

**DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL STUDIES**  
**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**CS 3300G: ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMAN SEXUALITY**  
**WINTER 2024**



**COURSE OBJECTIVES** This course is designed to give honours-level students insight into ancient sexuality and categories of gender using primary sources. The wide body of artistic evidence available from the ancient world on this topic (in the form of vase-paintings, sculpture, wall-paintings, and everyday objects) is supplemented by a close reading of literary sources in translation.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

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

- have acquired a knowledge of ancient Greek and Roman sexuality and sexual activities, be able to describe in detail the sexual 'blueprint' of antiquity, and be able to outline how ancient sexual categories differ from our own
- identify both iconography and subject matter, and be able to visually analyze ancient art which depicts ancient sexual activities
- address the possible symbolism and meaning of content/subject matter in ancient art within its specific and larger social/historical context
- to understand the discourse surrounding the male and female body in the ancient world
- read, comprehend, and sum up ancient literary sources in translation concerning sexuality

**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 sexuality, are products of time, events and context
- a developed understanding of the limits of primary evidence as embodying actual historical fact

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- C. Vout. *Sex on Show: Seeing the Erotic in Greece and Rome* (Berkeley, 2013)
- J. Clarke. *Looking at Lovemaking: Constructions of Sexuality in Roman Art, 100 B.C. - A.D. 250* (Berkeley 1998).
- *Primary Sources* (on our OWL site). Please note the study questions for each day.
- **All other readings:** please go to: <https://ares.lib.uwo.ca/ares/> You will need your UWO login/password

**\*\*In addition, a useful website to look at is [Diotima: Women and Gender in the Ancient World \(https://diotima-doctafemina.org\)](https://diotima-doctafemina.org)**

## GRADES

Essay topic, annotated bibliography, first draft of essay	5%
One essay	30%
One in-class exam	25%
Final exam (scheduled by the Registrar)	40%

## ESSAYS AND EXAMS:

The in-class exam and the final exam are designed to test the students' visual memory, knowledge of textbook reading, and lectures. The essay (8 -10 pages) will be written on a topic of the students' own choosing (in consultation with the instructor) is due **MON APR 1<sup>st</sup>**. The rough draft of the essay will be written using ChatGPT (or another similar AI program); however, in the final draft of the essay **no AI programs are to be used**. Late essays will be penalized at the rate of **5% per day**. **\*\*For exam and essay formats, please see our OWL site.**

## NOTES TO STUDENTS:

1. Since tests are given in class time, there can be no conflicts. **More than one test on the same day does not constitute a conflict**. Plan your schedule ahead of time.
2. Those who miss classes or parts of classes remain responsible for the material they have missed. I will not review the contents of lectures or repeat announcements for those who arrive late or miss classes. I post **very** basic powerpoints on OWL, but class attendance is still **essential** to understand the details of the lecture.
3. The final grade is calculated on the basis of your performance on the tests, the essay, and final examination **only**. **You cannot do an extra assignment to make up for a poor performance on a test or the final examination**. Nor can I re-weight grades unless I hear from your academic counsellor.
4. If a lecture and its readings appears on the syllabus, **that lecture and readings will appear on the midterm and final exam**, regardless of whether the lecture is given in-person, uploaded as a document to our OWL site, or recorded and uploaded to the OWL site.

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.

**Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:**

For work totaling 10% or more of the final course grade, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University's medical illness policy at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

**Absences from Final Examinations**

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

**Religious Accommodation**

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

**Accommodation Policies**

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic\\_Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf)

**Academic Offences**

**Scholastic offences** are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**Academic Counselling**

Your Home Faculty's Academic Counselling or Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here:

[https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty\\_academic\\_counselling.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html)

**Mental Health Support**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

**Gender-based and sexual violence**

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

### **Accessible Education**

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at [http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html) if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

### **Learning Development and Success**

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **1. Sexuality in Ancient Greece**

#### **Mon Jan 8**

- Introduction; source problems

#### **Weds Jan 10**

- Source problems con't

#### **Frid Jan 12**

- Prudery

**Reading:** *Primary Sources:* 1-3; Vout 204-237; P. Lawton, "For the gentleman and the scholar: scatological references in the Loeb Classical Library," in S. Harrison and C. Stray (eds) *Expurgating the Classics: Editing Out in Greek and Latin* (London: Bristol Classical Press) pp. 175-196; K. Fisher and R. Langlands, "The censorship myth and the secret museum," in S. Hales and J. Paul (eds) *Pompeii in the Public Imagination from its Rediscovery to Today* (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press) pp. 301-15.

#### **Mon Jan 15**

- What is sexuality?; history of the study of sexuality; continuity and change

**Reading:** *Primary Sources:* 3-4; Clarke 7-18; Vout 8-41; D. Halperin et al., "Introduction," in D. Halperin et al., eds. *Before Sexuality: The Construction of Erotic Experience in the Ancient World* (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1990) pp. 3-20; D. Kamen and S. Levin-Richardson. 2015. Revisiting Roman sexuality: agency and the conceptualization of penetrated males. In M. Masterson et al (eds) *Sex in Antiquity: Exploring Gender and Sexuality in the Ancient World* (London and New York: Routledge), 449-60.

#### **Weds Jan 17**

- What is sexuality? con't

#### **Frid Jan 19**

- The male body

**Reading:** *Primary Sources* p. 23; Vout 44-75; A. Stewart. "Three Attic Ideologies," in *Art, Desire and the Body in Ancient Greece* (Cambridge University Press, 1997); pp. 63-75; A. Stewart, "Of war and love," in *Art, Desire and the Body in Ancient Greece* (Cambridge University Press, 1997); pp. 86-97.

**Mon Jan 22**

- The male body con't

**Weds Jan 24**

- The female body

**Reading:** *Primary Sources* pp. 5-22; N. Spivey. "Revealing Aphrodite," in *Understanding Greek Sculpture* (Thames and Hudson, 1996), pp. 173-186; C. Mitchell Havelock, "The Aphrodite of Knidos," in *The Aphrodite of Knidos and Her Successors* (Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press 1995), pp. 9-37.

**Frid Jan 26**

- The female body con't

**Mon Jan 29**

- Heterorotica I: heteroerotic scenes of courtship and lovemaking

**Reading:** *Primary Sources* pp. 24-34; Vout 170-181; look through the plates in Keuls; R. F. Sutton, Jr. "The good, the base, and the ugly: the drunken orgy in Attic vase painting and the Athenian self." In Beth Cohen (ed). *Not the Classical Ideal: Athens and the Construction of the Other in Greek Art* ( Leiden: Brill: 2000) pp. 180-202; R. F. Sutton, Jr. "Pornography and persuasion on Attic pottery," in A. Richlin, ed. *Pornography and Representation in Greece and Rome* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992), pp. 3-35.

**Weds Jan 31**

- Heterorotica II

**Frid Feb 2**

- Heterorotica III

**Mon Feb 5**

- The sex worker in literature and art

**Reading:** *Primary Sources* pp. 55-66; Vout 92-108; E. Cohen, *Athenian Prostitution: The Business of Sex* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2015), 39- 68. J. Davidson, "Women and boys," in *Courtesans and Fishcakes: The Consuming Passions of Classical Athens*. (London: Fontana, 1998), pp. 73-108; A. Glazebrook, "Is there an archaeology of prostitution? In A. Glazebrook and B. Tsakirgas, eds. *Houses of Ill-Repute: The Archaeology of Brothels, Houses, and Taverns in the Greek World* (Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 2016), pp. 169-196.

**Weds Feb 7**

- Solitary performances

**Reading:** M. Kilmer, "Solitary scenes," in *Greek Erotica on Attic Red- Figure Vases* (Duckworth and Co., Ltd, 1983), pp. 60-67

**Frid Feb 9**

- Homoerotica: homoerotic scenes of courtship and lovemaking

**Reading:** *Primary Sources* pp. 35-54; M. Kilmer, "Painters and pederasts: ancient art, sexuality, and social history," in M. Golden and P. Toohey, eds., *Inventing Ancient Culture* (London and New York: Routledge, 1997), pp. 36-49; T. Hubbard, "Peer

homosexuality,” in T. Hubbard (ed) *A Companion to Greek and Roman Sexualities* (Wiley-Blackwell 2014): pp. 128-149; K. Gilhuly, “Lesbians are not from Lesbos,” in R. Blondell and K. Ormond (eds) *Ancient Sex: New Essays* (Ohio State Press 2015) pp. 143-176

### Mon Feb 12

- Homoeroticia II

### Weds Feb 14

- Erotica and the body politic

**Reading:** A. Stewart, “The Athenian body politic,” in *Art, Desire and the Body in Ancient Greece* (Cambridge University Press, 1997), pp. 133-56; J. Davidson, “Politics and politicians,” in *Courtesans and Fishcakes: The Consuming Passions of Classical Athens* (London: Fontana, 1998), pp. 250-260

### Frid Feb 16

- Satyrs

**Reading:** Vout 134-146, 181-192; F. Lissarague. “The sexual life of satyrs,” in D. Halperin et al., eds. *Before Sexuality: The Construction of Erotic Experience in the Ancient World* (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1990) pp. 53-82

## FEB 19- 23: COINFERECE WEEK. NO CLASSES.

### Mon Feb 26 (\*\*essay topics due)

- Hermaphrodites; transvestism

**Reading:** Clarke 49-55; A. Ajootian, “Monstrum or daimon: hermaphrodites in ancient art and culture,” in Brit Berggreen and Nanno Marinatos (eds). *Greece and Gender* (Norwegian Institute at Athens, 1995. Skrifter utgitt av det Norske institutt i Athen; Bd. 2), pp. 93-108. F. Carlà-Uhink. Between the human and the divine: cross-dressing and transgender dynamics in the Greco-Roman world. In D. Campanile et al. (eds) *Transantiquity: Cross-Dressing and Transgender Dynamics in the Ancient World* (Routledge 2017), pp. 3-37.

## Weds Feb 28 IN-CLASS MIDTERM

### 2. Sexuality in Ancient Rome

#### Frid Mar 1

- Phallicism/ the male body: masturbation, impotence, penis as instrument of aggression

**Reading:** *Primary Sources* pp. 67-75; Vout 75-89, 197-201; J. N. Adams, “Attitudes to male genitalia,” in *The Latin Sexual Vocabulary* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1982), pp. 77-79

#### Mon Mar 4

- Phallicism con’t

### Weds Mar 6 (\*\*annotated bibliographies due)

- The female body

**Reading:** *Primary Sources* pp. 76-86; E. D’Ambra. “The calculus of Venus: nude portraits of Roman matrons,” in N. B. Kampen, ed., *Sexuality in Ancient Art*

(Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press 1996), pp. 219-32; D. Kamen and S. Levin Richardson, "Lusty ladies in the Roman imaginary," in R. Blondell and K. Ormond, *Ancient Sex: New Essays* (Columbus: Ohio State Univ. Press, 2015), 231-52.

**Frid Mar 8**

- The female body II

**Mon Mar 11 (\*\*first draft of essay due\*\*)**

- Heteroerotica and oral sex I

**Reading:** Primary Sources pp. 90-104; Vout 109-127

**Weds Mar 13**

- Heteroerotica and oral sex II

**Frid Mar 15**

- Heteroerotica and oral sex III

**Mon Mar 18**

- Erotic paintings and objects: the brothel, the baths, the Roman home

**Reading:** Clarke 91-118, 145-153, 161-177

**Weds Mar 20**

- Erotic paintings and objects: the brothel, the baths, the Roman home

**Reading:** Clarke 91-118, 145-153, 161-177

**Frid Mar 22**

- Prostitutes and the brothel/sexual graffiti

**Reading:** *Primary Sources* pp. 87-90; Clarke 196-206; Catharine Edwards, "Unspeakable professions: public performance and prostitution in ancient Rome," in J. Hallett and M. Skinner, eds., *Roman Sexualities* (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1997), pp. 66-95. C. Williams, "Sexual themes in Greek and Latin graffiti." In T. Hubbard (ed) *A Companion to Greek and Roman Sexualities* (Blackwell, 2014), pp. 493-508.

**Mon Mar 25**

- Sex work and the brothel/ sexual graffiti II

**Reading:** S. Levin-Richardson, "*Fututa sum hic*: female subjectivity and agency in Pompeian sexual graffiti," in *Classical Journal* 108 (2013): 319-45.

**Weds Mar 27**

- Homoeroticism: men's and women's

**Reading:** *Primary Sources* pp. 105-115; Clarke 59-90; Vout 161-167

**Frid Mar 29: NO CLASS (Good Friday)**

**Mon Apr 1**

- Slavery and sexuality

**Reading:** *Primary Sources* pp. 116-121

**Weds Apr 3 (\*\*essays due\*\*)**

- Sex and the arena

**Reading:** *Primary Sources* pp. 122-123

**Frid Apr 5**

- Other races/ bestiality

**Reading:** *Primary Sources* pp. 124-126; Clarke 42-46; Vout 151-158; J. Clarke. "Three uses of the pygmy and the Aethiops at Pompeii: decorating, 'othering,'

and warding off demons.” In L. Bricault, et al. (eds), *Nile into Tiber: Proceedings of the IIIrd International Conference of Isis Studies, Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University, May 11-14, 2005* (Leiden: Brill, 2007) pp. 155-169

**Mon Apr 8 (as needed)**