



UNSW
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ARTS2281

Ancient Egypt and Western Asia

Summer // 2020

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Alice McClymont	a.e.mcclymont@unsw.edu.au	TBC	TBC	TBC

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject area: *History*

This course explores the origins and evolution of ancient Egyptian and West Asian civilizations from the Neolithic Revolution to the Achaemenid Persian Empire that conquered Egypt in the sixth century BCE. During the course you will range between the pyramids at Giza and the tomb of Cyrus the Great; the invading sea peoples and the Epic of Gilgamesh; Howard Carter, the tomb of Tutankhamun, and the cliff-side monuments of Naqsh-i Rostam. This course is not only a survey of history, but an exploration of the rise and fall of the earliest empires, their interaction with each other and with their subjects, their ideology, their religion, and the wealth of extant evidence available for their study.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the nature of ancient Egyptian and West Asian history, culture, and society from the earliest times through to the Macedonian conquest
2. Use a broad body of knowledge about the Egyptian and West Asian world and its cultures to understand the processes of historical change
3. Articulate the dynamics of Egyptian and West Asian societies and cultures
4. Undertake rigorous and engaged scholarly enquiry and analysis using different forms of historical evidence
5. Critically navigate different disciplinary bodies of knowledge especially textual analysis, and archaeological and anthropological perspectives
6. Engage with complex problems of historiography, philology, and archaeology relating to the ancient Egyptian and West Asian world

Teaching Strategies

History is an active endeavour, involving the critical analysis of primary sources, and their subsequent use to recover and interpret the past. As such, the course is designed to equip you with the skills necessary to engage with the areas that most excite you. Lectures, web-materials, and readings provide background information and analyse broad trends; writing assignments challenge you to engage with ongoing debates in ancient history and explore the primary evidence yourself. In-class discussions are dedicated to different examples of primary evidence—you will be exposed to the different types of evidence available (literary; artistic; material) and have the opportunity to interpret and analyse the sources with your teacher and peers. This is where you will hone your historical and oral skills. Pre-circulated discussion questions will guide you through the readings and help you prepare. I encourage all students to participate—we learn best by ‘doing,’ and our various in-class activities will help cement your knowledge of the past. Tests assess on your knowledge of the information covered, development as historians, and attainment of learning outcomes.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
In-class test	50%	23/01/2020 09:00 AM	1,3,5
Essay	50%	02/02/2020 11:59 PM	2,4,6

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: In-class test

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: At the end of the teaching period, students will complete an in-class test. The test will include multiple choice, short answer, and paragraph style responses. The test will focus on material covered in lectures and tutorials. Marks will be returned electronically, alongside cohort-wide feedback.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1,500 words

Details: Students will prepare a 1,500-word response to a question chosen from a provided list of topics for submission at the end of the teaching period. Questions will be based on key themes explored during the unit and will require discussion of primary and secondary sources. Feedback will be offered via comments on each paper and a qualitative rubric. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes. Students will be invited to submit a draft or outline of their reflection for preliminary feedback

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Attendance Requirements

Attendance is required in tutorial classes. Attendance and participation in the tutorial classes aligns with Course Learning Outcomes 4, 5, and 6. Students will be asked to engage in group discussion of pre-circulated and emerging questions related to different historical sources and scholarly perspectives. A record of attendance will be made in each class; **any student who attends less than eighty per cent of their tutorial classes within this course may be refused final assessment.** The final assessment in this course is identified under "Course Assessment".

Explanations of absences from classes or requests for permission to be absent from forthcoming classes should be addressed to the Course Authority in writing and, where applicable, should be accompanied by appropriate documentation (e.g. medical certificate). After submitting appropriate supporting documentation to the Course Authority to explain his/her absence, a student may be required to undertake supplementary class(es) or task(s) as prescribed by the Course Authority. If examinations or other forms of assessment have been missed, then the student should apply for [Special Consideration](#). Students who falsify their attendance or falsify attendance on behalf of another student will be dealt with under the Student Misconduct Policy.

Attendance is not required in lectures, as recordings will be available on Moodle, but it is encouraged.

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences guidelines on attendance and absence can be viewed at: <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 6–12 January	Lecture	A full schedule of required readings for each lesson will be made available on Moodle. <i>6 January</i> Lecture 1 Introduction to the course / Setting the scene / Prehistory
	Tutorial	<i>6 January</i> Tutorial 1 How do we study ancient history?: Sources, terminology, and methods
	Lecture	<i>7 January</i> Lecture 2 Rise of the early states: Early Dynastic Periods in Egypt and Sumer
	Tutorial	<i>7 January</i> Tutorial 2 What makes a good ruler?: Kingship and legitimacy

	Lecture	8 January Lecture 3 A time of many 'firsts': Old Kingdom Egypt and the Akkadian Empire
	Tutorial	8 January Tutorial 3 What does the universe look like?: Cosmology and worldview
	Lecture	9 January Lecture 4 Natural ends and new beginnings: First Intermediate Period Egypt and the Early Bronze Age/Middle Bronze Age transition
	Tutorial	9 January Tutorial 4 How do we worship?: Religious beliefs and practices
Week 2: 13–19 January	Lecture	13 January Lecture 5 The codification of culture: Middle Kingdom Egypt and the Old Elamite, Old Assyrian, and Old Babylonian Empires
	Tutorial	13 January Tutorial 5 How is society ordered?: Social composition and stratification
	Lecture	14 January Lecture 6 Hyksos, Hittites, and Hurrians, oh my: Second Intermediate Period Egypt and Middle Bronze Age/Late Bronze Age transition
	Tutorial	14 January Tutorial 6 What happens after death?: Funerary beliefs and practices
	Lecture	15 January Lecture 7 Age of empires: Early New Kingdom Egypt and the Kassite, Hittite Middle Assyrian and Elamite Empires
	Tutorial	15 January Tutorial 7 What is the purpose of art?: Iconography and artistic products
	Lecture	16 January Lecture 8 From dizzying highs to crushing lows: Late New Kingdom Egypt and the Late Bronze Age collapse

	Tutorial	16 January Tutorial 8 Where are the women?: Gender roles and representation
Week 3: 20–26 January	Lecture	20 January Lecture 9 Up for grabs: Third Intermediate Period Egypt and the Iron Age states
	Tutorial	20 January Tutorial 9 How do we fight?: The role of the military
	Lecture	21 January Lecture 10 The Persians are coming: Late Period Egypt and the Achaemenid Empire
	Tutorial	21 January Tutorial 10 Where do we live?: Cities and settlements
	Lecture	22 January Lecture 11 And the rest is history: Macedonian conquests and beyond
	Tutorial	22 January Tutorial 11 How do we understand differences?: Encountering the foreign
	Lecture	23 January Lecture 12 In-class test
	Tutorial	23 January Tutorial 12 How do we assess ancient history?: Historiography of Egypt and Western Asia

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Van de Mieroop, M. (2011), *A history of ancient Egypt*, Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell (available online through the [UNSW Library](#) and at the UNSW Bookshop).

Van de Mieroop, M. (2016), *A history of the ancient Near East ca. 3000–323 BC*, 3rd ed., Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell (available online through the [UNSW Library](#) and at the UNSW Bookshop).

Recommended Resources

A list of recommended resources will be made available on Moodle.

Course Evaluation and Development

Courses are periodically reviewed and students' feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered from students using myExperience. It is encouraged students complete their surveys by accessing the personalised web link via the Moodle course site.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Image Credit

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