

**ARH 3063/5063****SEXUALITY AND GENDER IN ANCIENT ART**

Fall 2007

Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00 AM

Megan Cifarelli [cifarellim@mville.edu](mailto:cifarellim@mville.edu)

**Course Description:** In the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece and Rome, as in the modern world, art served as a powerful visual medium for the construction and communication of many aspects of cultural ideology, including notions about gender roles and sexuality. This course focuses on the varying ways in which these ancient societies used art as a means of presenting and representing the relationship between biological sex and the social invention of gender. The course will examine various scholarly approaches to female and male sexuality in the ancient world, the range of interpretations of the lives and roles of men and women produced by these methods, and the role of ancient art in communicating ideas about sexuality and gender

**Attendance and Participation:** Class attendance is mandatory for the simple reason that attendance is critical to your success. Moreover, as learning is an interactive experience, active participation in class discussions is also a requirement of this class, and is an important factor in determining your final grade. As a matter of courtesy and respect to your peers, you are required to attend your classmates' presentations and to discuss the presentations thoughtfully.

**Preparation for Class:** In order to participate in a meaningful way, you will need to have completed the reading and writing assignments before each class. A good rule of thumb for this course is that you will need to spend 3-4 hours of reading, research and writing for each hour that you spend in class

**Absence Policy:** Absence from an exam or presentation will be excused only for reasons of illness or emergency, and only if accompanied by a letter from the Office of Academic Advising. If the absence is excused, the presentation will be rescheduled as time allows. If absence is unexcused, a grade of 0 will be recorded.

**Outside of the Classroom:** This is a four credit class, and meetings outside of class time are required in order to accomplish the minimum number of required contact hours. This outside work will include one on one meetings with the professor to discuss your research; meetings with the assigned writing consultant; and a required field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art that is scheduled for the afternoon of October 19. Transportation and museum admission will be provided.

**Academic Honesty:** This course has a zero tolerance policy regarding plagiarism and cheating. You are expected to be aware of, and to conduct yourselves in accordance with the rules regarding academic integrity found in the Manhattanville College Code of Conduct. All cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported immediately to the Dean of Academic Advising. If confirmed, academic dishonesty in this course will result in a failing grade for the course. Additional sanctions may also be imposed by the Dean of Academic Advising.

**Classroom Policies:**

1. You are adults. Behave accordingly.
2. Arrive for class punctually, and please speak to me before class if you will need to leave before the class period is over. Please do not speak while others are speaking, unless you are asking or answering a question. Please turn cell phones off for the duration of class. If you miss material presented in class is your responsibility to get notes from another student.
3. If you require special accommodations for exam taking (such as extended time), it is your responsibility to inform the professors of your needs. It is also your responsibility to make arrangements with ARC and/or the HELP center, and to submit the proper paperwork that will allow for arrangements to be made. Requests for special accommodations not made through official channels can not be granted.

**Readings:**

The following book is the required texts for this course:

Ann Olga Koloski-Ostrow, *Naked Truths: Women, Sexuality and Gender in Classical Art and Archaeology*, Routledge, 1997.

Additional required readings are available through **BLACKBOARD**, **ERES** and **library reserves**.

**Course Requirements:** In addition to attendance, participation and preparation for each class, each student will be required to make a 20 minute oral presentation with images, and hand in a 15 page research paper. Detailed guidelines for the presentation and research paper will be handed out in class. Each student's final grade will be determined using the following scale:

- 20% Class attendance and participation
- 10% Preparation for class
- 35% Oral Presentation
- 35% Research Paper

**Lectures and Reading Assignments**

- August 28: Introduction: Why bother with Gender and Sexuality? Defining our terms.  
Recommended Readings: Joan W. Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," 1983, (BLACKBOARD); Introduction to Kampen, *Sexuality (on Reserve)*. Nadya Labi, "The Kingdom in the Closet," Atlantic Monthly, May 2007, p. 70. (MVILLE LIBRARY via PROQUEST)
- September 5: The Ancient Near East: Introduction and Overview  
Readings: Articles by Harris, BLACKBOARD: Primary Sources ANE 1 and 2; Hittite, BLACKBOARD
- September 12: The Ancient Near East: Masculinity, Power, and Women.  
Readings: Winter, in Kampen, *Sexuality (on Reserve)*, Irene Winter, "The Body

of the Able Ruler," in *DUMU-E-dub-ba*, ed. H. Behrens, Philadelphia, 1989, BLACKBOARD, Cifarelli, BLACKBOARD.

September 19: Art and Culture of Ancient Egypt: Introduction and Overview

September 26: Egypt: Gender and Sexuality

Readings: Robins in Kampen, *Sexuality (on Reserve)*; Gay Robins, *Women in Ancient Egypt*, Cambridge, 1993, Introduction and Chapter 10 BLACKBOARD; Betsy Bryan, "In women good and bad fortune are on earth," in *Mistress of the House*, (BLACKBOARD).

October 3: Women and Men in Classical Society:

Readings: Dover (BLACKBOARD); Hanson (BLACKBOARD); Osborne, "Men Without Clothes" (BLACKBOARD); Finley (BLACKBOARD).

October 10: "Having Sex" in Classical Art

Readings: Robert F. Sutton, "Pornography and Persuasion on Attic Pottery," in *Pornography and Representation* (BLACKBOARD); Andrew Stewart, "Reflections," in *Sexuality (on Reserve)*; Larissa Bonfante, "Etruscan Sexuality and Funerary Art, in *Sexuality (on Reserve)*

October 17: Non Trivial Pursuits

Readings: Ada Cohen, "Portrayals of Abduction in Greek Art," in *Sexuality (on Reserve)*; Dougherty (BLACKBOARD); Joshel (BLACKBOARD).

Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>: Class trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

October 24: Roman Bodies

Readings: D'Ambra in *Sexuality (on Reserve)*; Sebasta (BLACKBOARD), Kampen (BLACKBOARD)

October 31: Roman Bodies II

November 7: Class Presentations

November 14: Class Presentations

November 28: Class Presentations

December 5: Class Presentations

December 12 **Final** Papers Due

**Progress Meeting Schedule: Meetings should take place during office hours.**

**WEEK OF OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>:** Each student must meet with me to discuss potential topics.

**WEEK OF OCTOBER 29:** Each student must meet with me to discuss progress, review outlines and bibliographies.

**November 14:** First drafts of paper due in class.

**November 20-1:** Draft Review Meeting

**December 1:** Optional second drafts due

**December 12:** Final Papers Due

## Course readings

Bonfante, Larissa, "Etruscan Sexuality and Funerary Art, in *Sexuality*. \*

Bryan, Betsy, "In Women Good and Bad Fortune Are on Earth," in *Mistress of the House, Mistress of Heaven, Women in Ancient Egypt*, edited by Anne Capel, 1996, 28-48. \*\*

Cifarelli, Megan, "Gesture and Alterity in the Art of Ashurnasirpal II of Assyria," *The Art Bulletin*, June, 1998. \*\* or \*\*\*

Cohen, Ada, "Portrayals of Abduction in Greek Art," in *Sexuality*. \*

D'Ambra, Eve, *The Calculus of Venus*, in *Sexuality*. \*

Dougherty, Carol, "Sowing the Seeds of Violence: Rape, Women and the Land," in *Parchments of Gender*, Maria Wyke, ed., 1998.\*\*

Dover, K. J., "Classical Greek Attitudes to Sexual Behavior," in Laura McClure, ed., *Sexuality and Gender in the Classical World*, Blackwell, 2002.\*\*

Finley, M. I., "The Silent Women of Rome," in Laura McClure, ed., *Sexuality and Gender in the Classical World*, Blackwell, 2002. \*\*

Hanson, Ann Ellis, "The Medical Writers' Woman" in *Before Sexuality*, ed. David Halperin, et. al, 1990.\*\*

Harris, Rivkah, "The Conflict of Generations in Ancient Mesopotamian Myths," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, Vol. 34, No. 4 (Oct., 1992) , pp. 621-635.\*\* and \*\*\*

Harris, Rivkah, "Gender and Sexuality in the Myth of Nergal and Ereshkigal, in *Gender and Aging in Mesopotamia: The Gilgamesh Epic and other Ancient Literature*, 2000.\*\*

Joshel, S.R., "The Body Female and the Body Politic," in Laura McClure, ed., *Sexuality and Gender in the Classical World*, Blackwell, 2002. \*\*

Kampen, Nathalie Boymel, ed. *Sexuality in Ancient Art*, Cambridge, 1996.\*

Kampen, N., "Gender Theory in Roman Art," Introduction to *I Claudia*, D. Kleiner, ed, 1996.\*\*

Katz, Marilyn A., "Ideology and "the status of women" in ancient Greece," in *History and Theory*, Vol. 31, No. 4, Beiheft 31: History and Feminist Theory (Dec., 1992), pp. 70-97. \*\*

Keuls, Eva, *The Reign of the Phallus*, Berkeley, 1993. \*\*

Osborne, Robin, "Men Without Clothes," in *Gender and the Body in the Ancient Mediterranean*, Maria Wyke, ed. , Blackwell, 1998.\*\*

Robins, Gay, "Dress, Undress and the Representation of Fertility and Potency in New Kingdom Egyptian Art," in *Sexuality*, Ed. N. Kampen. \*

Robins, Gay, *Women in Ancient Egypt*, Cambridge, 1993, Introduction and Chapter 10.\*\*

Scott, Joan, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," *American Historical Review*, Vol. 91, No. 5 (Dec., 1986) pp. 1053-1075. \*\*

Sebasta, Judith Lynn, "Women's Costume and Feminine Civic Morality in Augustan Rome," in *Gender and the Body in the Ancient Mediterranean*, Maria Wyke, ed., , Blackwell, 1998

Stewart, Andrew, "Reflections," in *Sexuality*, N. Kampen, ed, 1996. \*

Sutton, Robert F., "Pornography and Persuasion on Attic Pottery," in *Pornography and Representation*, Amy Richlin, ed., 1992. \*\*

Winter, I., "The Body of the Able Ruler," in *DUMU-E-dub-ba*, ed. H. Behrens, Philadelphia, 1989.\*\*

Winter, Irene, "Sex, Rhetoric and the Public Body," in *Sexuality*, N. Kampen, ed, 1996.\*

\* *ERES or Library Reserves*

\*\*Blackboard

\*\*\*Search Library Databases