

Women in the Ancient World

ART 265, Spring 2006

Dr. Glenda Swan

Office: Clough 412

MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m.

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Office Hours: MWF 2:30-3:30 p.m. or by appointment

Course Description and Goals

This course will examine the depictions of – and occasionally by – women in the art of the ancient world, with the primary focus being on the cultures of Greece and Rome. The course will explore the impact of the role of gender in ancient art, as well as its treatment within modern scholarship.

Required Materials

Elaine Fantham, et. al., *Women in the Classical World* (Oxford University Press 1994).

Three bluebooks, available at the campus bookstore, will be required for exams.

Evaluation

Class Attendance and Participation: 10%

Exam #1 (Friday, February 24th): 30%

Exam #2 (Wednesday, April 26th): 30%

Presentation and Paper (individually determined): 10%

Comprehensive Final Exam (Friday, May 5th at 5:30 p.m.): 20%

Grading

All work is evaluated on the grading scale outlined in the Rhodes College Catalogue: A, excellent; B, good; C, satisfactory; D, passing; and F, failure (with pluses and minuses where appropriate). The American Heritage Dictionary definition of “excellent” highlights its rarefied state, defining it as something “of the highest or finest quality; exceptionally good of its kind.” Thus, only a student that demonstrates a real command of the subject, integrating and even extrapolating from the course materials to craft creative and compelling arguments that are articulated and supported in a consistently outstanding manner will earn an A; while excellent students typically dedicate significant time and effort to their coursework, only the *results* of that time and effort are evaluated.

Attendance and Participation

In order for students to make meaningful contributions to class discussion, it is expected that *all assigned readings will be completed in advance* of the week in which they will be addressed, as outlined in the “Weekly Topics and Readings” section. The professor reserves the right to use a variety of methods to evaluate student participation and preparation for class. Such methods include – but are not limited to – unannounced quizzes, in-class exercises, short take-home assignments and/or having a randomly chosen student answer a particular question in class or even lead class discussion; some of these methods may be graded by the professor or fellow students, while others are not formally graded at all; all are intended to help students prepare for the format and content of the exam. While there is no strictly applied mathematical formula that corresponds to student success in such events, repeated failures clearly demonstrate a lack of meaningful engagement with course material that will be reflected in a student’s participation grade.

Of course, students cannot participate in class in any way if they are not present. Therefore, students will be monitored in regard to their *regular and prompt attendance* in class. Because late arrival is so disruptive to a discussion class, any student arriving more than five minutes late to class will be marked late, which will effectively count as half of an absence. Occasionally, a student may find that some compelling need arises that causes them to miss class completely; such matters are at the discretion of the student and the professor requires no explanation. However, missing more than three classes will result in a five-point deduction in the student's final attendance and participation grade, with every additional absence thereafter resulting in an additional one-point deduction.

If the student has a serious illness or other crisis that will cause the student to miss class, it is important to promptly notify the professor and *be prepared to provide written documentation* upon the student's return. If the professor feels that the absences were unavoidable, any missed classes will be considered as *excused* when they are figured into the attendance portion of the final grade.

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the student to stay current with the course. Students are responsible for all of the lecture and discussion material presented in class, as well as any audio-visual materials shown. However, these are all one-time only events: none of these materials will be repeated. Therefore, if you are absent – even if your absence is “excused” – *you should first contact other students for notes and then read about that material in the text*. If any of the missed material still remains unclear to you, contact the professor, who will then be pleased to answer any lingering questions.

Late Work and Missed Exams

Any required materials that are *not turned in at the start of the class* for which they are due are immediately *lowered by five points*. Further late materials are lowered by ten points for each day after the due date; no late papers will be accepted more than four days after the original deadline.

Make-up exams are given only at the discretion of the professor. In addition to *timely notification*, the professor *may require written documentation* from the student before allowing a student to attend a make-up exam. If the student has a valid, documented excuse that causes them to miss a substantial portion of the course, such as an extended hospital stay, the professor may then decide to remove an exam or paper from the evaluation method of the course, effectively increasing the percentage value of the other course requirements. Incompletes are very rarely allowed.

Computer Use

Several different elements of the course require computer access. Course documents are available through the professor's virtual class folder, which is located on the **Art Department files server on the Rhodes website** (consult ITS for information on how to access this on and off campus). Required journal readings can be accessed through the “Knowledge Portal” of the Rhodes College Library as part of the collection of “Online Journals in Licensed Databases.” Other useful sites may include: Diotima, Materials for Study of Women and Gender in the Ancient World (<http://www.stoa.org/diotima/>); Perseus Project (<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu>); FORVM ANTIQVVM (<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/~ekondrat/ForumAntiquum.html>); College Art Association Proper Citation of Sources in the Electronic Age (<http://www.collegeart.org/caa/news/2004/March/ProperCitation.html>); or the Rhodes Writing Center (<http://www.rhodes.edu/writingcenter/>).

Possible Objectionable Material

This class includes images that contain nudity, violence, and other imagery that may be offensive to some viewers. If you are unwilling to examine and discuss such works in an academic context then you should reconsider enrollment in this course.

Academic Honesty

All work in this course must be completed in accordance with the Honor System at Rhodes College. In keeping with this policy, students are required to sign the Honor Pledge on every exam and paper submitted for this course.

Special Needs

If a student has a documented disability and which to receive academic accommodations, the student should first contact the Office of Student Disability Services (x3994) and then provide the professor with an accommodation form *as soon as possible*.

WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGS (Subject to Change)

Note that all readings should be completed *before* the class for which they are assigned!

Week One

Wednesday, January 11: Introduction to Course
Friday, January 13: Introduction to Subject

Week Two

- Text: Begin Chapter 1
- Wednesday, January 18
Friday, January 20

Week Three

- Text: Finish Chapter 1 and Chapter 2
 - E-Journal: Ian Morris, "Archaeology and Gender Ideologies in Early Archaic Greece" *Transactions of the American Philological Association* Vol. 129 (1999), pp. 305-317.
- Monday, January 23
Wednesday, January 25
Friday, January 27

Week Four

- Text: Begin Chapter 3
 - E-Journal: Lauren H. Petersen, "Divided Consciousness and Female Companionship: Reconstructing Female Subjectivity on Greek Vases," *Arethusa* 30.1 (1997) 35-74.
- Monday, January 30: Student Presentations Begin
Wednesday, February 1
Friday, February 3

Week Five

- Text: Finish Chapter 3 and Chapter 4
- E-Journal: Margaret C. Miller, "Reexamining Transvestism in Archaic and Classical Athens: The Zewadski Stamnos" *American Journal of Archaeology* Vol. 103, No. 2 (Apr. 1999), pp. 223-253.

Monday, February 6

Wednesday, February 8

Friday, February 10

Week Six

- Text: Chapters 5 and 6
- E-Journal: Zainab Bahrani, "The Hellenization of Ishtar: Nudity, Fetishism, and the Production of Cultural Differentiation in Ancient Art" *Oxford Art Journal* Vol. 19, No. 2 (1996), pp. 3-16.

Monday, February 13

Wednesday, February 15

Friday, February 17

Week Seven

Monday, February 20: Finish Week Six Material

Wednesday, February 22: Review

Friday, February 24: **EXAM#1**

Week Eight

- Text: Chapter 8

Monday, February 27

Wednesday, March 1

Friday, March 3

Week Nine

- Text: Chapters 7 and 9
- E-Book: John Clarke, *Art in the Lives of Ordinary Romans: Visual Representation and Non-Elite Viewers in Italy, 100 B.C.-A.D. 315*, pp. 246-253.

Monday, March 6

Wednesday, March 8

Friday, March 10

Week Ten

- Text: Begin Chapter 11
- E-Journal: Natalie Boymel Kampen, "The Muted Other" *Art Journal* Vol. 47, No. 1 (Spring 1988), pp. 15-19.

Monday, March 20

Wednesday, March 22

Friday, March 24

Week Eleven

- Text: Finish Chapter 11
- E-Journal: Susan Wood, "Memoriae Agrippinae: Agrippina the Elder in Julio-Claudian Art and Propaganda" *American Journal of Archaeology* Vol. 92, No. 3 (Jul. 1988), pp. 409-426.

Monday, March 27

Wednesday, March 29

Friday, March 31

Week Twelve

- Text: Chapter 13
- In Academic Listserver Course Folder: Eve D'Ambra, "The Calculus of Venus: Nude Portraits of Roman Women," in N. Kampen ed., *Sexuality in Ancient Art: Near East, Egypt, Greece, and Italy* (1996) 219-232.

Monday, April 3

Wednesday, April 5

Friday, April 7

Week Thirteen

- Text: Chapters 10 and 12
- E-Journal: Matthew B. Roller, "Horizontal Women: Posture and Sex in the Roman Convivium" *American Journal of Philology* Volume 124, Number 3 (Fall 2003), pp. 377-422

Monday, April 10

Wednesday, April 12

Week Fourteen

- Finish Material from Weeks Twelve and Thirteen

Monday, April 17

Wednesday, April 19

Friday, April 21

Week Fifteen

Monday, April 24: Review

Wednesday, April 26: **EXAM#2**

Comprehensive Final Exam: Friday, May 5th at 5:30 p.m.