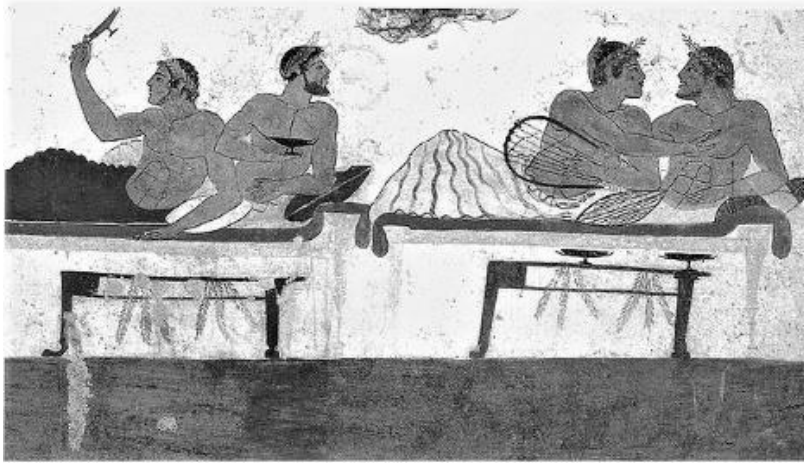


CLAS/WMNS 440: Gender and Sexuality in the Ancient World (Fall 2019)

Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30pm-1:45pm
Louise Pound Hall 331L

Dr. Rachel Hart (she/her)
rhart7@unl.edu

Office: Louise Pound Hall 331H
Office hours: Tues. & Wed. 11:00am-12:00pm
and by appointment



*Detail of a Fresco from the North wall of the Tomb of the Diver in Paestum, Italy
(via Wikimedia Commons: public domain)*

Required Texts

Peter Bing & Rip Cohen, eds. (1993) *Games of Venus: An Anthology of Greek and Roman Erotic Verse from Sappho to Ovid*. ISBN: 978-0415902618

Christopher Gill, ed. (2003) *Plato. Symposium*. Penguin Classics.
ISBN: 978-0140449273

Additional readings will be posted on Canvas or (if accessible online) linked in an electronic version of this syllabus.

Please note that this course will include frank discussion of some very difficult topics. The ancient sources depict topics such as misogyny, rape, sexual violence, abortion, sexual humor, physical abuse, and pederasty/pedophilia, as well as sentiments that a modern audience would term homophobia and transphobia. In addition, the sexual language used by ancient authors – and sometimes by scholars writing about those authors – will contain language and terms that may be considered obscene. For the sake of authentic representation of source material, I will also be using this terminology (with the exception of slurs) when discussing the texts. Because of the potentially troubling content involved, I have noted places on the schedule of readings where such topics occur, though it is possible that I have missed some. You may use these guidelines to prepare yourself for both the discussions and the readings. If any of the flagged topics may be an obstacle to your participation in the course, or if you need any additional content-based notices, please talk to me (either in person or via email) and I work with you discretely and non-judgmentally to determine an alternate approach.

Assignments & Grading

Your grade for this course will be calculated using the following categories:

Attendance, preparation, & participation	26%
Secondary responses (2)	14% (7% each)
Close reading papers (2)	20% (10% each)
Midterm exam (Oct. 24)	20%
Final exam (Dec. 20, 7:30am)	20%

This course is discussion-based and focuses heavily on reading and interpreting primary source material from the ancient world. For this reason, it is imperative that you attend class and participate orally in our discussions. If you are unable to attend class for some reason, please let me know (before class if possible). I allow three unexcused absences during the semester, after which your grade will be affected. If you have any questions about the status of your absence(s), feel free to check with me.

You are free to use laptops to take notes and access course materials during class, as many of the assigned readings will only be available digitally. You are responsible for ensuring that you refrain from multitasking and remain engaged in the discussion.

During the semester you will complete two short papers based on close reading and analysis of a primary source that we have addressed in class. Prior to each paper, you will be given a short list of sources to choose from; detailed expectations will also be circulated at that time. These close reading papers will be due on October 1 (Tuesday) and November 12 (Tuesday).

There will also be secondary works of scholarship to read alongside the primary sources. All of the reading assignments – both primary and secondary – for a given day must be read before coming to class so that we can have fruitful conversations about the material. Because this is not a large class, every student should expect to contribute to the discussion every day. In addition, every person in the room – myself included – should be considerate and courteous to all others during our conversations. I do not expect that anyone has any background in Classics or the ancient world, so please do not hesitate to ask me questions in class, via email, or in my office.

Twice during the semester, you will complete a brief response to a secondary reading chosen from the schedule of assignments. In the second week of class I will circulate additional details regarding expectations, but you are free to choose any secondary reading. Each response will be due one week (two class periods) following the day on which the reading was assigned.

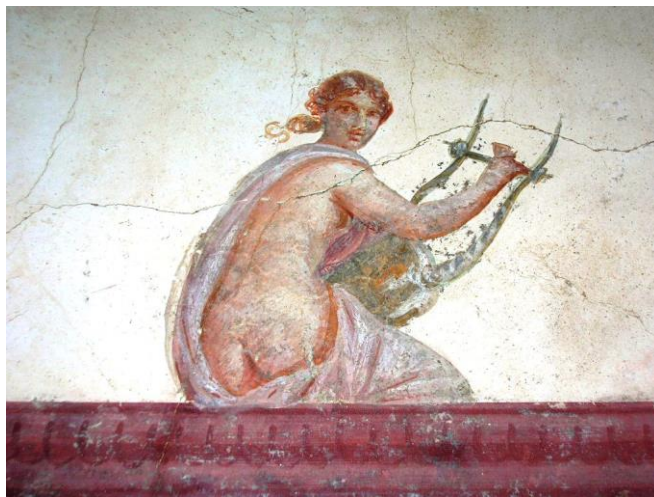
There will be a midterm exam during class on Thursday, October 24, the first class day following fall break. Your final exam will be on Friday, December 20, from 7:30am-9:30am. The exams will reflect the course of our discussions during the semester; you will receive further details well in advance of each exam.

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

97-100	A+	77-79.9	C+
93-96.9	A	73-76.9	C
90-92.9	A-	70-72.9	C-
87-89.9	B+	67-69.9	D+
83-86.9	B	63-66.9	D
80-82.9	B-	60-62.9	D-
		0-59.9	F

I expect no academic dishonesty whatsoever in this course. If you are uncertain about what constitutes academic dishonesty, talk to me or consult the University's guidelines (in the *Academic Services Handbook* and *Undergraduate Bulletin*). Any instance of academic dishonesty will result, at the very least, in that student failing the assignment, and may result in the student failing the course and/or being suspended.

If you require any academic accommodations for this course, I encourage you to contact me for a confidential discussion of your individual needs for accommodation. It is best to contact me as early in the semester as possible, as I am unable to ensure appropriate accommodations without prior knowledge. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office at 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 (voice or TTY).



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Schedule of Assignments

B&C= Bing & Cohen, *Games of Venus: An Anthology of Greek and Roman Erotic Verse from Sappho to Ovid*

Sym.=Plato, *Symposium* (translated by Christopher Gill)

All other readings will be available via Canvas or linked on the schedule below.

August 29: Homeric Gender & War (*rape, misogyny, language*)

- Achilles: Homer, *Iliad* [1.101-284](#)
- Hector & Paris, Hector & Andromache: Homer, *Iliad* [6.312-493](#)
- Penelope: Homer, *Odyssey* [2.85-128](#), [23.141-246](#)

September 3: Patroclus and Achilles

- Homer's version: *Iliad* [16.1-100](#), [18.1-77](#), [18.310-367](#), [23.54-107](#)
- Gilgamesh & Enkidu: *Epic of Gilgamesh* (selections)
- David & Jonathan: 1 Samuel & 2 Samuel (selections)
- Alexander & Hephaistion: selection from Heckel & Yardley 2004

Marco Fantuzzi (2012), "Introduction" of *Achilles in Love: Intertextual Studies*: 1-20.

September 5: Negative Paradigms (*misogyny*)

- Hesiod, *Works & Days* 47-106, 370-382
- Semonides 7
- Helen: Homer, *Iliad* [3.121-180](#); Euripides, *Trojan Women* (selection)
- Clytemnestra: Aeschylus, *Agamemnon* 587-614, 1370-1467

Stephanie McCarter (2018), "[The Bad Wives: Misogyny's Age-Old Roots in the Home](#)" *Eidolon*

September 10: Lyric Love (*explicit sex & language*)

- Sappho 1, 2, 16, 31, 47, 48, 102, 105a, 130-131 – B&C
- Anacreon 357, 358, 359, 360, 413, 417, 428 – B&C
- Theognis ("Second Book") 1235-38, 1249-52, 1259-62, 1267-70, 1279-82, 1283-94, 1299-1304, 1305-10, 1327-34, 1341-44, 1345-50, 1353-56, 1363-64, 1367-68, 1369-72, 1377-80 – B&C
- Theognis ("First Book") 257-260, 371-72, 457-60, 1091-94, 1097-1100 – B&C

Ella Haselswerdt (2016), "[Re-Queering Sappho](#)" *Eidolon*

September 12: Male Sexuality (*pederasty/pedophilia, misogyny*)

- Solon 27
- Aristophanes, *Clouds* 1010-1019
- Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War* 6.27-29 & 6.54-59

Chris Mowat (2018), "[Queering Hippolytus: Asexuality and Ancient Greece](#)" – NOTCHES

September 17: Female Sexuality (*explicit sex, anti-sex work*)

- Herodas 6 – B&C
- Ps-Demosthenes, *Against Neaera* 118-119, 122
- Aspasia: selections
- Phryne: selections

September 19: The Comic Stage (*misogyny, transphobia, sexual assault*)

- Aristophanes, *Lysistrata* 83-260
- Aristophanes, *Women at the Thesmophoria* 118-335
- Aristophanes, *Assemblywomen* 101-277

Helene P. Foley (2014), “Performing gender in Greek Old and New Comedy” in *The Cambridge Companion to Greek Comedy*, ed. Martin Revermann: 259-274.

September 24: Roles for Women (*institutional sexism*)

- Selection of evidence for historical women (“What women do”)
- Spartan women: selections

Susan I. Rotroff & Robert D. Lamberton (2005), *Women in the Athenian Agora* (selections)

September 26: Oratory (*anti-sex work, xenophobia, sexual shaming*)

- Aeschines, *Against Timarchus* 1-27
- Lysias, *On the Murder of Eratosthenes* 1-33
- Antiphon, *Against a Stepmother* 14-27

October 1: Beyond the Greek World

- No readings

*******1st response due**

October 3: Love in the *Symposium*

- Speeches of Pausanias (180c-185c), Eryximachus (185d-189b), and Agathon (194e-197e)
- Socrates: 198a-212c
- Alcibiades: 212d-end

October 8: The Divine *Androgynos* (*possible gender dysphoria, discussions of intersex bodies*)

- Plato, *Symposium* 189c-193d (speech of Aristophanes)
- Ovid, [Metamorphoses 4.274-388](#)
- Genesis 1.26-27, 2.20-23

Elliot Rose Kukla (2009), “Created by the Hand of Heaven: Sex, Love, and the Androgynos” in *The Passionate Torah: Sex and Judaism*, ed. D. Ruttenger: 193-202.

October 10: Hellenistic Poetry (*explicit sex*)

- Asclepiades (all) – B&C
- Meleager (all) – B&C
- Theocritus 3, 11 – B&C

October 15: Medical Thought (*genital discussions, reinforcement of binaries, contraception, abortion, fertility, explicit medical discussions*)

- Female practitioners & women's bodies: sourcebook selections
- Yurie Hong (2016), "Mother in Ancient Athens: Class, identity, and experience" in *Women in Antiquity*, eds. Stephanie Lynn Budin & Jean MacIntosh Turfa: 673-682.

October 17: Witches & Magic (*contraception, abortion, genitals*)

- Theocritus 2 – B&C (starts at the bottom of page 149)
- Horace, *Epodes* [3](#), [5](#)
- Magic & curses: selections from Ogden 2002

October 22: FALL BREAK – no class

October 24: MIDTERM EXAM

October 29: Roman Wives (*rape, sexual shaming, language, misogyny*)

- Lucretia: Livy, *On the Founding of Rome* 1.57.6-59.6 (included at the end of Joshel's chapter)
- Fulvia: selections

S. R. Joshel (2002), "The Body Female and the Body Politic: Livy's Lucretia and Verginia" in *Sexuality and Gender in the Classical World: Readings and Sources*, ed. Laura K. McClure: 163-187. (**FOCUS** more on the parts about Lucretia than Verginia)

October 31: Public and Private Masculinities (*sexual shaming, homophobia, sexual violence*)

- Caesar, Antony, Augustus: selections from Jones 2006
- Suetonius, *Augustus* 61-64
- Letters to wives: Ovid, *Tristia* 1.6; Pliny the Younger, *Letters* 6.4, 6.7, 7.5

November 5: Cleopatra (*racialized misogyny, xenophobia, sexual shaming*)

- Vergil, *Aeneid* [8.671-731](#)
- Horace, *Odes* [1.37](#)
- Propertius [3.11](#)
- Selections from Jones 2006

Shelley Haley (2009), “Be Not Afraid of the Dark: Critical Race Theory and Classical Studies” in *Prejudice and Christian Beginnings: Investigating Race, Gender and Ethnicity in Early Christian Studies*, eds. Laura Nasrallah & Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza: 27-50.

November 7: Sex at the Margins (*explicit sex & language, homophobia, transphobia, pathologizing of sexuality*)

- Martial 7.67, 7.70
- Pompeiian graffiti: selections

Sandra Boehringer (2014), “Female Homoeroticism” in *A Companion to Greek and Roman Sexualities*, ed. Thomas K. Hubbard: 154-167

November 12: Death of the Scholar? (*explicit sex & language, pedophilia, homophobia*)

- No readings

***2nd response due

November 14: Catullus’ Anxieties (*sexual violence, homophobia*)

- Catullus (all) – B&C

November 19: Sex under Augustus (*toxic relationships, objectification, misogyny*)

- Propertius: selections
- Horace: *Odes* (all) – B&C
- Tibullus 1.4, 1.8 – B&C

Tori Lee (2017) “[To Me, You are Creepy: Excluded Lovers from Rome to Rom-Com](#)” *Eidolon*

November 21: Ovid – Problematic Fave? (*rape, sexual violence, toxic relationships, objectification, misogyny*)

- *Amores* 1.5, 2.15, 3.14 – B&C
- *Ars Amatoria* 1 ([parts 1-7](#)) & 3 ([parts 3-6](#))
- Daphne: *Metamorphoses* [1.438-657](#)

Stephanie McCarter & Jia Tolentino (2019), “[The Brutality of Ovid: A conversation on sex, violence, and power in the Metamorphoses](#)” (transcript of a roundtable talk, “Translating Ovid’s Sexual Violence,” which took place in April 2019)

November 26: Queer Narratives in Ovid (*gender dysphoria, genitals, transphobia, cissexism*)

- Tiresias: *Metamorphoses* [3.316-338](#)
- Iphis: *Metamorphoses* [9.666-797](#)

Sasha Barish (2018), "[Iphis' Hair, Io's Reflection, and the Gender Dysphoria of the *Metamorphoses*](#)" *Eidolon*

L. K. M. Maisel (2019), "[Women Are Made, But from What? Modern and Ancient Trans Antagonism](#)" *Eidolon*

November 28: THANKSGIVING – no class

December 3: Invective and Humor (*explicit sex & language, homophobia & slurs, misogyny, rape, sexual assault*)

- Petronius, *Satyricon* [16-26](#), [126-130](#)
- Juvenal, *Satires* [2](#)
- Martial: selections

December 5: Imperial Legacies (*homophobia, transphobia*)

- Hadrian: Dio Cassius 69.11
- Elagabalus: selections

Bryan E. Burns (2015), "Sculpting Antinous: Creations of the Ideal Companion" in *Ancient Sex: New Essays. Classical Memories/Modern Identities*, eds. Ruby Blondell & Kirk Ormand: 285-307

December 10: Women's Writing in the Empire

- *Passion of Perpetua and Felicity*

December 12: Reviewing and Reflecting

- No readings