

CLA 321: Sexuality & Gender in the Ancient World
TR 9:30-10:45

Fall 2021
Claver Seminar 1

Dr. Maria S. Marsilio

Office: Bellarmine Hall 309

Office Phone: 610- 660-1896

e-mail: marsilio@sju.edu; MMars75386@aol.com

Office hours: TR 11:00 AM-12:30 PM (Claver House) and by appointment (Bellarmine 309)

Description:

A study of the ancient Greek and Roman cultural constructions of gender through reading of legal, philosophical, medical, historical, religious, and literary works that define how society shapes these cultural constructions. We will examine the connections between the ancient ideology of gender and the legal, social, religious, and economic roles of women in Greek and Roman cultures. We will also compare this ancient ideology of gender with conceptions of masculinity and femininity in contemporary American culture. *This course satisfies GEP Art/Literature, GEP Diversity, Gender Studies, Classical Studies, and Honors.*

Course Objectives:

This course is discussion-driven. The instructor will lecture occasionally, but only in order to provide important background that will help place the class discussions in proper context. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings for each class and to attend every class prepared and eager to engage with their professor and classmates in questioning, debate, and discussion about the course topics and problems. We will investigate and analyze a diverse body of evidence including:

- Male and female in Greek and Roman mythology.
- Male and female roles within the family structure (*oikos*).
- Male and female incorporations within the Athenian *polis*. This includes legal rules that defined their capabilities and restrictions as well as their economic status.
- Comments of 5th and 4th century writings about the “natures” and “characters” of men and women and their differences. How did these reflect women's role in the social organization of the *polis* and how can they be seen to justify it?
- The different experiences and societal expectations of male and female children in Greece and Rome.
- The different experiences of rich and poor and the exclusion of the impoverished from the political, social, and economic institutions valued by the citizenry.
- Sexual orientation and “homosexuality” in ancient Greece and Rome.
- The role of women in the rituals of the Athenian state.
- How conditions for women changed in Hellenistic Greece.
- How certain Roman institutions compared/contrasted to those of classical Greece and how they affected the position of women. In what sense were Roman women “emancipated?”

Learning Objectives:

In this course, students will:

- Demonstrate analytical and critical skills in examining primary textual sources (all in translation) in their literary, artistic, social, historical, political, economic, philosophical, religious, and legal contexts.
- Identify gaps or conflicting information in textual sources.
- Specify methods and approaches needed to analyze fragmentary or inconclusive information preserved in ancient texts.
- Demonstrate the significance of art and architecture for understanding an ancient society.
- Apply evidence from material culture to illuminate the analysis of textual sources.
- Recognize and describe specific motifs or techniques in ancient art and architecture.
- Assess differences and commonalities (cultural historical, artistic, literary, religious, etc.) across geographical and linguistic boundaries.
- Identify and analyze influences of Greek culture upon Roman culture.
- Explain how Greek and Roman cultures have shaped western culture, in particular spheres such as literature, art, architecture, law, politics, philosophy, and religion.
- Discuss the use and abuse of evidence about ancient Greek and Roman cultures in later times.
- Formulate meaningful interpretations of the literature and material culture of Mediterranean antiquity.
- Assess ways in which perceptions about the ancient Mediterranean world have been shaped by contemporary social and political contexts and concerns.
- Apply feminist theory to integrate the study of ancient cultures into research in other relevant fields.
- Explore issues in a multiplicity of disciplines and integrate knowledge from those disciplines.
- Engage in independent scholarly research, analysis, and synthesis that promote invention of written arguments that reflect the acquisition of knowledge, insights, and skills.
- Demonstrate confidence and clarity in speaking in classroom presentation, discussion, and debate that demand data gathering, analysis, and critical reflection.
- Engage in self-reflection and self-evaluation to promote intellectual self-confidence.

Required Texts:

Fantham, Elaine, et al. *Women in the Classical World: Image and Text*. Oxford, 1995. ISBN: 0195098625.

Lefkowitz, Mary R. and Maureen B. Fant. *Women's Life in Greece and Rome: A Source Book in Translation*. 4th ed. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2016.

Other excerpts from primary source readings are accessible online at the Perseus website (<https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/>) or on the Canvas site for our course.

Requirements:

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| Completion of all required readings; active participation in class discussions. | 20% |
| Four 2-3 page response papers on key topics on our course syllabus. You will | 40% |

write a 2-3 page response/reflection paper four times during the semester. These responses should consist of **three to five** one-or-two-sentence quotations, all taken from primary sources (e.g., Homer, Hesiod, Sappho, Aristotle, Xenophon, Aeschylus, Cicero, Horace). **While you may refer to the narrative sections in the *Women in the Classical World* book in your analysis, you may give me only primary source quotations from this book as the basis for your analysis. You may also select images from classical art as the basis of your reflection and analysis; however, you may use no more than one image for each paper. Each example must be followed by a source (author, work, and line or page numbers).** For each quotation write a separate short response/reflection (several sentences) illustrating why you believe these quotations or images are especially relevant for the topics we are discussing in this course. You may select quotations or images that all treat one key topic or theme, or the quotations or images may address different topics or themes. A successful paper will engage your reader while respecting the rules of grammar and composition and strike a balance between coverage and depth. You are encouraged to add your personal reactions to the materials. **You will be graded on the insight you offer into the materials.**

One oral presentation to be delivered in class on a selected topic on our course syllabus (students should work in groups of two; **topics are listed in bold type**). 20%

One individual final research project, which will be due during the week of final examinations. 20%

Students with Disabilities:

Reasonable academic accommodations may be provided to students who submit appropriate documentation of their disability. Students are encouraged to contact Dr. Christine Mecke in the Office of Student Disability Services, Bellarmine, B-10, at cmecke@sju.edu; or at 610.660.1774 (voice), or 610.660.1620 (TTY), for assistance with this issue. The university also provides an appeal/grievance procedure regarding requested or offered reasonable accommodations through Dr. Mecke's office. More information: www.sju.edu/sds

Tentative Schedule of Classes and Assigned Readings

T August 24 Introduction and Sources; Images of sexuality and gender in American music video

TH August 26 Images of sexuality and gender in American music video (continued)

UNIT I: GREECE

T August 31 Images of a divided world

		Readings: Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 6. 237-529; Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 1 (posted on Canvas)
TH	September 2	Hesiodic cosmology Readings: Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> (selections)
T	September 7	Hesiodic cosmology Readings: Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> (selections)
TH	September 9	The birth of Woman; misogyny and praise Readings: Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> lines 506-617 Hesiod, <i>Works and Days</i> lines 1-106 Semonides, <i>On Women</i> (L&F #57 3 rd ; #69 4 th) <i>Genesis</i> Adam and Eve
T	September 14	Transition to marriage: mother and daughter Readings: Homeric Hymn to Demeter (L&F #393 3 rd ; #492 4 th) <i>WCW</i> chapter 1, pp. 27-33 Eleusinian Mysteries Film Clip: <i>Pan's Labyrinth</i>
TH	September 16	Athenian visions of gender in Sparta Readings: L&F #95-100 3 rd ; # 112-117 4 th Alcman, <i>Partheneion</i> (L&F # 401 3 rd ; #502 4 th) <i>WCW</i> chapter 2, pp. 56-67
T	September 21	Gender and the Polis in Classical Athens Readings: <i>WCW</i> chapter 3, pp. 68-83 (Kindle up to Civic Religion) Selections from Aristotle's <i>Politics</i> (L&F #72 3 rd ; #88 4 th) PowerPoint: Men and Women, Citizens and Non-Citizens in Classical Athens Response Paper #1 due
TH	September 23	Athenian cult and ritual Readings: <i>WCW</i> chapter 3, pp. 83-96 (Kindle Civic Religion to Domestic Activities) Power Point: Festival of Panathenaia
T	September 28	Athenian married life: images and realities Readings: <i>WCW</i> chapter 3, pp. 96-113 (Kindle Domestic Activities to Adultery) Xenophon, <i>Oeconomicus</i> (L&F #267 3 rd ; #319 4 th)

PowerPoint: Men and Women, Citizens and Non-Citizens in Classical Athens (continued)

- TH September 30** Athenian married life: images and realities
Readings: *WCW* chapter 3, pp. 113-127 (Kindle Adultery to end of chapter 3)
Lysias, On the Murder of Eratosthenes (L&F #88 3rd; #105 4th)
PowerPoint: Sexuality outside the household
- T October 5** Sexuality outside the household
Readings: Demosthenes, *Against Neaera* (L&F #90 3rd; #107 4th)
PowerPoint: Sexuality outside the household
- TH October 7** Childhood and Education
PowerPoint: Coming of Age in Ancient Greece
- October 11-October 17: Fall Break, No classes**
- T October 19** Classical Greek Tragedy
Reading: Sophocles, *Antigone*
Report: The Debate of Antigone and Creon
- TH October 21** Archaic lyric poetry: images of sexuality
Readings: Male erotic lyric (L&F #234 3rd; #277 4th)
Selected poems of Sappho (L&F #1-6 3rd; #1-9 4th)
Report: Greek Same Sex Relationships
Response Paper #2 due
- T October 26** Classical Greek Comedy
Readings: Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*
Report: Women on Top?
- TH October 28** Ancient biology and medicine
Readings: Selections from Philosophers (L&F #338-340 3rd; #423-426 4th)
Selections from the Hippocratic Corpus, Galen, Aretaeus of Cappadocia, Soranus (L&F #341-357 3rd; #427-446 4th)
WCW chapter 6, pp. 183-205 (Kindle entire chapter)
Report: The Female Reproductive System

UNIT II: ROME

- T November 2** Marriage and Family in Republican Rome
Readings: Selections from early Roman law (L&F #112-119 3rd; #126-139 4th)
Inscriptions (L&F #39-43 3rd; #48-52 4th)
WCW chapter 7, pp. 216-230 (Kindle up to Roman Religion)
PowerPoint: Roman Family Life
- TH November 4** Roman Religion
Readings: *WCW* chapter 7, pp. 230-242 (Kindle Roman Religion to end of chapter)
The Guardianship of Women and Vestal Virgins (L&F #408-411 3rd; #511-516 4th)
- T November 9** Etruscan Women
Readings: *WCW* chapter 8, pp. 243-259
Guest Lecturer: Dr. Jean MacIntosh Turfa, Lecturer in Classical Studies, University of Pennsylvania and Consultant in the Mediterranean Gallery of the University of Pennsylvania Museum
- TH November 11** Women at Work
Readings: Female Occupations (L&F #283-337 3rd; #345-422 4th)
WCW chapter 9, pp. 260-279 (Kindle entire chapter)
Report: Women and War
Response Paper #3 due
- T November 16** Roman noblewomen: representation
Readings: *WCW* chapter 10, pp. 280-293 (Kindle entire chapter)
Cicero, *Pro Caelio* (Clodia Metelli)
- TH November 18** Augustan laws on marriage and adultery
Readings: (L&F #120-147 3rd; #140-167 4th)
WCW chapter 11, pp. 294-329 (Kindle entire chapter)
Report: Adultery at Rome (L&F #142-147 3rd; #162-167 4th)
- T November 23** Images of Cleopatra at Rome

Readings: *WCW* chapter 5, pp. 136-139 (Kindle up to The
Cosmopolis)
Horace, *Odes* 1.37 and I.38 (posted on Canvas)
Report: Horace's Cleopatra

November 24-29: Thanksgiving Break, No classes

- T November 30** Transgendered Moments: Vergil's *Aeneid*
Report: The Tragedy of Dido
Response Paper #4 due
- TH December 2** Gender and Augustan Iconography and Imagery
Power Point: Roman Forum, Forum and Mausoleum of
Augustus, Ara Pacis, Capitoline Museum collections
- T December 7** The Women of Pompeii
Reading: *WCW* chapter 12, pp. 330-244
Report: Women in Pompeii
- TH December 9** Images of sexuality and gender in American music video