



CLAS 471: Women in Antiquity



Meeting Times

WF 2:10-3:30 (F 12)

Cheever Room (Finn House)

Office Hours

MWF 11:10-noon (Deli), and by appointment

Instructor

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In *The Mohicans of Paris* the elder Alexandre Dumas has one of his characters give this piece of advice to a friend trying to make sense of someone's strange behavior: "Cherchez la femme." This phrase, unlike the novel from which it stems, has become famous, and in this course we will take it for our motto as we try to make sense of the world of classical antiquity, strange as it is. From goddesses to slaves, from priestesses to prostitutes, from real mothers to fictional virgins (and vice versa) – let's see what we find. This course counts toward the concentration in women's and gender studies.

This course has two interrelated aims: (1) to help you acquire/solidify a strong foundation of Classics knowledge, and (2) to give you opportunities to build interesting and illuminating *Gedankengebäude* (=“thought buildings”) thereon. Your grade will reflect your success in either rubric in equal parts.

- 1a. **Individual presentation** providing an overview of the literature, history and art of a specific century or half-century. This presentation should last 20 minutes, be illustrated by powerpoint (to be brought to class on a USB stick) and accompanied by a handout listing 12 entries that can serve as IDs on a test (cf. 1c). **16%**
- 1b. **Group presentation** on one area of Classics research based on Schaps. This presentation should last 10 minutes, be accompanied by a handout for later reference and, if desirable, be illustrated by powerpoint. **10%**
- 1c. **2 Tests** based in part on the IDs collected in 1a) **24%**
- 2a. **Paper. 20%**
- 2b. **Meta-Paper. 5%**
- 2c. **Participation. 25%**

For more information about items 2a and b, please refer to the supplemental handout and explanation in class. Please feel free to ask at any time about any aspect of the course, just as I shall feel free to adjust any part of it if such a change promises to yield a more prosperous result. The course is conducted according to the Honor Code and the set of Rules and Guidelines posted on the p-drive.

Schedule of Reading Assignments and Other Dated Information

In addition to the readings listed, you are expected to be familiar with the specific female(s) or female role from literature, history, and art that we have decided to discuss in that session. We will always make this decision on Wednesday for the following week so that you have time to refresh your memory of relevant texts. Whenever the female(s) appear(s) in a book, aim to bring a copy (no matter in which translation) to class.

Sept. 5 (W): “The End of Men”, *Atlantic Monthly* 07-08/2010, pp. 56-72 (p-drive); “All the Single Ladies” *Atlantic Monthly* 11/2011, pp. 116-136 (p-drive); Schaps, Chapter 1, pp. 3-14.

Sept. 7 (F): “Women’s Work” in *Mistress of the House, Mistress of Heaven: Women in Ancient Egypt*, pp. 13-46.

Presentation 1 on Minoans and Mycenaeans (sta 192-199).

Presentation by Team A on Schaps’ sections on material culture, pp. 178-191, 200-214, 474-80, 267-87.

Sept. 12 (W): WCW, pp. 6-33. Read up on Mothers in the *Iliad*, *Odyssey*, *Homeric Hymn to Demeter*.

Presentation 2 on 750-650 BC.

Sept. 14 (F): WCW, pp. 33-55.

Presentation 3 on 650-550 BC.

Presentation by Team B on Schaps’ sections on text-based fields, pp. 115-174.

Sept. 19 (W): WCW, pp. 67-83.

Presentation 4 on 550-450 BC.

Sept. 21 (F): WCW, pp. 83-101.

Presentation 5 on 450-400 BC.

Presentation by Team C on Schaps’ sections on the decoding of texts, pp. 69-112, 366-73, 380-8. 115-174.

Sept. 26 (W): WCW pp. 101-124

Presentation 6 on 400-350 BC.

Sept. 27 (R) 4:10 PM Community Theater, Gund Gallery R. Scott Smith (University of New Hampshire): "Found in Translation: Seneca's Tragedies and the Tragedy of his Translator"

Sept. 28 (F): WCW, pp. 128-134, 55-66.

No Presentation.

Presentation by Team D on Schaps’ sections on different types of texts, pp. 217-64, 359-65.

Oct. 3 (W): WCW pp. 136-155.

Presentation 7 on 350-250 BC.

Oct. 5 (F): WCW pp. 155-180.

Presentation 8 on 250-150 BC.

Presentation by Team E on Schaps' sections on related fields, pp. 288-355.

Oct. 10 (W): TEST I

Oct. 12 (F): October Break

Oct. 17 (W): WCW pp. 211-241.

No Presentation.

Oct. 19 (F): WCW pp. 260-277.

Presentation 9 on 150-50 BC.

Oct. 24 (W): WCW pp. 243-258, 280-292.

Oct. 26 (F): Class meets in Asc 125. Specters of Scholarship in Undead Alleys

Oct. 31 (W): WCW pp. 294-327.

Presentation 10 on 50 BC - turn of time.

Nov. 2 (F): WCW, pp. 330-344.

Presentation 11 on turn of time – 50 AD.

Nov. 7 (W): WCW, pp. 345-368.

Presentation 12 on 50-150 AD.

Nov. 9 (F): WCW, pp. 368-392.

Presentation 13 on 150-250 AD.

Nov. 14 (W): Woolf “On Not Knowing Greek” (p-drive)

Presentation 14 on post 250 AD.

Nov. 16 (F):

TEST II

Thanksgiving Vacation

Nov. 28 (W): Presentation and Discussion of Papers

Nov. 30 (F): Presentation and Discussion of Papers

Dec. 5 (W): Presentation and Discussion of Papers

Dec. 7 (F): Presentation and Discussion of Papers

Dec. 12 (W): Presentation and Discussion of Papers

Dec. 14 (F): Presentation and Discussion of Papers