Course Objectives: This course seeks to explore how women were represented in the arts in the Mediterranean from ancient Sumeria of the third millenium BCE to Late Antique Rome, ca. 300 CE. Our goals are to introduce students to current debates and discussions about both the condition of women in the ancient world and the manner in which a woman was represented, particularly in the material culture of antiquity. We shall grapple with the paucity of evidence generated by women themselves and we will consider to what extent the images in texts and art constitute the foundation of contemporary notions of a womanís identity. Readings geared towards analyses of the visual and literary arts will provide students with a cultural and historical context useful for classroom discussion.

Course Responsibilities: Reading, visual analyses, writing and discussion are all fundamental activities of the course. I expect students to have read thoughtfully and carefully the class assignments. By the end of the course, you should have a grasp of fundamental issues both theoretical and art/historical concerning the study of women in antiquity. You must also exhibit an ability to interpret data (visual evidence and texts) meaningfully and independently in class presentations and written work. Each student will be responsible for introducing the material in one or more classes. You will sign up for the session of your choice in class. Students must satisfactorily complete all assignments to pass the course.

Final grades will be based on performance in class and on written assignments. Assignments include two class presentations accompanied by a 2-3 page exploration of some aspect of your presentation topic and one in-depth, research paper (10-12 pages, 30%). Class participation (constituted by weekly contributions to discussion in the form of either a brief precis of the readings or presentation of questions raised by the readings) will account for the final 20% of the grade. Paper and class presentation topics will be announced in class.

Class participation: All classes will be conducted as discussions; thus, class preparation, attendance, and participation are mandatory. Two unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your final grade by five points. Every missed class beyond the second will lower your grade an additional point. Except for days on which you are designated to present, you are allowed one day of unpreparedness if called on--no questions asked.

Texts:
N. B. Kampen, ed. Sexuality in Ancient Art. Near East, Egypt, Greece and Italy. Cambridge UP, 1996.[SAA]
Mary Lefkowitz and Maureen Fant, Women's Life in Greece and Rome, 2d edition. Handouts distributed in class corresponding to readings on syllabus

Class Schedule: The following is a tentative schedule for the class:
1 Aug.23, Thurs Introduction: Review syllabus, class requirements, general overview.
2 Aug.28 Tues.

Theoretical background


3 Aug.30 Thurs.

Theoretical background:


Sept. 4, Tues.
Labor Day Holiday

4 Sept.6, Thurs.
Sign up for in-class presentations
Pre-history and women:
Prehistoric Idols, Cycladic Figurines, and their function?
Theories of Matriarchy:
Joan Bamberger, “Myth of Matriarchy: Why Men Rule in Primitive Society,” in Lamphere and Rosaldo, Woman Culture and Society, (Stamford 1974);

5 Sept.11, Tues.
Sumeria:


6 Sept.13, Thurs.
Levant and Middle East:

Michelle Marcus, “Sex and the Politics of Female Adornment in Pre-Achaemenid Iran (1000-800 BCE),” in Sexuality in Ancient Art, ed. by Natalie Kampen, (Cambridge, 1996), pp. 41-54
7 Sept.18, Tues.  
**Egypt-History**

8 Sept.20, Thurs.  
**Egypt-Art History**

9 Sept.25, Tues.  
**Egypt**
Hatshepsut’s Architectural Patronage: Reading TBA

10 Sept.27, Thurs.  
**Greek: History and Background**
Readings TBA

11 Oct.2, Tues.  
**Greek: Powerful Women: The Comic and the Tragic**
Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*  
Eripteds, *Medea*

12 Oct.4, Thurs.  
**Greek: Bodies**

13 Oct.9, Tues.  
**Greek: Anatomy and Medicine**
*WICW*, ch. 6, L. Dean-Jones, “Medicine the Proof of Anatomy.”  

**Paper Topics Due**
14 Oct.11, Thurs. **Greek:**

Oct.16, Tues. **Mid-Fall Holiday**

15 Oct.18, Thurs. **Greek: Death and Marriage**
Christine Havelock, “Mourners on Greek vases,” in Broude and Garard, edd. *Feminism and Art History: Questioning the Litany* (New York, 1982).


17 Oct.25, Thurs. **Hellenistic World:**
Film: *Cleopatra*
Time TBA

18 Oct.30, Tues.: **Hellenistic World: Cleopatra**
*Cleopatra’s Egypt: Age of the Ptolemies*. Exhibition catalog (Brooklyn)

19 Nov.1, Thurs. **Rome: History and Background**
**Republican Heroines and Traitors**
*WICW*, ch. 7, “Republican Rome I: From Marriage by Capture to Partnership in War--The Proud Women of Early Rome.”

20 Nov.6, Tues.: **Rome: Empire and making use of a woman’s image**
21 Nov.8, Thurs. Rome: Empresses and their images
Livia: Barton, E. Portraits of Livia
Agrippina:
McDougall, J. Tacitus and the Portrayal of the Elder Agrippina

22 Nov.13, Tues. Rome: Patronage
WICW, ch. 12
Readings TBA

23 Nov.15, Thurs. Rome: Women and Goddesses
B. Bergman “The Pregnant Moment Tragic Wives in Roman Interiors,” in Sexuality in Ancient Art
Open forum

24 Nov.20, Tues.: Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov.22, Thurs. Rome: The Late Empire, Readings TBA
25 Nov.27, Tues. Rome: Early Christianity, Readings TBA
26 Nov.29, Thurs.
27 Dec. 4, Tues. Closing Remarks

FINAL PAPERS DUE By 5:00 PM