INSTRUCTOR: Dr. K. Olson (kolson2@uwo.ca)

OFFICE: Lawson Hall 3227 (661-2111 x 84525)

OFFICE HOURS: TBA

TIME AND PLACE OF CLASS: MWF 3:30–4:30 PM, AHB 2B02

COURSE OBJECTIVES This course seeks to introduce students to the study of women and women’s lives in Greek antiquity starting from a body of literary and artistic evidence. Marriage and childbearing, women and the law, women’s occupations, and women in history and poetry will be explored from a variety of perspectives; powerpoint lectures will focus on such topics as women’s artifacts, artistic portrayals of women, and female spaces in antiquity.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
On successful completion of this course students are expected to be able to:

- have acquired a knowledge of the socio-political role of women in ancient Greek culture and its expression in Greek art and literature
- read, comprehend, and sum up ancient literary sources in translation concerning women in ancient Greece
- understand the aesthetic developments of ancient Greek art that portray women
- engage in visual literacy; that is, apply strategies for looking at and interpreting art images of women in ancient Greek art, thereby cultivating more sound criteria for judgment
LEARNING OUTCOMES/TRANSFERABLE SKILLS:
Students completing this course are expected to have acquired:

• an understanding of the importance of historical perspective, and how social norms and
customs, and the construction of gender, are products of time, events and context
• a developed understanding of the limits of primary evidence as embodying actual
historical fact
• strong writing, research, analytical, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills

REQUIRED TEXTS:
• In addition, there are a variety of book chapters and journal articles I will ask
you to read. These vary from week to week. Journal articles may be accessed
online through the library website. Books are on 2-hour reserve at Weldon
library (behind the circulation desk: you need to ask for them). You can check
out the books and scan the chapter to a flash drive, email them to yourself, or
print them out—all on any of the DB Weldon photocopiers. You will need a
photocopy card (a Papercut card). You can get this at the circulation desk.

GRADES

Essay topic, annotated bibliography, and outline 5%
Essay 25%
One in-class exam 30%
Final exam (scheduled by the Registrar) 40%

A grade will not be awarded in this course unless **all six** components have been
completed.

NOTE FROM THE DEAN OF ARTS and HUMANITIES: You are responsible for ensuring that you
have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course.
Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be
removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be
appealed.

PLAGIARISM: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever
students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by
using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations.
Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

POLICY ON ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf
[downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): https://studentservices.uwo.ca [under the Medical
Documentation heading]]

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams and/or
assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Office of the Dean of their home
faculty and provide documentation.
ESSAY AND EXAMS:

The in-class exam and the final exam are designed to test the students’ knowledge of textbook reading, and lectures. The essay topic can be selected from a list which will be posted, or students may choose their own in consultation with the instructor. You must inform me of your topic in writing by Wed March 1st. Annotated bibliographies are due Frid March 10th. Outlines are due Mon March 20th. Essays are due FRID MARCH 31st. Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 5% per day. Please look at the Dept. of Classical Studies grading rubric on the ‘resources’ section of our OWL site.

NOTES TO STUDENTS:

1. Since the tests are given in class time, there can be no conflicts. **More than one test on the same day does not constitute a conflict. Please plan your schedule ahead of time.**

2. Exam questions will be based on lectures as well as assigned readings. Failure to complete the required readings before an exam does not constitute a valid reason for postponing that exam. **Please plan your schedule ahead of time.**

3. Those who miss classes or parts of classes remain responsible for the material they have missed. Attendance is **essential.** I do not review the contents of lectures for those who arrive late or miss classes.

4. **I do not re-weight exams** except in cases of serious illness or provable personal crisis. Nor are extra-credit assignments allowed to make up for poor performance on an exam.

CLASS OUTLINE:

**Frid Jan 6:** goals and themes of the course; categories of sex and gender as social and constructs; sources and methodologies.

**Reading:** Lewis 1-12

**PART ONE: ARCHAIC GREECE**

**Mon Jan 9:** Women in archaic literature: Homer and Hesiod
Reading: MacLachlan 1-31
Weds Jan 11: Women in archaic art
Frid Jan 13: Sappho and the lyric poets
Reading: MacLachlan 32-49

PART TWO: THE CLASSICAL PERIOD:
Mon Jan 16: the female body and the nature of women I
Reading: MacLachlan 187-201
Weds Jan 18: the female body and the nature of women II
Frid Jan 20: CLASS CANCELLED (Dr. Olson in Senate)
Mon Jan 23: the young girl (the parthenos)
Reading: MacLachlan 56-57; Lewis 26-28
Weds Jan 25: the Greek wedding
Reading: Lewis 185-194; MacLachlan 57-59; Rehm, R. 1994. Marriage to Death: 11-29
Frid Jan 27: marriage in Greek law and life I
Reading: MacLachlan 59-65
Mon Jan 30: marriage in Greek law and life II
Weds Feb 1: the Greek house I
Frid Feb 3: the Greek house II
Mon Feb 6: domestic labour and the seclusion of women I
Reading: MacLachlan 65-67; Lewis 35-38, 59-90
Weds Feb 8: domestic labour and the seclusion of women II
Frid Feb 10 pregnancy and childbirth
Mon Feb 13: rearing a child
Weds Feb 15: **IN-CLASS EXAM**
Frid Feb 17: CLASS CANCELLED (Dr. Olson in Senate)

**READING BREAK**

Mon Feb 27: children and parents
Weds Mar 1: presentation on research methods (F. Gray, Weldon) **essay topics due**
Frid Mar 3: dissolution of marriage: divorce
Mon Mar 6: adultery
Reading: MacLachlan 70-75
**Weds Mar 8:** dissolution of marriage: old age and death  
**Reading:** MacLachlan 79-84, Lewis 54-58

**Frid Mar 10:** women’s work outside the home **annotated bibliographies due**  
**Reading:** MacLachlan 75-77; Lewis 91-98

**Mon Mar 13:** gender and the Greek city  

**Weds Mar 15:** women and property  

**Frid Mar 17:** foreign women  
**Reading:** MacLachlan 94-97

**Mon Mar 20:** prostitutes and sexuality I **outlines due**  
**Reading:** MacLachlan 68-70, 98-113; Lewis 98-129, 194-199

**Weds Mar 22:** prostitutes and sexuality II  
**Frid Mar 24:** prostitutes and sexuality III; female homoeroticism  

**Mon Mar 27:** female slaves  
**Reading:** MacLachlan 77-78; Lewis 28-35; Golden, M. Slavery and the Greek family, in the *Cambridge World History of Slavery* (online)

**Weds Mar 29:** Gender on the Athenian stage I  
**Reading:** MacLachlan 131-149

**Frid Mar 31 Gender on the Athenian stage II **ESSAYS DUE**

**Mon Apr 3:** Religious life of women and girls  
**Reading:** MacLachlan 115-129; Lewis 22-26, 43-54

**PART THREE: THE HELLENISTIC ERA**

**Weds Apr 5:** Women in Hellenistic literature  
**Reading:** MacLachlan 205-222

**Frid Apr 7:** Women in Hellenistic art