

CLSC 2750- Gender and Sexuality in the Ancient World

TT 9:55-11:30, Academic Complex 152

Dr. Brandon Jones, jonesbf@millsaps.edu

Office hours: (negotium) Tu 2:30-3:30, W 11:45-12:45 & by appt., John Stone Hall 200

(otium) Th 2:30-3:30, Leggett Lounge

Course web site: <http://courses.millsaps.edu/course/view.php?id=1480>

Objectives

In Classics 2750 we shall survey sexuality and gender from Homeric Greece to Imperial Rome. In the process of tackling this rich topic by means of ancient material and literary evidence as well as modern scholarship, we shall maintain a number of objectives, including (but not limited to) the following:

1. To gain perspectives on how ancient Greeks and Romans conceptualized gender and how their ideologies of gender roles impacted their culture and society.
2. To approach definitions of sexuality and to consider if/how sexuality impacted one's role in Greek and Roman cultures and societies.
3. To survey modern scholarly approaches to gender and sexuality in the Greek and Roman world, and to evaluate those approaches.
4. To build upon our critical reading and communication skills.

Required Texts

Gleason, Maud. 2008 [1995]. *Making Men: Sophists and Self-Presentation in Ancient Rome*. Princeton. (earlier editions are acceptable.)

McClure, Laura, ed. 2002. *Sexuality and Gender in the Classical World: Readings and Sources*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Skinner, Marilyn. 2013 [2005]. *Sexuality in Greek and Roman Culture*. Wiley-Blackwell. (earlier editions are acceptable; digital editions, however, are not.)

Other readings and resources will be made available on our course website.

Expectations

Participants are expected to attend class meetings regularly and punctually and to be prepared to contribute respectfully and constructively for the entire meeting period. Participants are expected to prepare each assignment carefully and in full prior to class, to bring relevant texts to class and to be prepared to discuss each assignment intelligently.

Participants are expected to focus on Greek and Roman sex and gender during class meetings. Phones should be turned OFF. Electronic devices should be used ONLY FOR NOTE-TAKING purposes. Behavior that is in any way distracting to others is unacceptable. Participants who fail to comply will be asked to leave our meeting.

Participants who have an occasional unavoidable reason to miss class are responsible for catching up on missed information and work. In the event of an absence, please be sure to stay on track with the assigned reading, confer with a classmate regarding lecture and discussion topics and, if necessary, attend office hours with questions prepared. Absences that are avoidable and/or more than occasional are unacceptable and will have a detrimental effect upon one's grade.

We shall be discussing sensitive topics (gender, sexuality, violence and politics, e.g.), on which participants may have diverse perspectives and opinions. It is absolutely obligatory that the expression and reception of ideas is carried out sensitively and respectfully.

Participants are expected to abide by the Millsaps Academic Honor Code.

If you have any needs or require accommodations related to a disability or learning difference, please contact Patrick Cooper to register with the Office of Disability Services. You can reach him via e-mail at coopeap@millsaps.edu or by calling extension 1228. Accommodations will not be granted until a meeting has taken place with Patrick, letters have been processed, and you have met with your instructor.

Assignments and Grading

Contribution to class meetings (35%)

Participants are expected to contribute to discussions with fruitful questions, comments and answers. 35% of the final grade will reflect the participant's regular, courteous and positive contribution to class meetings. Obviously, if one is absent, one cannot contribute; and, therefore, absences will affect this portion of the participant's grade. The lowest grade will be dropped.

Quizzes (15%)

We shall have reading quizzes as necessary, primarily on material from Skinner. Notes and books are permissible (no laptops, i-pads, phones, etc.), but quizzes will be brief and time will be limited. Make-up quizzes will be administered only in cases of emergency and at the professor's discretion. The lowest grade will be dropped.

Compositions (30%)

We shall have regular brief (300-500 words) compositions, engaging with recent reading material. Writing prompts will be administered on our course web site. Compositions may be revised and resubmitted for an improved grade (and product!). More details to follow.

Presentation (20%)

Each participant will give a presentation on a Greek or Roman primary text. Presentations, which should be accompanied by a handout or powerpoint, will outline the main plot and theme(s) of the whole text and will then focus on 1-3 passages that are significant to our understanding of sexuality and/or gender in antiquity, providing interpretations (both one's own and those of other scholars) of the selection(s). Relevant ancient comparanda and modern scholarship ought to be consulted and integrated where appropriate. Presentations, which ought to be practiced in advance, should be 10-12 minutes in length, followed by 5-10 minutes of open discussion. Participants are encouraged to discuss their approaches to the presentation with the instructor in advance. More details to follow.

Schedule of Assignments

All assignments ought to be completed by the date listed.

Gleason= Gleason, M. 2008 [1995]. *Making Men: Sophists and Self-Presentation in Ancient Rome*. Princeton UP.

McClure= McClure, L., ed. 2002. *Sexuality and Gender in the Classical World: Readings and Sources*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Skinner= Skinner, M. 2013 [2005]. *Sexuality in Greek and Roman Culture*. Wiley-Blackwell.

All other readings can be found on our course site.

Tu 8/22 Skinner Intro

Th 8/24 Vernant, J-P. 1990. "One...Two...Three: Eros." In *Before Sexuality: The Construction of Erotic Experience in the Ancient Greek World*. Halperin et al, eds. Princeton UP: 465-78.

Tu 8/29 Skinner 1
Felson, N. and Slatkin, L. 2004. "Gender and Homeric Epic." In *The Cambridge Companion to Homer*. Fowler, R., ed. Cambridge UP: 91-116.

Th 8/31 Foley, H. 1995. "Penelope as Moral Agent." In *The Distaff Side: Representing the Female in Homer's Odyssey*. Cohen, B., ed. Oxford UP: 93-116.
Holmberg, I. 1995. "The *Odyssey* and Female Subjectivity." *Helios* 22: 103-22.

Tu 9/5 Skinner 2
Essay 1

Th 9/7 McClure 2: Winkler, J.J. 2002 [1990]. "Double Consciousness in Sappho's Lyrics." & Sources: 39-75.
Glazebrook, A. 2014. "'Sex Ed' at the Archaic Symposium: Prostitutes, Boys and *Paideia*." In *Sex in*

Antiquity: Exploring Gender and Sexuality in the Ancient World. Masterson, M., Rabinowitz, N., & Robson, J., eds. Routledge: 157-78.

- Tu 9/12 Skinner 3
Optional Film Night 1: *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. 7:30pm, AC 137.
- Th 9/14 Parker, H. 2015. "Vaseworld: Depiction and Description of Sex at Athens." In *Ancient Sex: New Essays*. Blondell, R., & Ormand, K., eds. Ohio State UP: 23-142.
- Tu 9/19 Skinner 4
Essay 2
- Th 9/21 McClure 1: Dover, K. 2002 [1984]. "Classical Greek Attitudes to Sexual Behaviour" & Sources: 19-36.
Halperin, D. 1990. "The Democratic Body: Prostitution and Citizenship in Classical Athens." *One Hundred Years of Homosexuality and Other Essays on Greek Love*. Routledge: 88-112.
- Tu 9/26 McClure 4: Zeitlin, F. 2002 [1985]. "Playing the Other: Theater, Theatricality, and the Feminine in Greek Drama" & Sources: 103-43.
Murnaghan, S. 1988. "How A Woman Can Be More like a Man: The Dialogue between Ischomachus and his Wife in Xenophon's *Oeconomicus*." *Helios* 15.1: 9-22.
- Th 9/28 Skinner 5
Dutsch, D. 2014. "Dog-love-dog" *Kynogamia* and Cynic Sexual Ethics." In *Sex in Antiquity: Exploring Gender and Sexuality in the Ancient World*. Masterson, M., Rabinowitz, N., & Robson, J., eds. Routledge: 245-59.
Optional Film Night 2: *Mighty Aphrodite*. 7:30pm, AC 137.
- Tu 10/3 Skinner 6
Essay 3
- Th 10/5 Gutzwiller, K. 1992. "Callimachus' *Lock of Berenice*; Fantasy, Romance and Propaganda." *AJP* 113: 359-85.
Shaw, B. 1992. "Explaining Incest: Brother-Sister Marriage in Graeco-Roman Egypt." *Man* 27.2: 267-99.
- Tu 10/10 Mid-Semester break, no class
- Th 10/12 Skinner 7
- Tu 10/17 Parker, H. 1997. "The Teratogenic Grid." In *Roman Sexualities*. Hallett, J. & Skinner, M., eds. Princeton UP: 47-65.
Kamen, D. & Levin-Richardson, S. 2014. "Revisiting Roman Sexuality: Agency and the Conceptualization of Penetrated Males." In *Sex in Antiquity: Exploring Gender and Sexuality in the Ancient World*. Masterson, M., Rabinowitz, N., & Robson, J., eds. Routledge: 449-60.
- Th 10/19 McClure 5: Finley, M.I. 2002 [1968]. "The Silent Women of Rome" & Sources: 147-62.
Glazebrook, A. & Olsen, K. 2014. "Greek and Roman Marriage." In *A Companion to Greek and Roman Sexualities*. Hubbard, T., ed. Blackwell: 69-82.
Optional Film Night 3: *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. 7:30pm, AC 137.
- Tu 10/24 Skinner 8
Essay 4
- Th 10/26 McClure 6: Joshel, S. 2002 [1992]. "The Body Female and the Body Politic: Livy's Lucretia and Verginia" & Sources: 163-190.
McClure 7: Wyke, M. 2002 [1989]. "Mistress and Metaphor in Augustan Elegy" & Sources: 193-223.

Tu 10/31	Skinner 9
Th 11/ 2	Ormand, K. 2014. "Foucault's History of Sexuality and the Discipline of Classics." In <i>A Companion to Greek and Roman Sexualities</i> . Hubbard, T., ed. Blackwell: 54-68. Joshel, S. 1997. "Female Desire and the Discourse of Empire: Tacitus' Messalina." In <i>Roman Sexualities</i> . Hallett, J. & Skinner, M., eds. Princeton UP: 221-54.
Tu 11/7	Skinner 10 Essay 5
Th 11/ 9:	Edmonds, R. 2014. "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered: Erotic Magic in the Greco-Roman World." In <i>A Companion to Greek and Roman Sexualities</i> . Hubbard, T., ed. Blackwell: 282-96. Gleason 1: 3-20 Optional Film Night 4: Fellini's <i>Satyricon</i> . 7:30pm, AC 137.
Tu 11/14	Gleason 2 & 3: 21-81.
Th 11/ 16	Gleason 4 & 5: 82-130.
Tu 11/21	Gleason 6 & Conclusion: 131-68.
Th 11/23	Thanksgiving break- no class
Tu 11/28	Presentations Essay 6
Th 11/30	Presentations
W 12/6	All paper revisions due

* The syllabus is subject to change.