

Classics 219: Ancient Greek and Roman Sexuality

Spring, 2007

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Office hours: M 9-10; T 11-12; Th 12-1:15

Purpose: In this course we will interrogate the central theses of Foucault's last major work, the *History of Sexuality* (in three volumes). That is, we will question whether or not the ancient Greeks and Romans understood "sexuality" as an integral component of one's identity, and indeed whether they had a concept of "sexuality" as such. We will also examine and attempt to understand the social rules and regulations that ruled over Greek and Roman sexual lives, and their meanings in the larger cultural contexts of those two civilizations. In order to do this, we will read Greek and Roman literature (translated into English) as well as a number of articles and book chapters on the topic.

Students should be warned that nearly every argument they will read in this course has been contested, and that Professor Ormand's views on the topic are by no means shared by all scholars in the field.

Grading: Your grade will be based on five elements:

- a) 2 short interpretive papers (25% each)
- b) one longer final paper (30%)
- c) weekly ungraded "response papers" (10%)
- d) class participation (10%)

Response papers are due each week, Friday at 5:00, to be turned in via the "Journal" section of the course's Blackboard site. These are to be your considered reflections on the reading for the week. You may express personal opinions here (e.g., "I found Ormand's article to be tedious, polemical, and organized according to an arbitrary and undecipherable schema. I did not like it.") I will not grade these responses, except to note whether or not you have completed them regularly and on time.

Your class participation grade will be based on whether you make regular and meaningful contributions to discussion; if you miss classes, or regularly come to class unprepared, this portion of your grade will suffer.

Late Papers: Unless arrangements are made before a paper is due, late papers will be graded down 1/3 letter grade for each day late. Of course, in the case of a legitimate medical excuse, family emergency, etc., the above does not apply. See me as soon as possible, and we will make arrangements.

Attendance: For the duration of this semester and for the purposes of this class, we are a community of scholars. Please plan to attend every class session. If you miss class, it is your responsibility (not mine) to find out what you missed. Talk to a fellow-student in the class. Repeated absences will harm your grade for class participation.

Readings: A good deal of the readings on the syllabus (especially secondary) are on E-Res. You must do these readings. Please let me know if there are problems with E-Res.

Academic Honesty: In the unlikely event that a student is found to have engaged in academic dishonesty (cheating, helping other students to cheat, plagiarism) he/she will be reported to the Honor Board, and will receive a failing grade in the course. If any student is unclear as to what may be considered plagiarism, cheating, etc., she/he should speak to me about it in advance. An excellent discussion of these issues can be found in the Honor Code:

<http://www.oberlin.edu/students/links-life/rules-regs.html#honor> .

A Note on the Martin and Haskell Lectures:

This year the Haskell Lectures are particularly relevant to this class. The lecturer is Bernadette Brooten, the author of *Love Between Women: Early Christian Responses to Female Homoeroticism*, and a particular expert (obviously) on sexuality in the early Christian Church. Her topic is “Slavery: Confronting its Religious and Sexual Legacies.” Her lectures are:
Sunday, Feb. 18, 7:30 pm “The Bible and Biblical Authority”
Monday, Feb. 19, 7:30 pm “Slavery Legislated: Early Christian Canon Law”
Tuesday, Feb. 20, 4:30 pm “Enslaved Women as Surrogate Bodies in Early Christianity”
All lectures are in the Craig Lecture Hall in the Science Center. We should all plan to attend as many of these lectures as possible; in addition, we’ll be reading an excerpt from her book.

This year’s Martin Classical lecturer is Robin Osborne, an expert on early Greek history and art. Though his lectures are not explicitly on sexuality, Prof. Osborne has written extensively on the depiction and role of women in Greek art, as well as some articles on same-sex desire on Greek pottery. Again, we should all attend as many of Prof. Osborne’s lectures as possible. Thursday’s lecture is particularly relevant. The schedule of lectures is:

Monday, March 5, 7:30 pm “Painted pottery and its history”
Tuesday, March 6, 7:30 pm “The politics of war”
Thursday, March 8, 7:30 pm “Athletes and the politics of desire”
Friday, March 9, 4:30 pm “Pots and politics”
All lectures are in the Craig Lecture Hall in the Science Center.

Texts:

Thomas Hubbard, *Homosexuality in Greece and Rome*
Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, vol. 1* (trans. M. Hurley)
Jeffrey Henderson (trans.), *Three Plays by Aristophanes: Staging Women*
P.G. Walsh (trans.) Petronius, *The Satyricon*
Lionel Casson (trans.) Plautus, *Amphitryon and Two Other Plays*
Paul Turner, Longus’ *Daphnis and Chloe* (not yet in at the bookstore)

Schedule of Readings

Feb. 6	Introductions; Syllabus and expectations; A word about what's missing from this course; A brief history of sexuality studies in Classics
8	The Problem <i>Homosexuality in Greece and Rome</i> , 10.37 (pseudo-Lucian, <i>Erotes</i>)
13	No class – Kirk sick.
15	Early Greek poetry and the problem of Sappho <i>Homosexuality in Greece and Rome</i> (HGR) 1.1-1.3 (Archilochus), 1.5-1.27 (Sappho), 1.29-1.34 (Anacreon), 1.84 (Simonides), 1.37-1.83 (Theognis) Additional Greek Lyric Poetry on E-Res in Bing/Cohen <i>Games of Venus</i> . (Read the Archilochus and the Anacreon; Catullus is for later)
Feb. 18-20	<i>Please plan to attend at least one of the lectures by this year's Haskell Lecturer, Prof. Bernadette Brooten.</i>
20	E-Res: Parker, "Sappho Schoomistress," Carson, "The Justice of Aphrodite"
22	E-Res: Selection from B. Brooten (this year's Haskell Lecturer!), <i>Love Between Women</i> . Optional reading: "The First Sexuality?" from D. Halperin, <i>How to Do the History of Homosexuality</i> (on E-Res)
27	Classical Athenian Law and the Male Body <i>HGR</i> 4.4 (Lysias' <i>Against Simon</i>); 4.6 (Demosthenes <i>Against Androtion</i>); 4.7 (Aeschines, <i>Against Timarchus</i>)
March 1	E-Res: Winkler, "Laying Down the Law" from <i>Constraints of Desire</i> ; Halperin, "The Democratic Body," from " <i>One Hundred Years of Homosexuality</i> "
March 5-8	<i>Please plan to attend at least one lecture from this year's Martin Classical Lectures, MT and Th at 7:30, F at 4:30. Thursday's lecture, "Athletes and the Politics of Desire" would be particularly appropriate.</i>
6	How Bodies turn to Philosophy <i>HGR</i> 5.7 (Plato, <i>Symposium</i>); 5.9 (Plato, <i>Phaedrus</i>)
8	E-Res: J. Carnes, "This Myth Which is Not One: Construction of Discourse in Plato's <i>Symposium</i> " from <i>Rethinking Foucault</i> ; D. Halperin, "Plato and Erotic Reciprocity"
13	A week of theory Foucault, <i>History of Sexuality</i> vol. 1: pp.1-14, 51-74

15	<i>History of Sexuality</i> , vol. 1, pp.75-132.
Friday, March 16	Paper Group A, first paper is due at 5:00 pm (turned in via “Assignments” on Blackboard)
20	Athenian Comedy and Cross-dressing Aristophanes, <i>Thesmophoriazousae</i> , HGR 2.22-2.27 (Graffiti, Vase Inscriptions); HGR 3.1-3.13, 3.15-3.17 (Excerpts from Aristophanes)
22	E-Res: Excerpt from Henderson, <i>The Maculate Muse</i> ; Excerpt from Zeitlin, “Travesties of Gender and Genre in the <i>Thesmophoriazousae</i> ”
Friday, March 23	Paper Group B, first paper is due at 5:00 pm (turned in via “Assignments” on Blackboard”) You may turn this paper in early.
March 24- April 1	Fall Break, no classes
April 3	Hellenistic poetry, or Fun in the Sun HGR Chapter 6 (All); E-res: Herondas, “The Dildo” (complete) (please note that this is currently called “The Ditch” on E-res. No comment.)
5	We begin Rome Plautus, <i>Casina</i> , HGR 7.7-7.15 (Excerpts from Roman Comedy)
10	Aggressive Masculinity HGR 7.39-7.51 (Catullus); 7.57-7.64 (Cicero); More Catullus on E-Res in Bing/Cohen’s “Games of Venus”
12	E-Res: Excerpt from David Wray, <i>Catullus and the Poetics of Manhood</i>
17	A serious challenge to the paradigm: E-res: A. Richlin, “Not Before Homosexuality.”
19	A response to Richlin E-Res: <i>Williams</i> , Roman Homosexuality, Ch. 5
24	But what about the Women? HGR 8.21-8.22 (Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> : Iphis and Ianthe, Orpheus) E-Res: Additional Ovid (Salamacis and Hermaphroditus, Death of Orpheus, Caenis) D. Pintabone, “Ovid’s Iphis and Ianthe: When Girls Won’t be Girls.”
26	Cinaedi and Soldiers Petronius, <i>Satyricon</i> , first half

Friday, April 27	Paper Group A, second paper due at 5:00 pm
May 1	Petronius, <i>Satyricon</i> , second half; <i>HGR</i> 9.7 (Suetonius, <i>Nero</i>)
3	Later Rome <i>HGR</i> 9.13 (Musonius Rufus), 9.16-17 (Graffiti), 9.18-31 (Martial); <i>HGR</i> 10.20 (Artemidorus); E-Res: Excerpt #1 from Foucault, <i>The History of Sexuality, vol.3: The Care of the Self</i> , pp.17-25
Friday, May 4	Paper Group B, second paper due at 5:00 pm
8	Narrating the erotic self <i>Daphnis and Chloe</i> , books 1-2
10	<i>Daphnis and Chloe</i> , books 3-4 E-Res: Foucault, excerpt #2 from <i>The History of Sexuality vol. 3: The Care of the Self</i> , pp. 228-232.
May 13-15	Reading Period
May 19	Final paper/project is due Saturday, May 19 at 11:00 am. No exceptions.