

HIEU 133, Special Topics
Gender in Antiquity and the Early Mediterranean

Dr. Kathryn M. Ringrose
MWF 12:00 – 12:50
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Office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 1:00 – 2:00

Course books in the order you should read them:
Laura K. McClure, ed. *Sexuality and Gender in the Classical World*
Blackwell, 2002

Juvenal. *The Satires of Juvenal* Tr. Rolfe Humphries
Indiana University Press, 1958

Apuleius. *The Golden Ass*. Tr. P.G. Walsh
Oxford University Press, 1999

Additional books are on reserve in the library and available on the course web site. I will post the web address in class.

This course will examine gender structures and their roots from classical Greece and Rome through the coming of Christianity in the late antique and medieval worlds. How do these cultures define masculinity and femininity? How are "love" and "sexuality" defined? Is gender a simple bi-polar concept or is there room for middle grounds in some cultures? How much latitude is given to the expression of "otherness"? Who are the Amazons? Why do the Byzantines castrate their most important courtiers? Is it accurate to say that the Bible condemns homosexuality? To move into modernity, what does our governor mean when he talks about "girlie-men"? How do today's politicians manipulate long-standing cultural assumptions about gender?

There will be a short paper and a final examination. I will pass out suggested topics, and we can also develop topics together. The paper will be due on Friday, March 2. I do not

accept late papers. The final examination for this course is on Wednesday, March 21 from 11:30 to 2:30. Please check and see if this conflicts with any of your other final exams, your vacation travel plans, or you have three exams in a row on the same day. I so see me before Feb. 15 so I can help you deal with the problem.

Class schedule: There is no class on January 15 and February 19.

It is my policy that a student must do all the work assigned in the course in order to receive a passing grade in the course. In other words, if you fail to write the paper, but get an A on the final exam you will fail the course (rather than be given a C-). I also do not tolerate plagiarism of any kind.