

## AHIS2370: Magic and Witchcraft in Greece and Rome

Callaghan

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

*The School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences is committed to providing an inclusive environment in which all cultures are accorded respect and all students and staff are expected to act with honesty, fairness, trustworthiness and accountability in dealings with others. The School recognises and respects the unique histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia, and the validity of Aboriginal ways of knowing. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education.*

## OVERVIEW

<b>Course Description</b>	This cultural history course introduces students to magic and witchcraft in ancient Greece and Rome. The course covers the many and varied forms of magic and witchcraft, from spell-casting to fortune-telling and the manufacture and use of amulets. The real witches and wizards of the ancient Mediterranean worlds are also discussed and analysed. Additionally, students learn how to apply the methodologies of the cultural historian - archaeological or material evidence and ancient texts (including papyri) - to produce knowledge of this fascinating, widespread tradition. Theories pertaining to the subject-matter, including anthropological and sociological interpretations, gender studies, and several ethical approaches to the practice of magic complement student learning.
<b>Academic Progress Requirements</b>	Nil
<b>Requisites</b>	This course replaces AHIS3603. If you have successfully completed AHIS3603 you cannot enrol in this course.
<b>Contact Hours</b>	<b>Callaghan</b> <b>Lecture</b> Face to Face On Campus 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s)  <b>Tutorial</b> Face to Face On Campus 1 hour(s) per fortnight for 6 fortnight(s) starting Week 2
<b>Unit Weighting Workload</b>	10 Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

# COURSE OUTLINE

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# CONTACTS

<b>Course Coordinator</b>	<b>Callaghan</b> Dr Tanika Koosmen Tanika.Koosmen@newcastle.edu.au Consultation: by appointment – face-to-face or Zoom.
<b>Teaching Staff</b>	Miss Rebecca Willis (PhD candidate in Ancient History) rebecca.willis@newcastle.edu.au
<b>School Office</b>	<b>School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences</b> Social Sciences Building Callaghan HCISS@newcastle.edu.au +61 4985 4500

# SYLLABUS

<b>Course Content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Methodologies of the Cultural Historian</li><li>• Definitions of Magic</li><li>• Magic and Religion - Similarities and Differences</li><li>• The Gods and Goddesses of Magic</li><li>• The Practitioners: Witches and Wizards</li><li>• Reasons for the Practice of Magic</li><li>• Curse Tablets, Binding Spells and Poppets</li><li>• Ghosts in Antiquity and the Use in Magic</li><li>• Magical Papyri and Spell Books</li><li>• Amulets</li><li>• Herbalism and Potion-making</li><li>• Fortune-telling, including divination and astrology</li><li>• Belief in the Efficacy of Magic</li><li>• Reactions to the Practice of Magic</li><li>• The Tools of the Practitioner</li><li>• Magic in Greek and Roman Literature</li></ul>
<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>	<p><b>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Identify the major themes and issues pertaining to magic and witchcraft in Greek and Roman antiquity.</li><li>2. Analyse representations and discussions of magic and witchcraft in Greek and Roman antiquity via critical interpretations of ancient source materials (written, artistic, and epigraphic).</li><li>3. Assess modern scholarship on magic and witchcraft in ancient Greece and Rome via critical interpretations.</li><li>4. Demonstrate skills to effectively articulate knowledge in both written and verbal forms.</li></ol>
<b>Course Materials</b>	<p>Course materials will be provided on course website.</p> <p><b>Recommended Text:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- You may wish to purchase Daniel Ogden's <i>Magic, Witchcraft and Ghosts in the Greek and Roman Worlds: A Sourcebook</i>, 2nd edition (Oxford: 2009). Also useful is Lindsay Watson's <i>Magic in Ancient Greece and Rome</i> (Bloomsbury: 2019).</li></ul>

# COMPULSORY REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass this course, each student must complete ALL of the following compulsory requirements:

**Contact Hour Requirements:**

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**Course Assessment Requirements:**

- Assessment 1 - Class test: Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.
- Assessment 2 - Case study: Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.
- Assessment 3 - Tutorial paper: Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.
- Assessment 4 - Essay: Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.

**Compulsory Placement and WHS Requirements:**

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# SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Lecture	Topic	Tutorial
1	26 Feb	27 February	Introduction	No tutorial.
2	4 Mar	5 March	Gods and Goddesses of Magic	Introductory tutorial.
3	11 Mar	12 March	Practitioners	No tutorial.
4	18 Mar	19 March	Curse Tablets and Binding Spells	Discussion tutorial.
5	25 Mar	26 March	Ghosts	No tutorial.
6	1 Apr	2 April	Amulets and Potions	Assessment item: tutorial paper option.
7	8 Apr	9 April	Prophecy and Divination	No tutorial.
<b>Mid-Semester Recess</b>				
<b>Mid-Semester Recess</b>				
8	29 Apr	30 April	Belief in Magic	Assessment item: tutorial paper option.
9	6 May	7 May	Magic in Greek Literature	No tutorial.
10	13 May	14 May	Magic in Roman Literature	Assessment item: tutorial paper option.
11	20 May	21 May	The Ancient Legacy	No tutorial.
12	27 May	28 May	Conclusion	Discussion tutorial.
13	3 Jun			
<b>Examination Period</b>				
<b>Examination Period</b>				

# ASSESSMENTS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Class test*	10 April at 2pm	Individual	15%	1, 2
2	Case study*	3 May by 11:59pm	Individual	25%	2, 4
3	Tutorial paper*	Option 1: 1 April by 11:59pm Option 2: 29 April by 11:59pm Option 3: 13 May by 11:59pm	Individual	20%	2, 3, 4
4	Essay*	7 June by 11:59pm	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4

\* This assessment has a compulsory requirement.

## Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

## Assessment 1 - Class test

### Assessment Type Description

In Term Test

The test will require definitions and explanations of key concepts and words employed in weeks 1-6 of the course (so students must be familiar with the lecture content of the course).

### Weighting Compulsory Requirements Length

60 minutes: 5 minutes reading time and 55 minutes writing time.

15%

Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.

### Due Date Submission Method Assessment Criteria Return Method Feedback Provided Opportunity to Reattempt

1 hour

10 April at 2pm

Online

Further information is provided on Canvas.

Online

Online

Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

## Assessment 2 - Case study

### Assessment Type Description

Case Study / Problem Based Learning

Analysis of an ancient work. This can be written in point-form using headings or in essay format.

### Weighting Compulsory Requirements Length

25%

Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.

### Due Date Submission Method Assessment Criteria Return Method Feedback Provided Opportunity to Reattempt

800-1000 words

3 May by 11:59pm

Online

Further information is provided on Canvas.

Online

Online

Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

## Assessment 3 - Tutorial paper

### Assessment Type Description

Tutorial / Laboratory Exercises

Response to a tutorial topic. This can be written in point-form using headings or in essay

<b>Weighting</b>	format. 20%
<b>Compulsory Requirements</b>	Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.
<b>Length</b>	1000-1200 words
<b>Due Date</b>	Option 1: 1 April by 11:59pm Option 2: 29 April by 11:59pm Option 3: 13 May by 11:59pm
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Further information is provided on Canvas.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

## Assessment 4 - Essay

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Essay
<b>Description</b>	Response to an essay question. This must be written in formal essay format.
<b>Weighting</b>	40%
<b>Compulsory Requirements</b>	Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.
<b>Length</b>	2000-2500 words
<b>Due Date</b>	7 June by 11:59pm
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

\*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

<b>Communication</b>	Communication methods used in this course include:
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<b>Methods</b>	Canvas, email, student consultation options.
<b>Course Evaluation</b>	Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.
<b>Oral Interviews (Vivas)</b>	As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the <a href="#">Oral Examination (viva) Procedure</a> . In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the <a href="#">Student Conduct Rule</a> .
<b>Academic Misconduct</b>	All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <a href="https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35">https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35</a> .
<b>Adverse Circumstances</b>	<p>The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or</li><li>2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;</li><li>3. you are requesting a change of placement; or</li><li>4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.</li></ol> <p>Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: <a href="https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236">https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236</a></p>
<b>Important Policy Information</b>	The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at <a href="https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures">https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures</a> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

*This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.*

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