

Gender and Identity in Ancient Rome

Our understanding of any society is enhanced by an awareness of how it thinks about sexuality and gender. The sexual act itself is often categorized in polar terms—such as “(un)natural” or “culturally constructed”—that reveal much about a society’s political, religious, and moral codes. Ancient Rome was no different. This course will examine ways in which ancient Roman society slotted sexual behavior into such categories, and/or used (or did not use) these extreme polarities as a way to formulate codes of social and sexual behavior. By the end of the course, students will have a clearer understanding of large dynamics of ancient Roman culture, and perhaps even of their own world.

Grading

The following rubrics will be used to measure your comprehension and analytical skills:

Participation	25%
Presentation	25%
Bibliography review	10%
Final Paper	40%

Participation

Attendance is mandatory, though perfect attendance results only in a B- for this part of the grade. Active and frequent participation based upon the assigned readings will be required in order to achieve an excellent grade.

Presentation

Each student will lead part of a class discussion on an assigned text. Presentations should be 20-25 minutes, and allow for discussion afterwards.

Paper

There will be one 20 page paper. The first step will be writing a bibliography review on your subject, and that will be due in early August. I will provide feedback, and then you will develop your larger paper from that.

Schedule

May 22 Intro: State of the Question; Evidence and Limitations;
Approaches

May 29 Greece and Rome (?): Foucault, *The Use of Pleasure*, 3-24;
Halperin, *One Hundred Years of Homosexuality*, 15-53;

- Parker, 'The Teratogenic Grid'; Williams, *Roman Homosexuality*, pp.3-14 (ebook through library)
- June 5 Sexual Practices and Symbolism
Carmina Priapea
Clarke, *Looking at Love Making*, 59-144
- June 12 Masculinity and Creating the Male
Plutarch, *Life of Cato*;
Livy 1
Gleason, 103-30
- June 19 Femininity and Creating the Female
Soranus, Book 3 (ebook through library);
Lefkowitz and Fant, pp. 94-128
Gardner, *Women in Roman Law and Society*, 117-36;
Beard, 'Sexual Status of Vestal Virgins' *JRS* 1980 12-27;
'Rereading (Vestal) Virginité' in *Women in Antiquity, new assessments*
- June 26 Marriage and social roles
Williams, *Roman Homosexuality*, 15-61;
(ebook through library); Petronius, *Satyricon*
Treggiari, *Roman Marriage*, 3-82; 229-322 (ebook through library)
Catullus 61
- July 10 Effeminancy
Catullus 1-59; 63;
Williams, *Roman Homosexuality* 245-58.
- July 17 Archaeology
Treggiari, *Roman Marriage*, 397-434;
Wallace- Hadrill, *Houses and Society*, Ch.1; Kampen
'Gender Theory in Roman Art' in *I, Claudia*
- July 24 Plautus
Casina and *Amphitryon*
- July 31 Research planning sessions
- August 7 Statius
Achilleid