Description of the course

This course investigates the representation of women in the literature and archaeology of ancient Greece and Rome. Despite Greece and Rome being patriarchal societies and women being severely restricted by firmly set laws and customs, it is possible to trace the problems women face in modern society to their Greek and Roman ancestors. This ancient past, chronologically so removed from our present time, contains the seeds of many cultural categories which are still operating on and influencing our way of conceptualizing the role of women and their identities. The aim of this class, divided in two sections (one, the longest, devoted to ancient Greece, the other to Rome) is to deconstruct these ideologies and provide a history of women, their lives, their feelings, desires and sexuality in classical antiquity. The class will focus on the study of literary sources, but will periodically review archaeological evidence as well. Reading quizzes, a midterm and a final exam will assess the student's progress throughout the course.

Course schedule

**INTRODUCTION**

Lecture 1
The problem of matriarchy (I)

Lecture 2
The problem of matriarchy (I)

**GREECE**

Lecture 3
Minoan and Mycenaean societies

Lecture 4
Female initiation ceremonies

Lecture 5
The Homeric poems
Hesiod and Semonides
Lecture 6  
QUIZ # 1
The first legislators

Lecture 7  
The classical period

Lecture 8  
Reproduction

Lecture 9  
Socrates and Plato on women

Lecture 10  
MIDTERM EXAM

Lecture 11  
Aristotle on women

Lecture 12  
Women and literature of the classical period

Lecture 13  
female homosexuality and myth

Lecture 14  
Crete and Sparta

Lecture 15  
Bisexual divinities

Lecture 16  
The hellenistic age: women and power

Lecture 17  
ROME
Etruscan women

Lecture 18  
QUIZ # 2
Rome and the matriarchy

Lecture 19  
legal status of women in the monarchic and early republican age

Lecture 20  
Towards “emancipation”: principate and empire

Lecture 21  
Review and final remarks

**Required texts** (available from the bookstore)

- Course pack

• Ancient Greece Timeline, ISBN 192886032X

• Roman Republic Timeline, ISBN 1928860079

• Roman Empire Timeline, ISBN 1928860028

**Course requirements**

**Attendance**

Regular participation and prompt attendance are required. If a student misses more than two classes without an excuse or is consistently unprepared for class, his/her grade will be significantly affected. **Remember to sign the roster - unsigned roster will be considered as evidence of missed classes. You CANNOT sign for other people.**

Quizzes **CANNOT** be made up. Make-up exams will only be given if a medical or family emergency arises, and the Dean of Students office notifies me.

**Grades**

Final grades will be weighted as follows:

- Attendance and participation: 20%
- Quizzes: 25%
- Midterm exam: 25%
- Final exam: 30%

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94–100</td>
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<tr>
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<td>90–93</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63–66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60–63</td>
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</tbody>
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Exam dates

- Quiz #1           Lecture 6
- Mid-term exam:    Lecture 10
- Quiz #2           Lecture 18
- Final Exam:       TBA

Requirements for Accommodations of Disabilities

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations must:

1. Register with and provide documentation to the Dean of Students Office.
2. Bring me a letter (within the first two weeks) from the Dean of Student Office indicating the needed academic accommodations.