

Women in the Arts in the Ancient Mediterranean
Fall 2001
Course no.: ART 365

Prof: Margaret L. Woodhull
412
Meeting Time: Tu/Th 1-2:30 p.m.
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Office and Office Hours: Clough Hall
Mon. 3-5 p.m. and by appt.

Course Objectives: This course seeks to explore how women were represented in the arts in the Mediterranean from ancient Sumeria of the third millennium 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 woman's 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:

Elaine Fantham, *et al.*, *Women in the Classical World*. Oxford UP, 1994. [*WICW*]
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

Sherry Ortner, "Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?" in Rosaldo and Lamphere, edd. *Woman, Culture and Society* (Stamford, 1974), pp. 67-87.

Joan Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," *AHR* 91.5 (Dec. 1986), 1053-75.

3 Aug.30 Thurs.

Theoretical background:

N. B. Kampen, "Gender Theory in Ancient Art," in *I, Claudia: Women in Ancient Rome*. (Yale UP, 1996), pp. 14-25.

Lucia Nixon "Gender Bias in Archaeology," in Leonie Archer et al., editors, *Women in Ancient Society* (New York: Routledge, 1994) pages 1-23.

Sept. 4, Tues.

4 Sept.6, Thurs.

Sign up for in-class presentations

Labor Day Holiday

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);

S. Georgoudi, "Creating a Myth of Matriarchy," in Pantel, P. S. ed. *A History of Women in the West*. Cambridge, MA, pp. 449-63;

5 Sept.11, Tues.

Sumeria:

Karen Rhea Nemet-Nejat, "Women in Ancient Mesopotamia." Ch. 4 in *Women's Roles in Ancient Civilizations: A Reference Guide*. Ed. Bella Vivante (London: Greenwood Press, 1999), pp. 85-114.

Susan Pollock "Women in a Men's World: Images of Sumerian Women," in Joan M. Gero and Margaret W. Conkey, *Engendering Archaeology* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1991)

6 Sept.13, Thurs.

Levant and Middle East:

Mayer I. Gruber, "Women in the Ancient Levant." Ch. 5, in *Women's Roles in Ancient Civilizations: A Reference Guide*. Ed. Bella Vivante (London: Greenwood Press, 1999), pp. 115-152

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

Gay Robins, "Women in Ancient Egypt," Ch. 6, in *Women's Roles in Ancient Civilizations: A Reference Guide*. Ed. Bella Vivante (London: Greenwood Press, 1999), pp. 155-187.

Barbara Watterson, *Women in Ancient Egypt*, Ch. 8, "Women of Power" (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1991) pp.137-171.

8 Sept.20, Thurs.

Egypt-Art History

Gay Robins, "Some Images of Women in the New Kingdom Art and Literature," in B. Lesko, ed. *Women's Earliest Records from Ancient Egypt to Western Asia Minor* (Scholar's Press, Atlanta, GA: 1987), pp. 104-116.

Gay Robins, "Dress, Undress, and the representation of Fertility and Potency in New Kingdom Egyptian Art," in *Sexuality in Ancient Art*, ed. by Natalie Kampen, (Cambridge, 1996), pp. 27-40.

9 Sept.25, Tues.

Egypt

Barbara Watterson, *Women in Ancient Egypt*, Ch. 6, "Dress and Adornment," (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1991) pp. 94-119.

Hatshepsut's Architectural Patronage:
Reading TBA

10 Sept.27, Thurs.

Greek: History and Background

WICW, ch. 1, "Women in Archaic Greece" and ch. 3, "Women in classical Athens: Heriones and Housewives"

Readings TBA

11 Oct.2, Tues.

Greek: Powerful Women: The Comic and the Tragic

Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*

Eripedes, *Medea*

12 Oct.4, Thurs.

Greek: Bodies

Page Dubois, "Archaic Bodies in Pieces," in *Sexuality in Ancient Art*, ed. by Natalie Kampen, (Cambridge, 1996), pp. 55-64

Eva Stehle and Amy Day, "Women looking at Women," in N. B. Kampen, *Sexuality in Ancient Art* (Cambridge 1996)

13 Oct.9, Tues.

Paper Topics Due

Greek: Anatomy and Medicine

WICW, ch. 6, L. Dean-Jones, "Medicine the Proof of Anatomy."

L. Dean-Jones, "The Cultural Construct of the Female Body in Classical Greek Science," in Pomeroy, ed. *Women's history, and Ancient History*. (Chapel Hill, 1991);

14 Oct.11, Thurs.

Greek:

Claude Berard, "The Order of Women," in Berard et al. *A City of Images: iconography and society in ancient Greece* (Princeton, 1989).

Francois Lissarague, "The Figure of Women," in P. Schmitt-Pantel, ed. *A History of Women in the West* (Harvard UP, Cambridge, 1992-4).

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).

16 Oct.23, Tues.

Etruria: *WICW*, ch. 8, "Etruscan Women." L. Bonfante, *The Women of Etruria in Arethusa* 6 (1973) 91-101.

17 Oct.25, Thurs.

Hellenistic World:

Film: *Cleopatra*

Time TBA

18 Oct.30, Tues.:

Hellenistic World: Cleopatra

Paper Outlines Due with Thesis Statement

WICW, ch. 5, "The Hellenistic Period: Women in A Cosmopolitan World."

Sarah Pomeroy, *Women in Hellenistic Egypt*, ch. 1, "Queens."

Cleopatra's Egypt: Age of the Ptolemies.

Exhibition catalog (Brooklyn)

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyevents/conferences/enco/Film/Ashton%20Cleopatra.htm>;

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."

Stehle, Eva, "Venus, Cybele, and the Sabine Women: The Roman Construction of Female Sexuality," *Helios* 16 (1989) 143-4

20 Nov.6, Tues.:

Rome: Empire and making use of a woman's image

WICW, chs. 10-11,

D. E. E. Kleiner, "Politics and Gender in the Pictorial Propaganda of Antony and Octavian," *EMC* 11.3 (1992) 357-368

Kampen, N. B. "The Muted Other." *ArtJ* 47 (1988) 15-19.

Kampen, N. B. "Between Public and Private: Women as Historical Subjects in Roman Art." In *Women's History and Ancient History*. Ed. S. B. Pomeroy (Chapel Hill, 1991) 218-48.

Kampen, N. B. "Reliefs of the Basilica Aemilia. A reading." *Klio* 73 (1991a) 448-458.

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

Wood, S. "*Memoriae Agrippinae*: Agrippina the Elder in Julio-Claudian Art and Propaganda." *AJA* 92 (1988) 409-26.

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*

Susan Matheson, "Women as Goddesses," in Kleiner and Matheson, edd. *I, Claudia: Women in Ancient Rome*. (Yale UP, 1996)

Eve D'ambra "The Calculus of Venus," in *Sexuality in Ancient Art*, ed. by Natalie Kampen, (Cambridge, 1996),

N. Kampen, "Omphale and the Instability of Gender," in *Sexuality in Ancient Art*, ed. by Natalie Kampen, (Cambridge, 1996)

24 Nov.20, Tues.:

Open forum

Nov.22, Thurs.

Thanksgiving Holiday

25 Nov.27, Tues.

Rome: The Late Empire, Readings TBA

26 Nov.29, Thurs.

Rome: Early Christianity, Readings TBA

27 Dec. 4, Tues.

Closing Remarks

FINAL PAPERS DUE By 5:00 PM