

Department of Classical Studies
Course Outline
Classical Studies 3310F
WOMEN IN ANCIENT GREECE
AUTUMN 2024



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

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

OFFICE HOURS: in person, Mondays, 4:00-5:00 PM or by appointment

TIME AND PLACE OF CLASS: see OWL

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:

- MacLachlan, B. 2012. *Women in Ancient Greece: A Sourcebook*. Bloomsbury. ppk
- Lewis, S. 2002. *The Athenian Woman: An Iconographic Handbook*. Routledge. Ppk
- In addition, there are a variety of book chapters and journal articles I will ask you to read. These vary from week to week. See the 'course readings' button on the OWL site.

****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	5%
Essay	25%
One in-class exam**	30%
Final exam (scheduled by the Registrar)	40%

= 100%.

****Please note that this assessment is central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for this assessment will be provided with the opportunity to make up this work by a make-up exam.**

IMPORTANT POLICIES:

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.

Religious Accommodation

Students should review the [policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

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%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

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

AI:

You may not use a generative AI program in the preparation of your essay bibliography OR to create a final draft of your essay. You MAY use it to create a first draft of your essay.

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

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 University [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 gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact 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 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.

USC

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Academic Consideration

Students must familiarize themselves with the University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs posted on the Academic Calendar:

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/academicconsiderationSep24.pdf>

This policy does not apply to requests for academic consideration submitted for attempted or completed work, whether online or in person. The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult Accessible Education.

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:

<https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academicconsiderations/>

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

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.

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/2400-3000 words) will be written on a topic of the students' own choosing (please consult me or see the list of essay topics on OWL) and is due anytime **FRIDAY NOV 29 -FRIDAY DEC 6**. After that date, essays will be penalized at the rate of **5%** per day. Please note that because the submission deadline for the essay already includes flexibility, any academic consideration for this assignment will require documentation.

NOTE: You may not use a generative AI program in the preparation of your essay bibliography OR to create a final draft of your essay. You MAY use it to create a first draft of your essay.

****For exam and essay formats, please see our OWL site.**

CLASS OUTLINE:

Frid Sept 6

- **Introduction:** goals and themes of the course

Mon Sept 9

- Categories of sex and gender as social constructs; sources and methodologies
Reading: Lewis 1-12

PART ONE: ARCHAIC GREECE

Weds Sept 11

- Categories of sex and gender con't
- Women in archaic literature: Homer and Hesiod; women in archaic art

Reading: MacLachlan 1-31

Frid Sept 13

- Sappho and the lyric poets

Reading: MacLachlan 32-49

Mon Sept 16

- Women in myth (goddesses, wild women, women and containers)

Weds Sept 18

- Women in myth (goddesses, wild women, women and containers) con't

PART TWO: THE CLASSICAL PERIOD

Frid Sept 20

- The female body and the nature of women I

Reading: MacLachlan 187-201

Mon Sept 23

- The female body and the nature of women II

Reading: Hanson, A. 1990. The medical writer's woman. In D. Halperin *et al* (eds) *Before Sexuality: the Construction of the Erotic Experience in the Ancient Greek World*. Princeton: 309-337. Carson, A. 1990. Putting her in her place: women, dirt and desire. In D. Halperin *et al* (eds) *Before Sexuality: the Construction of the Erotic Experience in the Ancient Greek World*. Princeton: 135-70. R. Blondell. 2013. *Helen of Troy: Beauty, Myth, Devastation*. Oxford: 1-26.

Weds Sept 25

- The young girl (the *parthenos*)

Reading: MacLachlan 56-57; Lewis 20-28

Frid Sept 27

- Clothing and adornment

Mon Sept 30: NO CLASS (Nat'l Day of Truth and Reconciliation)

Weds Oct 2

- The Greek wedding

Reading: Lewis 185-194; MacLachlan 57-59; Rehm, R. 1994. *Marriage to Death*: 11-29

Frid Oct 4

- Marriage in Greek law and life I

Reading: MacLachlan 59-65

Mon Oct 7

- Marriage in Greek law and life II

Reading: Lewis 172-77; Cox, C. 2011. Marriage in ancient Athens. In B. Rawson (ed). *A Companion to Families in the Greek and Roman Worlds*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell: 231-44.

Weds Oct 9

- The Greek house I

Frid Oct 11

- The Greek house II

MON OCT 14-FRID OCT 18: READING BREAK (no classes)

Mon Oct 21:

- Domestic labour and the seclusion of women II
Reading: MacLachlan 65-67; Lewis 35-38, 59-90

Weds Oct 23: IN-CLASS MIDTERM

****Please note that this assessment is central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for this assessment will be provided with the opportunity to make up this work by a make-up exam.**

Frid Oct 25

- Domestic labour and the seclusion of women I

Mon Oct 28 (essay topics due**)**

- Gender and the Greek city
Reading: Davidson, J. 2011. Bodymaps: sexing space and zoning gender in ancient Athens. In *Gender and History* 23.3: 597-614 (online); and Nevett, L. 2011. Towards a female topography of the ancient Greek city. In *Gender and History* 23.3: 576-96 (online)

Weds Oct 30

- Women's education
Reading: Lewis 130-171; Glazebrook, A. 2005. Reading women: book rolls on Attic vases. *Mouseion*

Frid Nov 1

- Pregnancy and childbirth
Reading: MacLachlan 53-55, 67-68; Dasen, V. 2011. Childbirth and infancy in Greek and Roman antiquity. In B. Rawson (ed). *A Companion to Families in the Greek and Roman Worlds*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell: 291-314.

Mon Nov 4

- Rearing a child
Reading: MacLachlan 55-56; Lewis 13-22, 38-42, 177-185; Golden, M. 2003. Childhood in ancient Greece, in Neils and Oakley (eds) *Coming of Age in Ancient Greece*: 13-29.

Weds Nov 6 (annotated bibliographies due**)**

- Children and parents

Frid Nov 8

- Dissolution of marriage: divorce

Mon Nov 11

- Adultery
Reading: MacLachlan 70-75

Weds Nov 13

- Dissolution of marriage: old age and death
Reading: MacLachlan 79-84, Lewis 54-58

Frid Nov 15

- Foreign women /metics

Reading: MacLachlan 75-77, 94-97; Lewis 91-98

Mon Nov 18

- Sex workers and sexuality I

Reading: MacLachlan 68-70, 98-113; Lewis 98-129, 194-199

Weds Nov 20

- Sex workers and sexuality II

Frid Nov 22

- Sex workers and sexuality III

Mon Nov 25

- Female homoeroticism

Reading: Rabinowitz, N. 2002. Excavating women's homoeroticism in ancient Greece. In *Among Women: From the Homosocial to the Homoerotic in the Ancient World*. Univ. of Texas Press: 106-66.

Weds Nov 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)

Frid Nov 29 (essays due** anytime from now till Frid Dec 6)**

- Gender on the Athenian stage I

Reading: MacLachlan 131-149; Aristophanes *Assemblywomen* 877-1111 (on our OWL site); *Hecuba* 299-582, 726-904, 1056-end (to come).

Mon Dec 2

- Gender on the Athenian stage I

Weds Dec 4

- Religious life of women and girls

Reading: MacLachlan 115-129; Lewis 22-26, 43-54

PART THREE: THE HELLENISTIC ERA

Frid Dec 6

- Women in the Hellenistic era

Reading: MacLachlan 205-222