

CCIV 281/FGSS 281: GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN ANCIENT GREEK CULTURE
FALL 2013

WED. 7:00-9:50PM – DOWNEY 100

Professor Eirene Visvardi

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Office Hours: Mon. 1:30-3:30 and by appointment

In this course we will examine the construction of gender roles in ancient Greece and approach gender as an organizing principle of private and public life in ancient Greek society. Using literary, scientific, historical, and philosophical sources as well as material evidence, we will address issues including the creation of woman, conceptions of the male and female body, the legal status of men and women; what constitutes acceptable sexual practices and for whom (e.g., heterosexual relationships, homoeroticism, prostitution etc.); ideas regarding desire, masculinity and femininity, and their cultivation in social, political, and ritual contexts such as rituals of initiation, marriage, drinking parties (symposia), the law court, and the theater.

TEXTS

Required (only *these particular editions* are accepted)

1. Stephen Halliwell (2009) *Aristophanes, Birds and Other Plays*, Oxford World's Classics
2. Diane Arnson Svarlien (2007) *Euripides, Alcestis, Medea, Hippolytus*, Hackett
3. Alexander Nehamas and Paul Woodruff (1989) *Plato Symposium*, Hackett
4. Michel Foucault (1990) *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 2: The Use of Pleasure*, Vintage Books

Recommended

1. D. Cohen (1994) *Law, Sexuality, and Society: The Enforcement of Morals in Classical Athens*, Cambridge University Press

Other Readings

Most of the remaining readings will be distributed in hard copies and will also be available on Moodle. When readings are available only on Moodle, you are expected to print them out and bring your hard copies to class. In case you are not able to do so, please let me know so that I provide the relevant hard copy in advance. *It is a requirement for this class that everyone has a hard copy of the day's readings to refer to during class discussion.*

EVALUATION

Preparation and Participation are key components of this course. Please come prepared to discuss both primary and secondary assignments and contribute your ideas and comments on them. Regular attendance is required. One unexcused absence is allowed. Three unexcused absences will result in failing the course. For excused absences, please try to notify me in advance.

Participation: 30%

Participation includes:

Active contribution of your comments and thoughts on the readings and your "2 Points" on a note-card to be handed in at the beginning of every meeting: 20%

A 15-20min presentation followed by your leading a 15-20min discussion; questions by the leaders will be posted on Moodle the Tuesday before the class meets by 5pm: 10%

Details regarding these components will be discussed during the first meeting of the seminar.

Paper 1 (6-8 pages): 20% - Due Fr. Oct. 11 by 6pm by email

Paper 2 (8-10 pages): 25% - Due Fr. Nov. 15 by 6pm by email

Paper 3 (8-12 pages): 25 % - Due Dec. 14. by 6pm by email

CLASSROOM REQUIREMENTS

Discussing the assigned material in depth by looking closely at the language that is particular to the diverse sources and the relevant theories and interpretations is easier for all when there are no distractions from other sources. For this reason, no laptop use is allowed during class time. Also please silence cell phones, blackberries, or other electronic devices before the seminar begins and do not use them for texting, note-taking, or any other reason during class time.

DISABILITIES

It is the policy of Wesleyan University to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students, however, are responsible for registering with Disabilities Services, in addition to making requests known to me in a timely manner. If you require accommodations in this class, please make an appointment with me during the 1st week of classes, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The procedures for registering with Disabilities Services can be found at:
<http://www.wesleyan.edu/deans/disability-students.html>

HONOR CODE

The Honor Code applies to all activities for this class. Please visit:

<http://www.wesleyan.edu/studentaffairs/honorboard/honorcode.html>

All violations of the Code will be referred to the Honor Board.

If you have any questions regarding what the Honor Code involves, please come to discuss it with me.

SCHEDULE

This schedule includes the readings to be prepared in advance for the day they are listed under. A few more readings may be added in the course of the semester.

September 4: Introduction

Why gender and sexuality and why ancient Greece?

Syllabus

September 11: The Female Body: Mythic and Medical Points of View

- The first woman: Pandora (vs. Prometheus): Excerpts from Hesiod's *Works and Days* and *Theogony*

- Zeitlin, F. "The Economics of Hesiod's Pandora" 49-56 in Reeder, E. (1995) *Pandora: Women in Classical Greece*
- The female body in medical writings: Excerpts from Lefkowitz M.R. and Fant M.B. (1982), *Women's Life in Greece and Rome*.
- Dean-Jones, L. "The Cultural Construct of the Female Body in Greek Science" 111-137 in Pomeroy S. (1991) *Women's History and Ancient History*.

September 18: Female (Homo)erotic Poetry, Ritual Initiation, Marriage as (ritual) Death.

- *Homeric Hymn to Demeter*
- Fragments of Sappho
- Lardinois, A. (1994) "Subject and Circumstance in Sappho's Poetry" *TAPhA* 124: 57-84.
- Winkler, J. "Gardens of Nymphs: Public and Private in Sappho's Lyrics" 63-90 in Foley, H. (ed) (1981) *Reflections of Women in Antiquity*.
- Rehm, R. "Fifth Century Marriage and Funeral Rites" 11-29 in Rehm, R. (1994) *Marriage to Death: The Conflation of Wedding and Funeral Rituals in Greek Tragedy*. (focus on pp. 11-21)

September 25: The Male Body. Male (homo)eroticism (1)

The institution of the symposium in the archaic period. The male body (boys and Satyrs).

- Fragments by Archilochus, Anacreon, Ibycus, Theognis, Alcaeus
- Lissarague, F. "The Sexual Life of Satyrs" 53-81 in Halperin, Winkler, and Zeitlin (1990) *Before Sexuality*.
- Foucault, M. *The Use of Pleasure*. Vol.2: Parts I and II: pp. 33-139

October 2: Male homoeroticism (2): Male prostitution in the classical period

- Aeschines, *Against Timarchus*
- Dover, K. p. 1-68 in *Greek Homosexuality*
- Halperin, D. "The Democratic Body: Prostitution and Citizenship in Classical Athens" 88-112 in Halperin, D. (1990) *One Hundred Years of Homosexuality*.

October 9: Female Prostitution

- Demosthenes, *Against Neaira*
- Excerpts from Lucian, *Dialogues of the Courtesans*
- Kurke, L., "Inventing the *Hetaira*: Sex, Politics, and Discursive Conflict in Archaic Greece" *ClAnt* 16.1 (1997) 106-150
- Blundell, S. (1995) "Women in Athenian Law and Society" 113-129 in Blundell, S. (1995) *Women in Ancient Greece*

October 16: Adultery (and Marriage)

- Lysias, *Against Eratosthenes*
- Cohen, D. "The Law of Adultery" and "Adultery, Women, and Social Control" pp. 98-171 in Cohen, D. (1991) *Law, Sexuality, and Society*
- Foucault, M. *The Use of Pleasure*. Vol.2: Part III: pp. 143-184

October 23: Gender and Sexuality in Tragedy (1)

- Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite
- Euripides, *Hippolytus*
- Zeitlin, F.I. "Playing the Other: Theater, Theatricality, and the Feminine in Greek Drama" 63-96 in Winkler J.J. and Zeitlin, F. (1990) *Nothing to Do with Dionysos? Athenian Drama in Its Social Context*

October 30: Gender and Sexuality in Tragedy (2)

- Euripides, *Medea*
- Foley, H. "Tragic Wives: Medea's Divided Self" pp. 243-271 in Foley, H. (2001) *Female Acts in Greek Tragedy*.

November 6: Gender and Sexuality in Tragedy (3)

- Euripides, *Alcestis*
- Segal, C. (1992) "Euripides' *Alcestis*: Female Death and Male Tears" *Classical Antiquity* 11.1: 142-158
- Stears, K. "Death Becomes Her: Gender and Athenian Death Ritual" 139-155 in Suter, A. (2008) *Lament: Studies in the Ancient Mediterranean and Beyond*.

November 13: Comic Reversal of Gender Roles

- Aristophanes, *Assembly-Women* (or *Ecclesiazusae*)
- McClure, L. "Obscenity, Gender, and Social Status in Aristophanes *Thesmophoriazusae* and *Ecclesiazusae*" 206-218 and 236-260 in McClure, L. (1999) *Spoken Like a Woman: Speech and Gender in Athenian Drama*.
- Winkler, J. "Laying Down the Law: the Oversight of Men's Sexual Behavior in Classical Athens" pp. 45-70 in Winkler, J.J. (1990) *The Constraints of Desire*.

November 20: Philosophizing Sexuality

- Plato, *Symposium*
- Excerpts from Plato, *Laws*
- Halperin, D. "Why is Diotima a Woman?" 113-152 in Halperin, D. (1990) *One Hundred Years of Homosexuality*

November 27: No Class – Thanksgiving Break

December 4: 'Greek Love' in the American Court: *Romer v. Evans* (known as the 1993 Colorado Gay Rights Case)

The use of ancient 'evidence' in contemporary debates of gay rights and the relationship between sexual and moral conduct.

- Finnis, J. (1994) " "Shameless Acts" in Colorado: Abuse of Scholarship in Constitutional Cases", *Academic Questions* 7.4: 10-41
- Mendelsohn, D. (1996) "The Stand: Expert Witnesses and Ancient Mysteries in a Colorado Courtroom": *Lingua Franca*:
<http://linguafranca.mirror.theinfo.org/9609/stand.html>