



Instructor: Tommaso Gazzarri

Email: gazzarrt@union.edu 

Class meets: M.W.F 10:30 - 11:35 AM

Location: Karp 105

Office: Lamont House #305

Office hours: M.W. 02:00 - 03:30 PM

or by appointment

Mailbox: Dept. of Classics

Webpage: www.tommasogazzarri.net

PERSPECTIVES:

CHF (Culture and Historical Foundations)

LIT (Literatures)

SPE (Social Analysis, Politics, and Ethics)

AREA OF INQUIRY:

JEID (Justice, Equity, Identity, Difference)

*** To book office hours, go to the above

WEBPAGE >CONTACT >OFFICE HOURS

and select one or more slot(s) ***

Description of the Course

This course tackles modern debates about human sex and gender from a historical perspective and examines in detail a wide range of texts that provide evidence of sexual practices and ideologies in classical antiquity. Particular emphasis will be given to the thorough study of primary sources, both literary and archaeological, from the Greek world. Major questions addressed will include, but will not be limited to:

- What does it mean to be male, female, masculine, feminine, man, woman, boy, girl?
- How do these gender identities impact one's societal standing?
- What can we discover about you from the way(s) you have sex, and with whom?
- How do all these things relate to life, love, and power?
- Does the notion of sexuality have a historical origin?
- Can sexual pleasure be a matter of political and social debate?

The student's progress will be assessed through a series of activities, supervised by the teacher, which include: 1) a pre-midterm exam (exam 1); 2) a midterm exam; 3) a post-midterm exam (exam 2); 4) a final exam. While exam 1 and exam 2 are not cumulative, the midterm and final exams are cumulative. Students are expected to actively participate in regular in-class debates on both readings and the relevant issues addressed in the course.



Item to Note

Discussions of sex and sexuality will be a large part of this course. Please note that discussing such topics can sometimes be challenging and uncomfortable. I am available to discuss any concerns you may have.



Course Schedule

1	Class #1 - 03/30/26	* Presentation of the Course
	<u>HISTORICAL COORDINATES</u>	
1	Class #2 - 04/01/26	* Introduction fo Greek history Assignments: Assignment: Reading #1: Begin Martin's Greek History (Nexus) - Recommended
	Class #3 - 04/03/26	* Introduction to Greek history Assignments: Reading #1: Finish Martin's Greek History (Nexus) - Recommended
2	Class #4 - 04/06/26	* Introduction to Greek history Assignments: Reading #2: Martin's Greek History (Nexus) - Recommended
	Class #5 - 04/08/26	* Introduction to Greek history Assignments: Reading #3: Martin's Greek History (Nexus) - Recommended
2	Class #6 - 04/10/26	Guest Lecture: Prof. Patrick Singy <u>THE ORIGINS OF GREEK HOMOSEXUALITY</u>
3	Class #7 - 04/13/26	* Lyric Poetry + The rules of pederastic courtship Assignments: Reading #6: Begin: ntroduction to Sappho and Alcaeus in Campbell (pp ix-ixi) - (you own this book)
	Complete reading of Greek lyric is due today	

3	Class #8 - 04/15/26	* Lyric Poetry + The rules of pederastic courtship
		Assignments: Reading #6: Finish introduction to Sappho and Alcaeus in Campbell (pp ix-ixi) - (you own this book)
3	Class #9 - 04/17/26	* The two Aphrodites and the zero-sum-game theory
		Assignments: Reading #7: Clark's preface (pp. vii-ix) and "Looking at Greek ceramics" (pp. 1-22) - (you own this book)
4	Class #10 - 04/20/26	EXAM #1 
<u>THE CLASSICAL AGE</u>		
4	Class #11 - 04/22/26	* Resisting courtship: Plato and Aeschynes + Physical manifestations of pederastic love
4	Class #12 - 04/24/26	PARILLA SYMPOSIUM - NO CLASS
5	Class #13 - 04/27/26	* Resisting courtship: Plato and Aeschynes + Physical manifestations of pederastic love - Continued
5	Class #14 - 04/29/26	* Anal intercourse (its social role and literary tradition)
		 Complete reading of Plato's Symposium <u>is due today</u> 
5		Assignments: Reading #8: Clark: "Conservation and are of ceramic objects" (pp. 23-30) - (you own this book)
	Class #15 - 05/01/26	MIDTERM EXAM 

6	Class #16 - * Anal intercourse (its social role and literary tradition) - Continued 05/04/26	Assignments: <u>Reading #9:</u> In Clark's familiarize with the glossary of vase painters and glossary of vase shapes and technical terms (pp, 65-155). <u>Learn by heart:</u> 1) the basic structure of an amphora (p. 67) 2) the chart of vase shapes (pp. 154-5) - (you own this book)
	<u>LAWS AND PRESCRIPTIONS</u>	
6	Class #17 - * The laws of Beoria 05/06/26	Assignments: <u>Reading #10:</u> Hubbard (Nexus)
6	Class #18 - 05/08/26	STEINMETZ SYMPOSIUM - NO CLASS
7	Class #19 - * In-class discussion of Hubbard (reading #10) 05/11/26 * Introduction to Foucault	Assignments: <u>Reading #11:</u> Foucault: "A problematic relation" Nexus)
	Class #20 - * Discussion of Foucault (reading #11) 05/13/26 * Neaniskoi and the ages of a male + The age "to be loved" + The age "to love"	Assignments: <u>Reading #12:</u> Foucault: "A boy's honor" (Nexus)
7	Class #21 - * Discussion of Foucault (reading #12) 05/15/26 * Neaniskoi and the ages of a male + The age "to be loved" + The age "to love" - Continued	Assignments: <u>Reading #13:</u> Foucault: "The object of pleasure" (Nexus)
8	Class #22 - * Discussion of Foucault (reading #13) 05/18/26 * Breaking the rules on age and law infringements among adults	Assignments: <u>Reading #14:</u> Foucault: "Aphrodisia"(Nexus);
8	Class #23 - 05/20/26	EXAM #2 

8	Class #24 - * Discussion of Foucault (reading #14) 05/22/26 * Social perception of masculinity + Male prostitution
	Assignments: Reading #15: Rutherfordale (Nexus) <u>HOMOSEXUALITY” AND “HETEROSEXUALITY” COMPARED IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE</u>
9	Class #25 - * Socrates and Plato 05/25/26
	 Complete reading of Xenophon’s Symposium is due today Assignments: Reading #16: Foucault: “The marriage tie” (Nexus)
9	Class #26 - * Discussion of Foucault (reading #16) 05/27/26 * Socrates and Plato - Continued
	Assignments: Reading #17: Foucault: “Question on monopoly” and “The pleasures of Marriage” (Nexus)
9	Class #27 - * Discussion of Foucault (reading #17) 05/29/26 * Xenophon and Aristotle
	Assignments: Reading #18: Foucault: “The wisdom of marriage” and “Isomachus’ household
10	Class #28 - * Discussion of Foucault (reading #18) 06/01/26 * Xenophon and Aristotle - Continued
	 Complete reading of Aeschylus' Oresteia is due today 
10	Class #29 - * Plutarch 06/03/26
10	Class #30 - Final remarks 06/05/26



Required Texts (available from the bookstore)

- Sappho and Alcaeus, Greek Lyric: Sappho and Alcaeus, trans. D.A. Campbell, Cambridge, MA 1982. ISBN 978-0674991576
- A.J. Clark, M. Elston and M.L. Hart, Understanding Greek Vases. A Guide to Terms, Styles, and Techniques, Los Angeles 2002. ISBN 978-0892365999
- Plato, Lysis, Symposium, Gorgias, trans. W.R.M. Lamb, Cambridge, MA 1925. ISBN 978-0674991842
- Xenophon, Memorabilia, Oeconomicus, Symposium, Apology, trans. E.C. Marchant and O.J. Todd, Cambridge, MA 1923. ISBN 978-0674996953
- Aeschylus, Oresteia: Agamemnon. Libation Bearers. Eumenides, trans. A.H. Sommerstein, Cambridge, MA 2009. ISBN 978-0674996281.

Recommended Texts (ownership not mandatory: available on Nexus)

- M. Foucault, The History of Sexuality, Vol. I: The care of the self, trans. R. Hurley, (Vintage Books) 1990. ISBN 978-0394741550
- M. Foucault, The History of Sexuality, Vol. II: The use of Pleasure, trans. R. Hurley, (Vintage Books) 1990. ISBN 978-0394751221

Honor Code

Union College aims to establish an environment of mutual trust as part of its educational mission. Membership in an academic community requires respect for, and proper acknowledgement of, the thoughts and work of others. Enrollment in this course signifies implicit agreement with the Academic Honor Code Code of Union College. The full text of Union's Honor Code may be found online at <<http://honorcode.union.edu>>. In short, it is the responsibility of all students to ensure that the work they submit is their own and that their work does not engage in any form of academic misconduct. Students should ask the instructor of the course to clarify any questions that they might have regarding collaboration, citation, plagiarism, or related matters. Ignorance is no excuse for violating accepted standards of academic integrity.

Students must also affix the full Honor Code Affirmation or an appropriately abbreviated version to any assignment submitted for a grade or in-class exam:

I affirm that I have done my academic work honestly.
Signed: _____



COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance

- Regular participation and prompt attention are required. Your attendance grade on the first day of class is 105. You will be granted one free absence. Each subsequent absence will result in a 5-point deduction from that total. After three-absences (this includes the point-free absence), each subsequent absence will result in a 10-point deduction from your attendance average. Three tardies count as one absence. Can absences beyond the one free absence be excused or forgiven? No. It is possible to make up missed work, but not a missed class. The only exceptions to this rule are emergencies documented through the Dean of Studies and absences from classes moved by your instructor from their regular meeting time. Attendance is crucial.

Late Work

- If you wish to have the opportunity to make up Exam #1 or Exam #2 without penalty, you must contact your instructor ahead of time (that is, before the actual date of the Exam that you know you will not be able to take). I can be reached most easily by email. If contacting me proves impossible (or if I find the reason inexcusable), you may still make up the missed quiz, but a 25-point penalty will be assessed. Please keep in mind that a 25-point penalty is much better than a zero (a one-hundred-point penalty)!
- If you have not contacted me before the set date for either Exam #1 or Exam #2, you can still make them up, but only within one week of the given Exam, and a ten-point penalty will automatically apply.
- Midterms and finals **CANNOT** be made up. Missing a midterm or a final exam will heavily affect your final grade. You can be excused from these crucial appointments ONLY by presenting an official letter signed by the Dean of Studies documenting an excruciating circumstance.

Grades

Final grades will be weighted as follows:

Attendance and participation:	20%	-----
Exam #1:	15%	Class # 09 -- 04/17/26
Midterm Exam:	20%	Class # 15 -- 05/01/26
Exam #2:	15%	Class # 23 -- 05/20/26
Final Exam:	30%	June 9th - 2:30-4:30 (Karp 105)

➡ Midterm and Final Exams **ARE** CUMULATIVE

➡ Do you want to calculate your grade? Go to:
 ➡ <http://apps.mercer.edu/registrarcalc/weightedaverage.html>

Grading Scale



A 96-100

A- 90-95



B+ 87-89

B 84-86

B- 80-83



C+ 77-79

C 74-76

C- 70-73



D+ 67-69

D 63-66

D- 60-63

ADA Requirements

It is Union College policy to make accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you have any disability or special concern, please let me know what your needs are in order that they may be accommodated. All discussions will remain confidential to the extent permissible by law.

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations must also:

1. Register with and provide documentation to the Dean of Students Office.
2. Present documentation from the Dean of Students Office indicating what academic accommodations you require. This should be done within the first two weeks of the term.

Cell Phones and Computer Policies

- The use of cell phones, smartphones, or other mobile communication devices is disruptive and is therefore prohibited during class. All the mobile devices, including laptops, are expected to be TURNED OFF. If you are expecting an emergency call, please inform the instructor in advance and keep the phone in “silent mode”. You should leave the classroom before you answer the call.
- The use of all electronic devices, including computers, is prohibited during tests and exams.