Women in Antiquity
CLAS/HIST 2051

MWF 12:30-1:20pm
DUNN 106

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30pm-2:30pm

Course Description
Using written and material evidence, this course will explore the economic, social and political roles of women in the societies of ancient Greece and Rome, from the early Neolithic period in the Aegean to Late Antique Byzantium. We will explore topics such as traditional gender roles, virtue and vice, and depictions of women in art and literature using a combination of primary texts and archaeological evidence. This course will also examine the development of the Western idea of the female in antiquity, and introduce and explore the social theories commonly applied to the study of gender in history.

Course Goals
Students enrolled in this course can expect gain a comprehensive understanding of the study of women in the ancient Mediterranean, including the history of scholarship in this field, theoretical applications of sex and gender in antiquity, and a practical knowledge of female roles in ancient societies including the prehistoric Mediterranean, Greece, ancient Etruria, and Rome. This course will illuminate women in myth and legend, the lives of ancient women, and their roles in society. The student will become familiar with material culture in the form of archaeological remains, as well as primary literary sources, and will learn to critically analyze both forms of evidence in the study of ancient women. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to evaluate the way in which scholars are able to interpret the role of women in antiquity, and will be able to participate in the fraught discussion of what can or cannot be understood as ‘gender’ from a modern viewpoint. Finally, students in this course will become familiar with the basic principles of academic research and website building as each form a large component of their evaluation.

Required Texts


Both textbooks will be available at the MtA Bookstore. Additional readings will be either: a) be made available online through Moodle; or b) be accessible online through the Mount Allison Library website. In rare circumstances, a reading may be put on reserve at the library for students to photocopy for themselves.
Statement on Academic Dishonesty
It is expected that all work submitted by the students enrolled in this course be entirely their own original ideas, or otherwise cited properly and correctly from the original source. There is to be absolutely no 'cutting and pasting' from written or online sources, and no paraphrasing someone else's ideas without adequate citations. If you write something and there is no citation, I can only assume that you are stating that this is your own, original idea, and if that is not the case then this is plagiarism and the university has severe penalties in place for such an infraction. If you are unsure at any time how or when to include a citation, please contact the instructor at cgardner@mta.ca or during office hours – there are also several excellent books available to further your understanding of proper sourcing. For further information about the Mount Allison's policy on academic dishonesty, please see section 10.6 of the academic calendar, or visit: https://www.mta.ca/Registrars_Office/Academic_regulations/Academic_integrity/Academic_integrity/

Course Expectations
1) Attendance – you are expected to attend all lectures and take notes. No supplementary material will be posted online.
2) Courtesy – please do not disturb the other students or the instructor by speaking to one another during the lectures, or by using your cell phones. It's only a 50-minute lecture – nothing that important will happen on Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat or Twitter.
3) Punctuality – the class begins at half-past the hour and ends at 20 past the hour. There may be situations which arise which cause you to be late once or twice, but do not make a habit of this – it is very disturbing to the classroom.
4) Deadlines – you must hand in your assignments on time. There will be a strict no-extension policy for late assignments, and you will be deducted 5% per day late.

Evaluation
Midterm: 25%
Digital Research Project: 45%
(20% Research; 20% Digital Content; 5% Peer Feedback)
Final Exam: 30%

Midterm
The midterm will take place on Friday, February 17th. More information about the format will be provided in-class during the weeks leading up to the midterm.

Digital Research Project
In lieu of a traditional essay, students of this course will participate in a digital research assignment. This will involve the creation of a comprehensive website devoted to Women in Antiquity (https://womeninantiquity.wordpress.com/). This project consists of a research aspect (20%) and a digital evaluation aspect (20%). Students in this course will select either: a) a historical female figure from antiquity (i.e. Sappho, Aspasia, Cleopatra, the Vestal Virgins, Livia etc.); b) a mythological/legendary female figure from antiquity (i.e. Amazons, Penelope, Medea, Lucretia, etc.); c) a role/occupation of females in antiquity (poets, gladiators, priestesses, prostitutes, mothers, etc.); or d) a set of archaeological objects related to ancient women (i.e. jewellery, gynaecological instruments, domestic space, women depicted on tombstones/pottery/paintings/statues/coins, etc.). The students will submit 8-10 pages of research on this topic with comprehensive bibliography (20%, due Monday, February 27th), and then populate their own webpage on the larger course website (15%, due Friday, March 31st). This should include links to other digital resources. Students will then be asked to provide a feedback in the form of a comment on at least one of their fellow students’ webpages (5%, due
Friday, April 7th). The goal of this assignment is for the student to develop traditional academic research skills in conjunction with practical digital skills. More information about the content of the project will be provided in-class. Students can remain anonymous on the website, if they prefer.

**Final Examination**
The date of the final exam will be set by the university. The format will be discussed in-class.

**Class Schedule and Readings**

**Week 1 (January 9-13):** Introduction; Why Study Women in the Ancient World?; Sex vs. Gender; Challenges, Methods, and the History of Studying Women in Antiquity

*Required Readings:*
(Both readings available through Moodle)

**Week 2 (January 16-20):** Women in the Prehistoric Aegean; Cyclades; Minoans; Mycenaean.

*Required Readings:*

**Week 3 (January 23-26):** Archaic Greece: Homer; Hesiod; Sappho; Korai; Funerary Iconography.

*Required Readings:*

**Week 4 (January 30-February 4):** Classical Greece: Athenian Women and Laws; Priestesses & Female Cults; Medicine and Skeletal Remains

*Required Readings:*

**Week 5 (February 6-10):** Hellenistic Greece: Sculpture (Portraiture), Public and Private Space, Egypt.

*Required Readings:*
Week 6 (February 13-17): Extraordinary Greek Women: Spartans & Amazons; Midterm Review, MIDTERM

Required Readings:
4) STUDY - Your notes from this class!
5) STUDY – Review all the readings!
6) STUDY – The MIDTERM IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17!!!

Week 7 (February 20-24)
*No Class – Reading Week*

Week 8 (February 27-March 3): Etruscan Women & Early Roman Republic; Vestal Virgins.

Required Readings:

Week 9 (March 6-10): Late Republican and Augustan Rome; Augustan Marriage Laws; Ara Pacis.

Required Readings:

Week 10 (March 13-17): Imperial Roman Women: Portraiture, Literature, Coins.

Required Readings:

Week 11 (March 20-24): Women in the High & Late Imperial Period: Portraiture, Patronage, Legacy.

Required Readings:

Week 12 (March 27-31): Everyday Women I: Pompeii, Funerary Inscriptions, Virtues and Vices.

Required Readings:
Week 13 (April 3-7): Everyday Women II: Gladiators and Mistresses; Course Recap: Why Study Women in Antiquity? Final Exam Review

Required Readings:


(Both readings available through Moodle)

Additional Bibliography


For an excellent bibliography, see: https://homepage.usask.ca/~jrp638/CourseNotes/women.html