

Classics 219: Ancient Greek and Roman Sexuality

Fall, 2008

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Office hours: M 9-10; W 2:30-4; Th 10-11 and by appt.

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 defined "sexuality" by object-choice, whether they 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.

Important note: This class fulfills the requirement of a "gateway" class for the major in Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies. It also fulfills the "related courses" requirement for the majors in Greek, Latin, or Classical Civilization.

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:

Response papers are due each week, Friday at 5:00, to be turned in as a message on Blackboard to Prof. Ormand. There is a handy button marked "Response papers" on the course's Blackboard site to facilitate this. These papers are to be your considered reflections on the reading for the week. You may express personal opinions here as well as brief analyses. I will not grade these responses, except to note whether or not you have completed them regularly and on time.

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, having read *and thought about* the readings assigned for that day. If you miss class, it is your responsibility (not mine) to find out what you missed. Talk to a fellow-student in the class. 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.

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.

Rules for Discussion:

- 1) I expect every member of the class, even the shy ones, to contribute to discussion. To this end, I will sometimes refuse to call on more talkative members of the class, and may institute artificial discussion rules to encourage more people to speak up.
- 2) Discussion, by its very nature, tends not to be linear. My tendency is to allow us to wander if a tangent sounds promising. If your comment is completely off topic, however, or has to do with something that was said 10 minutes ago (and the class has since moved on), consider not making your comment. The best discussions will be those in which we are all deliberate about our participation.
- 3) This class is about sex, and talking about sex in public can be difficult. Please treat everyone in the class with respect. If you disagree with something that is said, disagree with the statement, not the person.
- 4) That said, sex is also funny. Please accept the fact that members of the class will laugh at some of the things we read, and some of the comments that are made. If something that is serious for you gets laughed at, try to address the issue without becoming personally offended. A certain amount of nervous energy will be released in laughter, and that may allow us to deal with a topic in more depth and more seriously after the release.
- 5) If you feel that things are getting out of hand, please let me know in private (in person, via e-mail, response papers, etc.) and I will attempt to address the issue.

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. Please note that the use of another person's word *or ideas* without citation constitutes plagiarism. 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> .

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*

Lionel Casson (trans.) Plautus, *Amphitryon and Two Other Plays*

Paul Turner (trans), Longus' *Daphnis and Chloe*

Schedule of Readings

Sept. 2	Introductions; Syllabus and expectations; A word about what's missing from this course; A brief history of sexuality studies in Classics
4	The Problem <i>Homosexuality in Greece and Rome</i> , 10.37 (pseudo-Lucian, <i>Erotes</i>)
9	Early Greek poetry and the problem of Sappho <i>Homosexuality in Greece and Rome (HGR)</i> 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)
11	E-Res: Parker, "Sappho Schoomistress," Carson, "The Justice of Aphrodite" Stehle, "Sappho's Private World"
16	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>)
18	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> "
23	A week of theory Foucault, <i>History of Sexuality</i> vol. 1: pp.1-75, with particular emphasis on 1-14, 51-75. Warning: This will take some time.
25	E-Res: excerpt from Foucault, <i>History of Sexuality</i> vol.2
30	Athenian Comedy and Cross-dressing Aristophanes, <i>Thesmophoriazousae</i> , <i>HGR</i> 2.22-2.27 (Graffiti, Vase Inscriptions); <i>HGR</i> 3.1-3.13, 3.15-3.17 (Excerpts from Aristophanes)
Oct. 2	E-Res: Excerpt from Henderson, <i>The Maculate Muse</i> ; Hubbard, "Popular Perceptions of Elite Homosexuality in Classical Athens"
3	Paper Group A, first paper is due at 5:00 pm (turned in via "Assignments" on Blackboard)
7	How Bodies turn to Philosophy <i>HGR</i> 5.7 (Plato, <i>Symposium</i>); E-Res: J. Carnes, "This Myth Which is Not One: Construction of Discourse in Plato's <i>Symposium</i> " from <i>Rethinking Foucault</i> .

9	<i>HGR</i> 5.9 (Plato, <i>Phaedrus</i>) E-Res: D. Halperin, "Plato and Erotic Reciprocity" Thorp, "The Social Construction of Homosexuality"
10	Paper Group B, first paper is due at 5:00 pm (turned in via "Assignments" on Blackboard")
14	Visual Evidence: E-Res: Shapiro, H. Allan 2000. "Leagros and Euphronios: Painting and Pederasty in Athens;" Keith DeVries, " 'The Frigid Eromenoi' and their Wooers Revisited: A Closer Look at Greek Homosexuality in Vase Painting"
16	Davidson's Challenge and the Eurymedon vase: E-Res: James Davidson, "Dover, Foucault, and Greek Homosexuality: Penetration and the Truth of Sex," G. Pinney, "For the Heroes are at Hand"
Oct. 18-26	Fall Break, no classes
28	Hellenistic poetry, or Fun in the Sun <i>HGR</i> Chapter 6 (All); E-res: Herondas, "The Dildo"
30	We begin Rome Plautus, <i>Casina</i> , <i>HGR</i> 7.7-7.15 (Excerpts from Roman Comedy)
Nov. 4	Aggressive Masculinity <i>HGR</i> 7.39-7.51 (Catullus); 7.57-7.64 (Cicero); More Catullus on E-Res in Bing/Cohen's "Games of Venus"
6	E-Res: Excerpt from David Wray, <i>Catullus and the Poetics of Manhood</i> .
11	A serious challenge to the paradigm, via Roman Law: E-res: A. Richlin, "Not Before Homosexuality." Excerpts from the <i>Digest of Justinian</i>
13	A response to Richlin E-Res: Williams, <i>Roman Homosexuality</i> , Ch. 5
18	Elegiac mistresses: <i>HGR</i> 8.14 (Tibullus 1.4) E-Res: Additional Propertius and Ovid, trans. Ormand. Oliensis, "The Erotics of Amicitia: Readings in Tibullus, Propertius, and Horace."
20	Transgender stories:

	<p><i>HGR</i> 8.21 (Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i>: Iphis and Ianthe) E-Res: Additional Ovid (Salamacis and Hermaphroditus, Death of Orpheus, Caenis) E-Res: D. Pintabone, “Ovid’s Iphis and Ianthe: When Girls Won’t be Girls.”</p>
21	Paper Group A, second paper due at 5:00 pm
25	<p>Cinaedi and Soldiers in the age of Nero <i>HGR</i> 9.7 (Suetonius, <i>Nero</i>); 9.14 Petronius, <i>Satyricon</i>, E-Res: Excerpts from the <i>Priapaea</i></p>
Dec. 2	<p>More cinaedi: <i>HGR</i> 9.38 (Juvenal, Satire 2) E-Res: Seneca, <i>Natural Questions</i> 1.14-16 (This passage is in <i>HGR</i>, but the translation there is not good.)</p>
4	<p>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</p>
5	Paper Group B, second paper due at 5:00 pm
9	<p>Narrating the erotic self <i>Daphnis and Chloe</i>, books 1-2</p>
11	<p><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. Closure achieved; the truth revealed</p>
Dec. 13-15	Reading Period
Dec. 17	Final paper/project is due Saturday, Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 11 am. No exceptions.