CL2350

Gender in Classical Antiquity 2017-18

**Course leader**: Dr. Richard Hawley **Value**: 1 unit = 30 credits

**Course delivery**: One lecture + one seminar per week

Students will be expected to work several hours each week outside class in advance for seminars, using the course sourcebook, seminar worksheets, and Moodle learning resources.

Please note: you will only be in ONE of the two seminar groups given on the timetable. I shall try my best to suit your preferences, which I shall ask for in the first session, but the classes have to be roughly the same size, so this may not always be possible. I shall, however, take into account valid timetable clashes with other courses, when I am notified of them.

Dr. Hawley will deliver all the lectures and seminars himself.

**Topics covered include:**

* Introduction to concepts of sex & gender: then and now
* Archaic Greek images of gender: Homer, Hesiod, Sappho, satire
* Gender in Greek law: Athens, Sparta, Gortyn
* Classical Athenian drama: tragedy, comedy
* Gender and Greek religion
* Sexualities
* Greco-Roman philosophy: Plato, Aristotle, Stoics
* Greco-Roman medical thought: Hippocratics, Aristotle, Soranus, Galen
* Ideals of female and male sexed bodies & dress in Greco-Roman culture
* Gender in the Hellenistic period
* Gender in early Roman history: Livy
* Roman law & gender
* The Roman Republic: growing immorality?
* Early Roman Empire: Augustus' moral reforms; Antony & Cleopatra
* Gender and Roman religion
* Roman love: sexuality, power, poetry & philosophy
* Studying Roman family relations
* Recent (and not so recent!) trends in studying Greco-Roman gender

The course covers the time period c.800 B.C. to c.150 A.D. It does not cover ancient Egypt, nor does it deal in any depth with gender in early Christian thought. All texts are discussed in English translation, so no knowledge of ancient Greek or Latin is required, but you can by all means use it in coursework and the exam if you have it.

**Assessment**

* Two coursework essays, each 2500-3000 words, one per term (deadlines to be announced at the start of the course); both must be submitted but the better mark provides 20% of the assessment. Essay titles will be distributed at the start of the course on the course Moodle page: there is a good degree of choice.
* One 3-hour exam in Summer Term provides the remaining 80%. Past papers are available online.

**Required course textbook**

* M.R. Lefkowitz & M.B. Fant (eds.)*: Women’s Lives in Greece & Rome* (**4th** ed., Bloomsbury 2016; with a predominantly BLACK cover; about £29 paperback) – **you must have your own copy of this sourcebook, as you’ll be using it every week**. **Make sure that you get the correct edition! (Earlier editions have quite different numbering and do not contain all the passages in the fuller 4th edition that we shall use.)**

**Course Moodle page & handouts**

The Moodle page will not be available until just before the start of the academic year, when course registrations are finalised and College ‘rolls over’ the Moodle pages for the next intake.

The course page contains a large number of extra learning resources, including the secondary scholarship that you will be expected to read and think about each week for seminar discussion, so you won’t need to access it in the library.

**The page also includes all the lecture handouts and seminar worksheets**: **you will be expected to access these electronically or to bring along your own printed hard copies to lectures and seminars**. Paper copies will not be distributed in class. This is in line with the College’s sustainability policy.

**Second Year Gender Projects**

Linked Second Year projects are available for this course: please see the separate document.

**Suggested vacation work**

There is no required summer reading. Instead I recommend that you read around generally in any Greek or Roman topic that interests you and might relate to other modules you will be taking next year. Gender permeates all ancient evidence and culture, so anything you read will help to widen your understanding of Greco-Roman culture.

However if you do want to read something gender-specific, then any of the following would be useful:

* L. Foxhall *Studying gender in classical antiquity*, Cambridge University Press 2013 (a recent study, with a focus on material evidence)
* B. Holmes *Gender: antiquity and its legacy*, I.B. Tauris & Co. 2012 (looking at how ancient ideas are received in more modern times)
* S. B. Pomeroy *Goddesses, Whores, Wives & Slaves: women in classical antiquity*, Bodley Head 2015 (and many earlier editions since 1975, including one recently by Pimlico Press, which you can find cheaply secondhand on Amazon). This is the first real study of classical women’s lives. It has a (feminist) perspective very much of its time, but has a lot of basic sound material.
* E. Fantham & others *Women in the Classical World: image and text*, Oxford University Press 1995 (has a wealth of visual material and helpful, brief chapter surveys).

If you have any queries, please do email me. Otherwise I look forward to seeing you in the autumn.

RGH 5/2017