



AHIS701

Advanced Ancient History Studies 1

S1 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

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AHH Level 2, S, W95

TBA

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Students undertake advanced study to provide a disciplinary basis for future research activity in Ancient History, examining methodology and interpretative issues related to the discipline.

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:

- Identify the origins and formal characteristics of the ancient Christian text-type "Gospel" as a broad genre;
- Demonstrate a comprehension of early Christian world-views and cultural concepts at an advanced level;
- Contextualise the early Christian gospels within their cultural environment, both within the early Christian movement and more broadly;
- Develop an awareness of the complexity of the process of understanding ancient accounts of past events and experiences;
- Conduct independent research on several chosen topics at an advanced level;

Demonstrate critical engagement with a variety of modern scholarly opinions;
Formulate independent views 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 automatically receive 0%. The issue of plagiarism will be specifically discussed in the first seminar, but it is the responsibility of the student to be aware of University and Departmental policy on academic honesty.

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.

If your assignment is going to be late, please contact your Tutor *in advance!*

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Short Paper 1	15%	No	Monday March 26th.
Short Paper 2	15%	No	Variable: see Description.
Major Paper	55%	No	Monday June 13th.
Participation	15%	No	End of Semester

Short Paper 1

Due: **Monday March 26th.**

Weighting: **15%**

Students must write one 1,000 word short paper on one of the first four weekly Seminar topics. The Short Paper is to be submitted via Turnitin, on or before Monday March 26th, using the link on the Unit iLearn page.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify the origins and formal characteristics of the ancient Christian text-type "Gospel" as a broad genre;
- Demonstrate a comprehension of early Christian world-views and cultural concepts at an

advanced level;

- Contextualise the early Christian gospels within their cultural environment, both within the early Christian movement and more broadly;
- Develop an awareness of the complexity of the process of understanding ancient accounts of past events and experiences;
- Conduct independent research on several chosen topics at an advanced level;
- Demonstrate critical engagement with a variety of modern scholarly opinions;
- Formulate independent views in dialogue with both ancient evidence and modern interpretations.

Short Paper 2

Due: **Variable: see Description.**

Weighting: **15%**

Students must write one 1,000 word short paper on one of the weekly Seminar topics for Weeks 5-11. The Short Paper is to be submitted via Turnitin, using the link on the Unit iLearn page.

Short Papers on Topics for Weeks 5-8 are due on or before Monday May 7th.

Short Papers on Topics for Weeks 9-11 are due on or before Monday May 28th.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a comprehension of early Christian world-views and cultural concepts at an advanced level;
- Contextualise the early Christian gospels within their cultural environment, both within the early Christian movement and more broadly;
- Develop an awareness of the complexity of the process of understanding ancient accounts of past events and experiences;
- Conduct independent research on several chosen topics at an advanced level;
- Demonstrate critical engagement with a variety of modern scholarly opinions;
- Formulate independent views in dialogue with both ancient evidence and modern interpretations.

Major Paper

Due: **Monday June 13th.**

Weighting: **55%**

Students are to write their Major Essay (c. 3,000 words) for the Unit on the Seminar Topic for Week 12. The Essay is to be submitted via Turnitin, on or by Monday June 13th, using the appropriate link on the Unit iLearn page. See Further details under "Description of Assessment".

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a comprehension of early Christian world-views and cultural concepts at an advanced level;
- Contextualise the early Christian gospels within their cultural environment, both within the early Christian movement and more broadly;
- Develop an awareness of the complexity of the process of understanding ancient accounts of past events and experiences;
- Conduct independent research on several chosen topics at an advanced level;
- Demonstrate critical engagement with a variety of modern scholarly opinions;
- Formulate independent views in dialogue with both ancient evidence and modern interpretations.

Participation

Due: **End of Semester**

Weighting: **15%**

Students will be graded on their participation in Seminar discussion. Both the quantity and the quality of contributions across the whole Unit will count towards the mark.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify the origins and formal characteristics of the ancient Christian text-type "Gospel" as a broad genre;
- Demonstrate a comprehension of early Christian world-views and cultural concepts at an advanced level;
- Contextualise the early Christian gospels within their cultural environment, both within the early Christian movement and more broadly;
- Develop an awareness of the complexity of the process of understanding ancient accounts of past events and experiences;
- Demonstrate critical engagement with a variety of modern scholarly opinions;

Delivery and Resources

ABOUT THIS UNIT

This Unit sets out to introduce students to the evidence, methods and some of the conclusions of modern "Historical Jesus" scholarship. It focusses on a close examination of the texts of the canonical Gospels, the most important historical sources for Jesus of Nazareth, and asks: what kind of historical evidence is this? What is a "gospel", and how did they come to be written? How should an historian use this evidence, and what conclusions have historians in fact come to, when they have done so? The Unit will outline the various methodologies (source-critical, form-critical, redaction-critical, etc.) which have been developed with New Testament scholarship, and

evaluate their results. The major underlying questions will be: how much do we know about Jesus of Nazareth, and with how much certainty do we know it?

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.

Class Times:

The class will normally be held on Tuesday evenings between 6 and 8 pm, in room W5C 234. The first hour will normally be a lecture; the second hour will normally be a more flexible seminar-style discussion. Both sessions will be recorded, and made available through Echo360, on the Unit's iLearn page. Any visual aids used during the lectures will be made available in PDF format on the Unit iLearn page.

The Unit weekly study guides will also be made available in PDF format on the Unit iLearn page.

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.

Books you may find useful:

There is no one text-book for the Unit. For preliminary reading, and to orientate you within modern scholarship in this field, I recommend:

several of the chapters in A. Nobbs & M. Harding, eds., *The Content and Setting of the Gospel Tradition* (Eerdmans, 2010), including my own survey of historical Jesus studies in ch. 10 of that volume,

and in more detail, Ben Witherington III's *The Jesus Quest: the Third Search for the Jew of Nazareth* (Downer's Grove, 1995).

Students wishing to do further preliminary reading should consider J.P. Meier, *A Marginal Jew: Rethinking the Historical Jesus*, vol. 1, 1991, pp. 167-184, and D. Gowler, *What Are They Saying about the Historical Jesus?*, New York, 2007.

Weekly bibliographies, and required readings for seminar topics, will add considerably to this.

Unit Schedule

Week 1	February 27th Introduction. Seminar Topic: The Birth Narratives
Week 2	March 6th From Aramaic into Greek; Which Orality? Seminar Topic: "Criteria of Authenticity"

Week 3	<p>March 13th</p> <p>The "Two Document Hypothesis"</p> <p>Seminar Topic: Mark's Gospel</p>
Week 4	<p>March 20th</p> <p>John the Baptist and the Jesus-Tradition</p> <p>Seminar Topic: The Baptism of Jesus by John</p>
Week 5	<p>Monday March 26th: Short Paper 1 due.</p> <p>March 27th</p> <p>The "Messianic Secret" in Mark's Gospel (and elsewhere)</p> <p>Seminar Topic: The "Transfiguration"</p>
Week 6	<p>April 3rd</p> <p>The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-20)</p> <p>Seminar Topic: Jesus walks on water</p>
Week 7	<p>April 10th</p> <p>The Parables of Jesus</p> <p>Seminar Topic: The Parable of the Wicked Tenants</p>
Mid-Semester Break	
Week 8	<p>May 1st</p> <p>Models for Understanding the Historical Jesus</p> <p>Seminar Topic: The Confession at Caesarea Philippi</p>
Week 9	<p>Monday May 7th: Short Paper 2 (Weeks 5-8) due</p> <p>May 8th</p> <p>Jesus and the Pharisees</p> <p>Seminar Topic: The Pharisees and Sadducees question Jesus</p>
Week 10	<p>May 15th</p> <p>The Trials of Jesus</p> <p>Seminar Topic: Miracle stories</p>
Week 11	<p>May 22nd</p> <p>The Execution of Jesus</p> <p>Seminar Topic: The Crucifixion</p>

Week 12	Monday May 28th: Short Paper 2 (Weeks 9-11) due May 29th The Tradition about the Resurrection of Jesus Seminar Topic: The Resurrection Narratives
Week 13	June 5th Unit Summary and Conclusions Monday June 11th: Major Paper due.

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 \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://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 \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

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.

Submission of Work:

All Internal Short Papers and Major Essays are to be submitted via Turnitin, using the links on the Unit iLearn page.

Extensions and Special Consideration:

Extensions for assignments can only be granted when an application for Special Consideration has been made through Ask.mq..

As noted above under Assessment, 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.

Unit requirements:

To complete the unit you will need to submit all assessment tasks and achieve an overall mark of 50% or above.

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:

Learning outcomes

- Conduct independent research on several chosen topics at an advanced level;
- Demonstrate critical engagement with a variety of modern scholarly opinions;
- Formulate independent views in dialogue with both ancient evidence and modern interpretations.

Assessment tasks

- Short Paper 1
- Short Paper 2
- Major Paper

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

- Identify the origins and formal characteristics of the ancient Christian text-type "Gospel" as a broad genre;
- Demonstrate a comprehension of early Christian world-views and cultural concepts at an advanced level;
- Contextualise the early Christian gospels within their cultural environment, both within the early Christian movement and more broadly;

- Develop an awareness of the complexity of the process of understanding ancient accounts of past events and experiences;
- Demonstrate critical engagement with a variety of modern scholarly opinions;
- Formulate independent views in dialogue with both ancient evidence and modern interpretations.

Assessment tasks

- Short Paper 1
- Short Paper 2
- Major Paper
- Participation

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

- Develop an awareness of the complexity of the process of understanding ancient accounts of past events and experiences;
- Demonstrate critical engagement with a variety of modern scholarly opinions;
- Formulate independent views in dialogue with both ancient evidence and modern interpretations.

Assessment tasks

- Short Paper 1
- Short Paper 2
- Major Paper
- Participation

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

- Develop an awareness of the complexity of the process of understanding ancient accounts of past events and experiences;
- Conduct independent research on several chosen topics at an advanced level;
- Demonstrate critical engagement with a variety of modern scholarly opinions;
- Formulate independent views in dialogue with both ancient evidence and modern interpretations.

Assessment tasks

- Short Paper 1
- Short Paper 2
- Major Paper

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

- Conduct independent research on several chosen topics at an advanced level;
- Demonstrate critical engagement with a variety of modern scholarly opinions;
- Formulate independent views in dialogue with both ancient evidence and modern interpretations.

Assessment tasks

- Short Paper 1
- Short Paper 2
- Major Paper
- Participation

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate a comprehension of early Christian world-views and cultural concepts at an advanced level;
- Contextualise the early Christian gospels within their cultural environment, both within the early Christian movement and more broadly;
- Develop an awareness of the complexity of the process of understanding ancient accounts of past events and experiences;

Assessment tasks

- Major Paper
- Participation

Changes from Previous Offering

The Unit is based on the same lecture and seminar topics as it has been in previous years. Bibliographies are continuously updated. In previous years the Unit has been offered to a mixed group of MA students and MRes students. This year it is only offered to MRes students.