Master of Research in Ancient History – 2018

BACHELOR OF PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Master of Research is a two-year program and is the main pathway to Macquarie’s Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil) programs.

In **Year 1** (BPhil) you will undertake advanced coursework units including the study of research frontiers in your area of study.

**Year 2** (MRes) is a masters-level postgraduate research training program. You will specialise in research preparation and focus on a specific research topic, and will be required to submit a research thesis of 20,000 words.

### 2018 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

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<td><strong>Plus:</strong></td>
<td>Two Disciplinary and/or Transdisciplinary units with Department MRes Director approval</td>
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**Note:** Students must take at least 3 electives across the year offered by the Department of Ancient History. Students may take as many as 4 elective units from Ancient History but can also take Transdisciplinary or units from other Departments, if these complement their program, with approval from the Department MRes Director.

**FOAR701 – RESEARCH PARADIGMS**

**Compulsory – Session 1, Day & External**

This unit provides a broad overview of the research paradigms that characterise the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Through FOAR701:

* The Faculty of Arts seeks to provide students with a constructive framework to recognise the possible contribution of diverse theoretical and disciplinary approaches.
* Students will learn to better recognise the assumptions that underpin diverse approaches, their strengths, and their relations to each other, especially to facilitate collaboration and the exchange of ideas.
* Students will have a strong grasp of the intellectual terrain across Arts disciplines, having become familiar with some of the core paradigms that have persisted in our fields, including through multiple variants over time.

**AHIS700 – HISTORIOGRAPHY & ANCIENT HISTORY**

**Compulsory – Session 1, Day – Ancient History Staff**

This unit considers the contexts within which Ancient History is studied, in order to encourage critical awareness of how and why these studies are pursued in a 21st century context, as a conceptual basis for undertaking research. It addresses ways of representing the past in ancient societies, the development of the disciplines of ancient studies in the modern period, and contemporary issues shaping the study of the ancient past.

**AHIS701 – ADVANCED ANCIENT HISTORY STUDIES 1**

**Session 1, Evening – Dr Chris Forbes**

2018 Topic - The Quest for the Historical Jesus. Despite two centuries of enquiry, the figure of Jesus behind the Christ of faith remains elusive. How do we know what is told us in the gospels actually happened? This unit looks at how authenticity in the tradition is argued, but more particularly at the differences between Matthew, Mark and Luke in how they portray Jesus. A careful comparison of the parallel traditions shared by these gospels will be undertaken to determine the focus and bias of each and their view of Jesus. This allows for an assessment of their reliability and avoids simple harmonisations of their accounts about Jesus.

**AHIS703 – ADVANCED STUDY IN GRAECO-ROMAN HISTORY 1**

**Session 1, Day – A/Prof Andrew Gillett**

2018 Topic - After the Roman Empire. This unit approaches western Europe in the sixth century, after the fragmentation of the Roman empire, focusing on Gaul (early France) in the 'Merovingian' period, through close
study of the "Histories" of Gregory of Tours, the first major Latin historical work of the period. Gregory’s works were immensely significant in shaping European historical and ideological traditions through to the present. Literary analysis is explored as a methodology for the study of historical sources, and a range of recent research approaches to Gregory’s work will be discussed.

AHIS05 – ADVANCED STUDY IN EGYPTIAN HISTORY 1

Session 1, Day – A/Prof Boyo Ockinga

2018 Topic – New Kingdom Egypt. This unit examines central historical issues of the Amana Age (from the reign of Amenhotep III to Tutankhamon) based on an interpretation of a range of written sources (royal and non-royal) in the original language against the background of the archaeological record, art and architecture. The unit provides students the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of Middle Egyptian language through a close reading of texts written in “Medio” Late Egyptian (Middle Egyptian with Late Egyptian influences). Prerequisite: Hieroglyphs B.

MRES700 – RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS

Compulsory – Session 2, Day – Faculty Staff

This unit aims to enable students to:

- Communicate research effectively in different modes for different audiences;
- Understand what it means to conduct and report responsibly in their discipline;
- Participate in academic peer review practices; and
- Appreciate the uses and relative merits of traditional and contemporary research communication practices.

FOAR700 – RESEARCH FRONTIERS 1

Compulsory – Session 2, Day – Ancient History Staff

This unit is delivered by departments and provides an opportunity for students to engage with leading-edge research in their discipline. Students will acquire advanced disciplinary knowledge, know about how research is carried out in a disciplinary area and will demonstrate competence in the application of research skills to the disciplinary area.

AHIS070 – ADVANCED ANCIENT HISTORY STUDIES 2

Session 2, Day – A/Prof. Javier Alvarez-Mon

2018 Topic – Theory and Practice of Ancient Art. This unit of study introduces the theory and practice of ancient art pertaining to the civilizations of the Middle East (Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine and Jordan) and the Classical World (Greece and Rome). Emphasis is placed on understanding the notion of art as applied to the archaeological and cultural contexts of ancient non-western cultures and in gathering basic skills necessary for artistic analysis (iconography and style) and interpretations. Material studied will include monumental and domestic architecture, sculpture, ceramics, metal-work, glyptic, and literary arts.

AHIS0704 – ADVANCED STUDY IN GRAECO-ROMAN HISTORY 2

Session 2

2018 Topic – NB: Only one of these units will be offered (A or B), depending on student interest in the options.

a) Greece and Rome: Caravan Cities

The unit combines archaeology with history in the study of a number of key cities of the Roman Near East. The Silk Road and the Frankincense Road brought great prosperity to a number of cities of the Roman East, especially Petra, Palmyra and Dura Europos. Much of the history of these cities is written from a combination of archaeological reports and literary sources. Students will be given the opportunity to learn how to evaluate archaeological evidence against extant literary sources and also to study the architectural history of the Roman Near East. Session 2 – Evening, Dr Peter Edwell

b) Hellenistic Religions

This unit examines continuity and change in Greek religion in the period after the conquests of Alexander the Great. Themes to be investigated include: ancient and modern concepts of ‘religion’, the social shape of religious practice, the social function/s of religion, the ‘internationalisation’ of religion, and the relationship between cult and personal belief. Session 2 – Evening, Dr Chris Forbes

AHIS0706 – ADVANCED STUDY IN EGYPTIAN HISTORY 2

Session 2, Day – A/Prof Malcolm Choat

2018 Topic – Monasticism in Egypt. This unit examines of the art and archaeology in Egypt from the beginning of the Roman period (30 BCE) until the 8th century CE, including secular, domestic, temple, ecclesiastical and monastic art and architecture, illustrating the impact of Greek, Roman, and Christian influences on traditional Egyptian culture.

AHIS0708 – ADVANCED STUDY IN ANCIENT LANGUAGES B

Session 2, Day – A/Prof Trevor Evans

Available topics will be advised in early 2018. Students will undertake advanced language studies in ancient Greek, Egyptian Hieroglyphs, Coptic Egyptian, Hebrew, or Latin, according to their level of linguistic competence and research training focus. They will also complete a project on a textual or historical aspect of the relevant language.

CONTACTS

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Information in this flyer is current as of 18 August 2017.