DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL STUDIES
COURSE OUTLINE
Classical Studies 3350F: WOMEN IN ANCIENT ROME
Autumn 2019

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

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

OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays, 4:00-5:00

TIME AND PLACE OF CLASS: Tues 10:30-12:20, Thurs 11:30-12:20, UCC 54B

REQUIRED TEXTS:


3. Handouts (posted to our OWL site)

4. Other readings: please go to: https://ares.lib.uwo.ca/ares/ OR click the button on the OWL site. You will need your UWO login/password

USEFUL WEBSITES:
Diotima: Women and Gender in the Ancient World: www.diotimawcc.wordpress.com
**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** This course seeks to introduce students to the study of women and women’s lives in Roman 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; as well, 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 ancient Roman gender and gender stereotypes and activities, be able to describe in detail the female ‘blueprint’ of antiquity, and be able to outline how ancient gender ideals differ from our own
- identify both iconography and subject matter, and be able to visually analyze ancient art which depicts Roman women
- 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 female body in the ancient world
- read, comprehend, and sum up ancient literary sources in translation concerning Roman women

**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

**GRADES:**

Essay topic, annotated bibliography: 5%
One essay: 30%
One in-class exam: 25%
Final exam: 40%

100%

**ESSAYS AND EXAMS:**

The exams are designed to test the students’ visual memory of images, and knowledge of readings and lectures. The essay (8–10 pages) will be written on a topic of the students’ own choosing (in consultation with the instructor), or selected from a list of topics, and is due **THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28**. Late essays will be penalized at the rate of **5% per day**.
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 except in cases of documented medical or psychological crisis.

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 https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

POLICY ON ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf

Students seeking academic accommodation for any missed tests, exams and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must either complete a Self-Reported Absence Form (provided the conditions for submission are met) or apply to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty and provide documentation. ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION CANNOT BE GRANTED BY THE INSTRUCTOR OR DEPARTMENT.

In addition to completing a Self-Reported Absence Form or applying to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty, students seeking academic accommodation must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or Student Medical Certificate, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

UWO ACCESSIBILITY POLICY. Western has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social and academic needs of students with disabilities. For more information and links to these services: http://accessibility.uwo.ca/

EMOTIONAL OR MENTAL DISTRESS Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
COURSE OUTLINE:

*Notes:
1. Please do the assigned reading BEFORE the lecture.

2. The L&F references are to **PASSAGE numbers, not page numbers. Note this is the **FOURTH EDITION (with a black cover)

3. Please look on OWL for study questions for the day’s readings. These will help structure your study (***and are also fair game for any exam).

I. INTRODUCTION, SOURCES, EARLY HISTORY

Sept 5
- Source problems; gender and history I
  the history of women in antiquity; women in ancient art

Sept 10: (guest-lecturer) veiling and Roman gender ideologies
Sept 12: (guest-lecturer) statuary as a source for Roman women

Sept 17
- Source problems; gender and history II
  - Women in early Rome
    **Reading:** D’Ambra 9-12; L&F #126-131, 188, 189, 275

II. THE FEMALE LIFE CYCLE (**read D’Ambra 46-91 for this unit**)

Sept 19
- *Patria potestas, tutela,* and betrothal I
  **Reading:** L&F # 132-137, 150-151

Sept 24
- *Patria potestas, tutela,* and betrothal II
- Dowry
  **Reading:** L&F # 157; **handout** (on OWL)

Sept 26
- The Roman wedding in literature and art
  **Reading:** L&F #322-323

Oct 1
- Marriage and concubinage in Roman law
  **Reading:** L&F # 140-142, 146, 148-152, 155, 200-201; **handout** (on OWL)
- The Roman house

**Oct 3**
- Sexuality and emotional life I
  **Reading:** L&F # 287–292; handout (on OWL); Dixon, S. “Representations of female sexualities,” in *Reading Roman Women* (Duckworth 2001), pp. 32–44

**Oct 8**
- Sexuality and emotional life II
- The Roman woman: correct behavior

**Oct 10**
- The Roman woman: incorrect behavior
  **Reading:** L&F # 83, 85, 317, 197
  **Reading:** L&F # 143–145, 154, 156, 162

**Oct 15**
- Pregnancy and childbirth
- Children and childrearing I

**Oct 17**
- Children and childrearing II
  **Reading:** C. Laes, “Touching children in Roman antiquity: the sentimental discourse and the family,” in *Children and Everyday Life in the Roman and Late Antique Worlds* (ed. C. Laes and V. Vuolanto, Routledge, 2016), 60–78

**Oct 22**
- Divorce I
- Divorce II

**Oct 24: MIDTERM****

**Oct 29**
- Widowhood **Essay topics due**
- Old age
Barrow, The incongruous body: portrait of ‘Marcia Furnilla’ as Venus. In Gender, Identity and the Body in Greek and Roman Sculpture (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2018), 110-122.

Oct 31
- Death, inheritance and bequest I
  Reading: L&F # 333-340, 342-343

Nov 4-8 READING BREAK (NO CLASSES)

Nov 12
- Death, inheritance and bequest II

III. CLOTHING AND ADORNMENT
- Clothing and adornment I **Annotated bibliographies due.

Nov 14
- Clothing and adornment II

IV. WOMEN IN PUBLIC (read D'Ambra 94-180 for this unit**)

Nov 19
- Leisure: upper-class women; the educated woman
  Reading: L&F # 196-197, 199, 202-204, 211-215, 221-227, 229-232, 252-253, 260-261, 263, 265-266, 318, 323-324, 350
- Imperial women I
  Reading: Fischler, "Social Stereotypes and Historical Analysis: The Case of Imperial Women at Rome" in Women in Ancient Societies: An Illusion of the Night, eds. L. Archer et al. (Routledge 1994), pp. 115-133.

Nov 21
- Imperial women II

Nov 26
- Women in Pompeii; women in the Roman economy
- Lower-class occupations;
- Prostitutes **ESSAY DUE.
VI. WOMEN IN ROMAN RELIGION

Dec 3
- Slaves
- Women in Roman religion: paganism
  Reading: L&F #511-518, 526, 527, 536-538, 546, 552-553; A. Richlin, “Carrying water in a sieve: class and the body in Roman women’s religion,” in Arguments with Silence (Ann Arbor, 2014), 197-240

Dec 5
- Women in Roman religion: Christianity
  Reading: L&F # 60, 555-568