient evidence and modern interpretations

Examination

Due: **November 12th - 30th**

Weighting: **30%**

The examination will require students to answer four essay-style questions from a range of 12-15 questions, from across the whole content of the Unit. There will be one compulsory question on the use of differing types of ancient evidence, which students can answer in relation to various parts of the Unit content.

The University Examination period in the Second Semester of 2018 is from November 12th to 30th. You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated in the University Examination Timetable. The timetable will be available in Draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in Final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations at: https://iexams.mq.edu.au/timetable/complete_timetable.

The only exception to sitting an examination at the designated time is because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances you may wish to consider applying under the University's Special Consideration provisions. Information about unavoidable disruption and the Special Consideration process is available under the Extensions and Special Consideration section of this Unit Guide.

If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Special Consideration process, the examination will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination period.

You are advised that it is Macquarie University policy not to set early examinations for individuals or groups of students. All students are expected to ensure that they are available until the end of the teaching semester, that is, the final day of the official examination period.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Learning from a variety of ancient text types and other ancient sources relevant to the aftermath of the career of Alexander the Great, and the political, social and cultural history of the subsequent Hellenistic period
- Showing an awareness of the differing kinds of ancient evidence (including textual, epigraphic, numismatic and archaeological evidence) and appropriate methods for dealing with them
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- Engaging with and responding critically to a variety of scholarly opinions
- Formulating an independent view in dialogue with both ancient evidence and modern interpretations

Delivery and Resources

Technology:

Lectures will be given live and also made available on Echo360. Visual materials used in lectures will be made available as PDF files on iLearn. Brief bibliographies, lists of people, places and technical terms will be made available for each lecture as PDF files on iLearn.

Access to a computer and the Internet are required. Basic computer skills (e.g., internet browsing, use of the Library's online resources and skills in word processing) are also a requirement. You will need a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader, since (as noted above) most Unit documents are provided in PDF format. This software is freely available on the Internet. Please consult the Course Convenor for any further, more specific requirements.

Tutorials will be held for Internal students; for External students there will be regular postings on iLearn and discussion on the Online Forum.

Lectures and Tutorials:

For lecture times and classrooms please consult the MQ Timetable website: <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au>. This website will display up-to-date information on your classes and classroom locations. At the time of printing the details were as follows:

Lecture times: Wednesday 9am, C5A313 (= 12SW 313), and Thursday 11am, W6B208 (= 25WW 208).

Tutorial times: Wednesday, 10am, in X5B039 (= 29WW 039); Thursday, 12 midday, in W5A 101 (= 23WW 101). Enrolment numbers may lead to some additions to or modifications of these times.

Books you will need:

The two prescribed books for the Unit are

(1) M.M. Austin, *The Hellenistic World from Alexander to the Roman Conquest*, 2nd edition, Cambridge, 2006,

(2) G. Shipley, *The Greek World after Alexander*, Routledge, 2000.

Tutorial discussion will focus around the detailed examination of particular documents. Most of these come from Austin's book. The others will be provided in the main Unit booklet, which will be made available as a PDF download from the Unit iLearn page. Students will need to work through the documents in detail before coming to the Tutorial, and in many cases do some wider reading as well. There is little point coming to the Tutorial without doing this reading. Our aim will be to explore issues raised by the documents in as much detail as possible.

Other Material:

A PDF file of introductory material, Unit requirements, Weekly schedule, Tutorial questions and a full Unit Bibliography will be made available on iLearn. There is no need to print it out; in most cases only 2-3 pages per week will be needed in class.

Unit Schedule

Lecture and Tutorial topics may vary from those below: for full details see the main Unit Booklet, downloadable from the Unit iLearn page at the start of Semester.

Week 1, beginning Monday July 30th.

Lecture 1: The Greek world in the mid-Fourth Century B.C.: Philip II and Alexander III of Macedon.

Lecture 2: The Death of Alexander and the outbreak of the Wars of the Successors.

Tutorial: Course structure and requirements. General discussion.

Week 2, beginning Monday August 6th.

Lecture 3: The Wars of the Successors continued.

Lecture 4: The Development of Hellenistic Monarchy.

Tutorial: Numismatic evidence.

Week 3, beginning Monday August 13th.

Lecture 5: The Rise of Ruler Cult.

Lecture 6: Other New Institutions of the Hellenistic Kings and the Decline of local Autonomy.

Tutorial: Demetrius in Athens: Early Ruler Cult.

Week 4, beginning Monday August 20th.

Lecture 7: The early Seleukid Kings.

Lecture 8: The early Ptolemies (I).

Tutorial: Models of Kingship in Polybius and Plutarch.

Week 5, beginning Monday August 27th.

Lecture 9: The early Ptolemies (II).

Lecture 10: The Antigonid Kings.

Tutorial: Epigraphic evidence: Kings and Cities.

Week 6, beginning Monday September 3rd.

Lecture 11: The Hellenistic City States (I).

Lecture 12: The Hellenistic City States (II).

Tutorial: Epigraphic evidence: Medicine and Miracles.

Week 7, beginning Monday September 10th.

Lecture 13: Hellenistic Art.

Lecture 14: Hellenistic Philosophy.

Tutorial: Hannibal's treaty with Philip V of Macedon.

Mid-Semester BREAK

Week 8, beginning Monday October 1st.

Lecture 15: Hellenisation (I).

Lecture 16: Hellenisation (II).

Tutorial: There is no tutorial this week.

Week 9, beginning Monday October 8th.

N.B. Major Essays due.

Lecture 17: Anti-Hellenic Reaction (I): Egypt under Ptolemy IV and V.

Lecture 18: Enter Rome.

Tutorial: Babylonian evidence: Cuneiform Astronomical Diaries

Week 10, beginning Monday October 15th.

Lecture 19: Anti-Hellenic Reaction (II): Israel under Antiochus IV.

Lecture 20: Roman Intervention (II).

Tutorial: Antiochus IV according to Polybius and Livy.

Week 11, beginning Monday October 22nd.

Lecture 21: Polybius; the Hellenisation of Rome.

Lecture 22: Roman Intervention (III).

Tutorial: Papyrological evidence: The "Potter's Oracle".

Week 12, beginning Monday October 29th.

Lecture 23: Judaism, Hellenism and Rome.

Lecture 24: Hellenistic Religion (I).

Tutorial: Hellenised Judaism in 1 & 2 Maccabees (Documents provided).

Week 13, beginning Monday November 5th.

Lecture 25: Hellenistic Religion (II).

Lecture 26: Unit Summary.

Tutorial: No tutorial.

The Examination Period begins on Monday November 12th. The date of the examination has not yet been set.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). 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](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<http://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/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 email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

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

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Conducting independent research on a chosen topic
- Engaging with and responding critically to a variety of scholarly opinions
- Formulating an independent view in dialogue with both ancient evidence and modern interpretations

Assessment tasks

- Short Paper (c. 1,000 words)
- Major Essay
- Examination

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Learning from a variety of ancient text types and other ancient sources relevant to the aftermath of the career of Alexander the Great, and the political, social and cultural

history of the subsequent Hellenistic period

- Showing an awareness of the differing kinds of ancient evidence (including textual, epigraphic, numismatic and archaeological evidence) and appropriate methods for dealing with them
- Gaining an awareness of the complexity of ancient accounts of past events and experiences
- Conducting independent research on a chosen topic
- Engaging with and responding critically to a variety of scholarly opinions
- Formulating an independent view in dialogue with both ancient evidence and modern interpretations

Assessment tasks

- Short Paper (c. 1,000 words)
- Major Essay
- Tutorial / Forum Participation
- Examination

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Gaining a comprehension of ancient world-views and cultural concepts

Assessment tasks

- Major Essay
- Tutorial / Forum Participation
- Examination

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary

solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Learning from a variety of ancient text types and other ancient sources relevant to the aftermath of the career of Alexander the Great, and the political, social and cultural history of the subsequent Hellenistic period
- Showing an awareness of the differing kinds of ancient evidence (including textual, epigraphic, numismatic and archaeological evidence) and appropriate methods for dealing with them
- Gaining a comprehension of ancient world-views and cultural concepts
- Gaining an awareness of the complexity of ancient accounts of past events and experiences
- Formulating an independent view in dialogue with both ancient evidence and modern interpretations

Assessment tasks

- Short Paper (c. 1,000 words)
- Major Essay
- Tutorial / Forum Participation
- Examination

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Learning from a variety of ancient text types and other ancient sources relevant to the aftermath of the career of Alexander the Great, and the political, social and cultural history of the subsequent Hellenistic period
- Showing an awareness of the differing kinds of ancient evidence (including textual, epigraphic, numismatic and archaeological evidence) and appropriate methods for dealing with them
- Contextualising particular ancient documents and other sources of information within

their wider cultural environment

- Gaining a comprehension of ancient world-views and cultural concepts
- Gaining an awareness of the complexity of ancient accounts of past events and experiences
- Conducting independent research on a chosen topic
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Assessment tasks

- Short Paper (c. 1,000 words)
- Major Essay
- Tutorial / Forum Participation
- Examination

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Contextualising particular ancient documents and other sources of information within their wider cultural environment
- Gaining an awareness of the complexity of ancient accounts of past events and experiences
- Conducting independent research on a chosen topic
- Engaging with and responding critically to a variety of scholarly opinions
- Formulating an independent view in dialogue with both ancient evidence and modern interpretations

Assessment tasks

- Short Paper (c. 1,000 words)
- Major Essay

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Contextualising particular ancient documents and other sources of information within their wider cultural environment
- Conducting independent research on a chosen topic
- Formulating an independent view in dialogue with both ancient evidence and modern interpretations

Assessment tasks

- Short Paper (c. 1,000 words)
- Major Essay
- Tutorial / Forum Participation
- Examination

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Gaining a comprehension of ancient world-views and cultural concepts
- Engaging with and responding critically to a variety of scholarly opinions
- Formulating an independent view in dialogue with both ancient evidence and modern interpretations

Assessment tasks

- Short Paper (c. 1,000 words)
- Major Essay

- Tutorial / Forum Participation

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Assessment task

- Tutorial / Forum Participation

Changes from Previous Offering

The Unit was last offered in Semester 1, 2017, as "Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic Age". Since then AHIS204, "Philip II, Alexander the Great, and the Macedonian Empire" has been introduced. This Unit now begins with the situation at the death of Alexander, and covers the period down to the turn of the era.

In previous iterations of the Unit Short Papers could be submitted for any weekly Tutorial topic through Semester. For Semester 2 2018 students must submit their Short Paper from one of Weeks 2-7. Later tutorials are assessed under Participation.

Extensions and Completion

Extensions and Special Consideration

All deadlines are firm unless an extension has been requested through the Special Consideration procedure.

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests."

IMPORTANT NOTE ON FINAL MARKS:

Please note with respect to the marks you receive for work during the session: that the marks given are indicative only; final marks will be determined after moderation. See further the note on Results in the Policies and Procedures section.

Always retain a copy of completed tasks in case of loss or other technical problems.

Completing the Unit

In order to complete the unit satisfactorily students must gain a mark of 50% or more overall.

Students will need to listen to the lectures and reflect on them, do the set weekly reading(s), and

participate in either the Tutorials or the online discussion Forums in a manner which demonstrates they have done these things. They 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.