

# Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Women in Antiquity • Spring 2023

For each meeting, please come into class having read *and thought about* the readings assigned for that class.

Readings listed with the book icon (📖) are from the assigned textbook, Pomeroy, *Goddesses, Whores, Wives, and Slaves*, 2nd Edition. All other readings are linked on the website.

To prepare for each meeting, you need to read:

- The assigned chapter from the textbook (Pomeroy—these are short),
- The brief primary source excerpts we'll be discussing in class, and
- At least one of the scholarly articles for that week.

## 1 Introduction and Themes

Tuesday, January 31

📖 Pomeroy, Introduction to *Goddesses*

Watch the Welcome and Orientation Video

Sign up for your presentations

## 2 Women in *The Epic of Gilgamesh*

Tuesday, February 7

📖 *Gilgamesh*, Introduction (pages xiii-xvi, xxxi-xxxii)

📖 *Epic of Gilgamesh*, Tablets 1-2: Shamhat and Enkidu

📖 *Epic of Gilgamesh*, Tablet 6: Ishtar's Proposal

Also read one of the following:

- 📖 Abusch, "Ishtar's Proposal and Gilgamesh's Refusal"
- 📖 Bailey, "Initiation and Primal Woman in *Gilgamesh* and Genesis"
- 📖 Harris, "Inanna-Ishtar as Paradox and a Coincidence of Opposites"

## 3 The Female Pharaohs of Egypt

Tuesday, February 14

📖 Roehrig (ed.), *Hatshepsut: From Queen to Pharaoh*  
[packet of selected articles]

Also read one of the following:

- 📖 Depla, "Women in Ancient Egyptian Wisdom Literature"
- 📖 Lesko, "Women's Monumental Mark on Ancient Egypt"
- 📖 Robins, "The God's Wife of Amun in the 18th Dynasty in Egypt"

Tuesday, February 21

No meeting (Monday classes meet)

## 4 Ancient Goddesses and Gods

Tuesday, February 28

📖 "Goddesses and Gods" (ch. 1, pp. 1-15)

📖 Hesiod, *Theogony*

Also read one of the following:

- 📖 Nixon, "The Cults of Demeter and Kore"
- 📖 Slater, "The Greek Family in History and Myth"
- 📖 Zeitlin, "Signifying Difference: The Myth of Pandora"

## 5 The Bronze Age and its Homeric Echo

Tuesday, March 7

📖 "Women in the Bronze Age and Homeric Epic" (ch. 2, pp. 16-31)

📖 Homer, "Agamemnon's Insult" (from *Iliad*)

📖 Homer, "Nausicaa and the Stranger" (from *Odyssey*)

📖 Homer, "The Artifice of Penelope" (from *Odyssey*)

Also read one of the following:

- 📖 Arthur, "Early Greece: The Origins of the Western Attitude"
- 📖 Arthur, "The Divided World of *Iliad* VI"
- 📖 Dowden, "Approaching Women Through Myth"
- 📖 Ortner, "Is Female to Male as Nature Is to Culture?"

## 6 Women and the Kingdom of Israel

Tuesday, March 14

📖 The Book of Esther

📖 The Book of Ruth

Also read one of the following:

- 📖 Archer, "Notions of Community and the Exclusion of the Female in Jewish History..."
- 📖 Archer, "The Role of Jewish Women in the Religion, Ritual, and Cult of Graeco-Roman Palestine"
- 📖 Brock, "Reading Between the Lines: Sarah and the Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis, Chapter 22)"

⚠️ The Images Essay is due on Monday, March 13.

## 7 Greece Emerging from the Dark Age

Tuesday, March 21

📖 "The Dark Age and the Archaic Period" (ch. 3, pp. 32-56)

📖 Hesiod, *Works and Days*

📖 Plutarch, "Sayings of Spartan Women"

Also read one of the following:

- 📖 Heath, "Women's Work: Female Transmission of Mythical Narrative"
- 📖 Marry, "Sappho and the Heroic Ideal"
- 📖 Stigers, "Sappho's Private World"

## 8 Women and the Athenian Polis

Tuesday, March 28

- 📖 "Women and the City of Athens" (ch. 4, pp. 57-78)
- 📖 Aeschylus, from *Eumenides*
- 📖 Herodotos, from *The Histories*

Also read one of the following:

- 📖 Dewald, "Women and Culture in Herodotus's *Histories*"
- 📖 Katz, "Ideology and the 'Status of Women' in Ancient Greece"
- 📖 Pomeroy, "Women's Identity and the Family in the Classical Polis"
- 📖 Walker, "Women and Housing in Classical Greece: The Archaeological Evidence"

⚠️ The Proposal is due on Monday, March 27.

## 9 Living Unpublicly in Classical Athens

Tuesday, April 4

- 📖 "Private Life in Classical Athens" (ch. 5, pp. 79-92)
- 📖 Euripides, from *The Bacchae*
- 📖 Theocritus, "The Women at the Adonis Festival", from *Idylls*

Also read one of the following:

- 📖 Burton, "Women's Commensality in the Ancient Greek World"
- 📖 Dover, "Classical Greek Attitudes to Sexual Behavior"
- 📖 Foxhall, "Women's Ritual and Men's Work in Ancient Athens"
- 📖 Segal, "The Menace of Dionysus: Sex Roles and Reversals in Euripides' *The Bacchae*"
- 📖 Venit, "Women in Their Cups"

Tuesday, April 11

No meeting (Spring Recess)

## 10 Images of Women in Athenian Literature

Tuesday, April 18

- 📖 "Images of Women in the Literature of Classical Athens" (ch. 6)
- 📖 Sophocles, from *Antigone*
- 📖 Euripides, from *Medea*

Also read one of the following:

- 📖 Foley, "The Conception of Women in Athenian Drama"
- 📖 Lambropoulou, "Some Pythagorean Female Virtues"
- 📖 Zeitlin, "The Dynamics of Misogyny: Myth and Mythmaking in the *Oresteia*"

## 11 The Roman Aristocratic Matron

Tuesday, April 25

- 📖 "The Roman Matron of the Late Republic & Early Empire" (ch. 8)
- 📖 Livy, "The Capture of the Sabine Women"
- 📖 Livy, "The Rape of Lucretia"

Also read one of the following:

- 📖 Boatwright, "Women and Gender in the Forum Romanum"
- 📖 Carp, "Two Matrons of the Late Republic"
- 📖 Corbier, "Male Power... Through Women Under the Julio-Claudians"
- 📖 Fantham, "Aemilia Pudentilla: Or the Wealthy Widow's Choice"
- 📖 Fischler, "Social Stereotypes and Historical Analysis: ... Imperial Women at Rome"

## 12 Beyond the Roman Aristocracy

Tuesday, May 2

- 📖 "Women of the Roman Lower Classes" (ch. 9, pp. 190-204)
- 📖 "The Twelve Tables", fragments
- 📖 Ovid, selections from *Metamorphoses*

Also read one of the following:

- 📖 Curran, "Rape and Rape Victims in *The Metamorphoses*"
- 📖 Hallett, "The Role of Women in Roman Elegy: Counter-Cultural Feminism", with responses
- 📖 Roller, "Horizontal Women: Posture and Sex in the Roman Convivium"
- 📖 Savunen, "Women and Elections in Pompeii"
- 📖 Warren, "The Women of Etruria"

## 13 Women and the Roman Religion

Tuesday, May 9

- 📖 "The Role of Women in the Religion of the Romans" (ch. 10, pp. 205-226)
- 📖 Cato on the Oppian Law
- 📖 Pliny the Younger, selected letters

Also read one of the following:

- 📖 Beard, "Re-reading (Vestal) Virginité"
- 📖 Clark, "Roman Women"
- 📖 Fisher, "Theodora and Antonina in the *Historia Arcana*: History and/or Fiction?"
- 📖 Perkell, "On Creusa, Dido, and the Quality of Victory in Virgil's *Aeneid*"

## 14 The Hellenistic and Graeco-Roman Eras

Tuesday, May 16

- 📖 "Hellenistic Women" (ch. 7, pp. 120-148)
- 📖 "The Elusive Women of Classical Antiquity" (epilogue, pp. 227-230)
- 📖 Plutarch, "Advice to the Bride and Groom"
- 📖 Plutarch, Roman Accounts of Cleopatra

Also read one of the following:

- 📖 King, "Self-Help, Self-Knowledge: ... Patient in Hippocratic Gynaecology"
- 📖 Lefkowitz, "Influential Women"
- 📖 Pomeroy, "Infanticide in Hellenistic Greece"
- 📖 Pomeroy, "Spartan Women among the Romans: Adapting Models, Forging Identities"
- 📖 Thonemann, "The Women of Akmonia"

⚠️ The Position Paper is due on Monday, May 15.

## 15 Final Exam

Tuesday, May 23

The final exam will be held in-person on Tuesday, May 23 from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. in our normal meeting room.