ABOUT ANCIENT CULTURES

Studies in Ancient Cultures focuses on the ancient Mediterranean world and Indigenous Australian studies. In this area of study you will examine historical texts, literature and material records (such as ancient sites, monuments, art and objects) to understand how people lived, how their culture developed and what their beliefs were.

Why should I study Ancient Cultures?
You will gain knowledge of the cultures of the first Australians, and how their past has been preserved – invaluable to our nation’s enduring heritage. You will learn to appreciate how the Mediterranean served as the birthplace of many influential ancient cultures (Egypt, Iraq, Greece and Italy) that still fascinate the modern audience. Interestingly, you will also become familiar with how these cultures have contributed to the intellectual development of our Western world, and what the results of their remarkable achievements are.

Complementary areas of study
As part of your study on Ancient Cultures, you may choose to incorporate electives from the following areas:
» History
» Religious Studies
» Indigenous Cultures and Histories
» Linguistics
» Sociology

You could also enrol in units from the Monash Indigenous Centre (MIC).

To complement your studies, we recommend you take at least one modern European language.

What are some topics Ancient Cultures explores?
Ancient Cultures offers a wide range of electives that will give you the opportunity to concentrate on areas that reflect your personal or career interests.

In your first year you will take foundation units in:
» Ancient Cultures 1
» Ancient Cultures 2

In second and third year you will be able to choose from a wide variety of unit topics including:
» Perspectives on Indigenous art: Production, meaning and symbolism
» The golden age of Athens
» The Archaeology of death in Ancient Egypt: The early dynastic period to middle kingdom
» Ancient mythologies
» From Alexander to Cleopatra: The Hellenistic world and the rise of Rome

How does Ancient Cultures fit into my Arts Degree?
You can study Ancient Cultures as a major, minor or as elective units within your degree.

Career prospects
People who have studied Ancient Cultures could work in the following areas:
» Heritage management
» Conservation
» Consultancy
» Research
» Social research
» Tourism
» Museum/gallery curators or education officers

From our students
“Studying Ancient Cultures means that I can follow my passion in archaeology. Archaeology redefines our culture from discovering the past. Monash has given me opportunities to head out into the field and excavate, which are the most amazing experiences, teaching me the practical skills I need.”

Caitlin Leigh Jensen
Current student

For more information:
future.arts.monash.edu/ug-ancient-cultures