

Dr Andrew Fear



Course Summary:

This course looks at the short life of a man who changed the world for ever. We examine the army that Alexander inherited from his father Philip and look at how it turned Greek Warfare on its head. We also look closely at Alexander's battles and ask how he managed to win them against such overwhelming odds. There is an examination of Alexander's opponents, especially the Persian Empire and we debate why its king did not oppose Alexander more effectively. We also discuss whether Alexander was a just a killer or a visionary with a master plan for his empire, and ask why historians have come to such radically different conclusions while using the same evidence. We also try to recover Alexander the man and ask what motivated him, look at the troubled relationship he had with both his parents (and some of his commanders), and debate whether he thought that he was a god and if so, why. Finally, we look at Alexander's controversial death and the important legacy that he left not just to the Hellenistic World, but also to later periods of history.

Modes of Teaching:

- 22 hours lectures
- 10 hours seminars
- A battle simulation - a chance to be Alexander or Darius!
- Weekly office hours

Lectures introduce the key themes and narrative history of the course, providing a framework to guide students' engagement with further primary and secondary reading. Seminars allow a more detailed study of key issues and allow students to develop their own arguments in oral and written form.

Blackboard: seminars and lectures are usually supported by PowerPoint, which will also be uploaded to Blackboard after each lecture.

Bibliographic resources (both written and electronic) are provided both for the course in general and lectures in particular

Method of Assessment:

All students: Examination (60%) and Essay (40%)

Preliminary Reading

Robin Lane Fox, *Alexander the Great*
Ian Worthington, *By the Spear*
Peter Green, *Alexander of Macedon*
Pierre Briant, *Darius: In the Shadow of Alexander*

Arrian, *The Anabasis of Alexander* – the Landmark edition edited by James Romm is particularly good

Contact: If you have questions, please contact the course convener: andrew.fearl@manchester.ac.uk