

Women in Antiquity
SPRING 2024

MEETING 7

Living Unpublicly in Classical Athens

- Position Paper
- Private Athens
- Seduction, adultery, and rape
- Prostitution and hetaerae
- The Bacchae



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Five things today

- 1 Position Paper
- 2 Private Athens
- 3 Seduction, adultery, and rape
- 4 Prostitution and hetaerae
- 5 *The Bacchae*

2

Questions about whatever



3

Quiz #3: Women and the Athenian Polis

- In this chapter, Pomeroy begins by outlining a controversy among modern historians over the status of women in classical Athens. What two opposing positions have historians held about the status of Athenian women? How does Pomeroy respond?
 - What key moment or scene in particular stood out for you from Aeschylus's *Eumenides*, and why? What do you think the playwright was trying to get across in that moment?
- EC1. Athenian religious cults in which women played an important role included all of the following EXCEPT:
- the festival of the Spangeli Teras
 - the cult of the Olympian goddess Athena
 - the mysteries of Demeter and Kore at Eleusis
 - the exclusively female celebration of the Thesmophoria
- EC2. According to Pomeroy, how did inheritance normally work in propertied families where there were daughters, but no son to preserve the *oikos* (estate/household)?

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The Position Paper



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Guidance and resources

Requirements for All Papers

Read the requirements for the various writing papers by these requirements:

Before writing on your assignments, log on to watch the videos below. There are also slides, and this is how the requirements will be assessed in your papers and score design in your grade.

Position Paper

Research and Citations Center

Writing a Position Paper for History Students

Sample introduction

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Structure of an essay

- Introduction**
 - State the problem (some say ... others say ...)
 - Give your thesis (I believe...)
- First reason**
 - ASSERTION #1
 - Evidence from primary or secondary sources
 - Discussion of how the evidence demonstrates your thesis
- Second reason**
 - ASSERTION #2
 - Evidence from primary or secondary sources
 - Discussion of how the evidence demonstrates your thesis
- Third reason**
 - ASSERTION #3
 - Evidence from primary or secondary sources
 - Discussion of how the evidence demonstrates your thesis
- Conclusion**
 - Address counterarguments
 - Connect your "reason" sections together
 - Restate your thesis as having been demonstrated

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Approaches to research

- Assigned readings
 - Relevant primary sources
 - Ancient Texts index on my website markbwilson.com/pages/texts.html
 - Articles assigned for class
 - Pomeroy's Goddesses, Whores...
- Search for library books
 - Lehman/CUNY OneSearch lehman.edu/library
 - Digital resources
 - Books on the shelf
 - NY Public Library browse.nypl.org
 - Worldcat worldcat.org
- Footnotes in the books you've already found
- Good ol' Prof. Wilson

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Citations and bibliography

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Cras condimentum est rhoncus lectus molestie.

 Maecenas quisque tristique luctus magna, vel molestie ante commodo eu. Integer nec molestie lacus. Morbi sagittis rutrum vehicula. Integer a lectus sapien, in dignissim leo. Vestibulum ac urna urna. Vestibulum nunc arcu, placerat quis faucibus.

*Smith 2007, 34.
 *Smith 2007, 106.
 *Zimmermann 2009, 56.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Smith, John. 2007. *This Is the Title of the Book*. New York: Important Books Press.

Thayer, Charles C. 1999. *Abingdon, Virginia and History*. Seattle, WA: Small Town Press.

Thayer, Charles C. 2003. *More Abingdon Stories*. Seattle, WA: Small Town Press.

Zimmermann, Fred. 2009. *Did You Hear the One About the Walnut?* Chicago: Nunc Press.

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Citing ancient sources



Footnote or parenthetical citation:
Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War* 3.2

Bibliography:
Thucydides and Steven Lattimore.
The Peloponnesian War.
Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing
Company, 1998.



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Citing a play or poem



Footnote or parenthetical citation:
Clouds, lines 1087–1103

Bibliography:
West, Thomas G., Grace Starry
West, Plato, and Aristophanes.
*Four Texts on Socrates: Plato's
Euthyphro, Apology, and Crito,
and Aristophanes' Clouds* (Rev.
ed). Ithaca: Cornell University
Press, 1998.



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Points to remember

- Cite all information from outside your head
 - Direct quotes
 - Paraphrases
 - Information, facts, statistics
 - Ideas
- Everything in the paper should support your thesis argument
- Do not just narrate the history
- Check the requirements for all papers

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Private life in Athens

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Private life in Athens

- We have more info about private life in Greece than for other societies
- Constantly bear in mind the limitations of our sources
 - Most of our info has to do with the upper class
 - Can be very far from pertinent to what it's like to be a peasant woman living 20 miles from Athens
 - Focus on Athens, so much less is known about what it's like in Thebes, Corinth, Naxos, etc.
 - Primary literary – fictionalized, dramatized, not narrations of ordinary life

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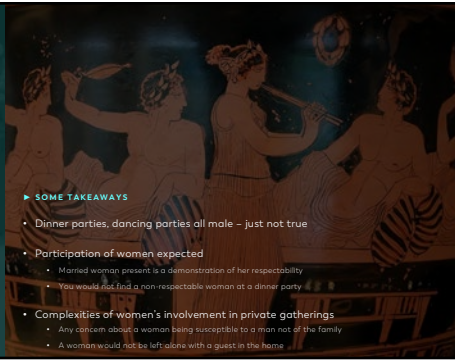
Secondary Source Reading

Joan Burton

"Women's Commensality in the Ancient Greek World"

SOME TAKEAWAYS

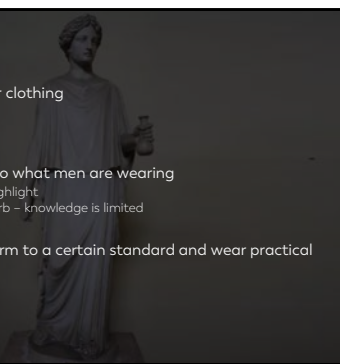
- Dinner parties, dancing parties all male – just not true
- Participation of women expected
 - Married woman present is a demonstration of her respectability
 - You would not find a non-respectable woman at a dinner party
- Complexities of women's involvement in private gatherings
 - Any concern about a woman being susceptible to a man not of the family
 - A woman would not be left alone with a guest in the home







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Clothing

- Different traditions for clothing
 - Ionian
 - Dorian
- Female counterparts to what men are wearing
 - Not to obscure or to highlight
 - Practical household garb – knowledge is limited
- Still expected to conform to a certain standard and wear practical or dignified clothing



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Peplos	Chiton	Himation	Strophion
			

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Secondary Source Reading

Lin Foxhall

"Women's Ritual and Men's Work in Ancient Athens"

► SOME TAKEAWAYS

- There are contributions that women make through festivals and rituals
 - Part of the way people contribute to their communities in general
- Women are doing it, men are doing it
 - Separately as genders and together as a community
- Festivals that involve women
 - Not just about women finding community among themselves
 - Part of the organic way in which all members of community contribute to health and strength of the community

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Exercise



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Health and folklore



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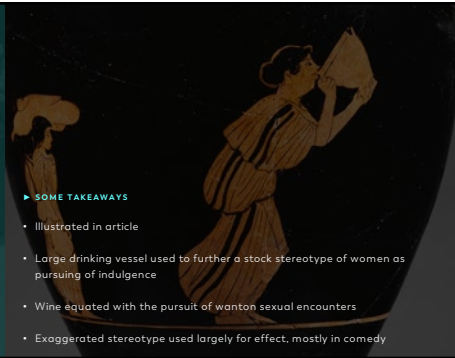
Secondary Source Reading

Marjorie Susan Venit

"Women in Their Cups"

SOME TAKEAWAYS

- Illustrated in article
- Large drinking vessel used to further a stock stereotype of women as pursuing of indulgence
- Wine equated with the pursuit of wanton sexual encounters
- Exaggerated stereotype used largely for effect, mostly in comedy



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Sexuality and prostitution

- Sexuality is problematized in retrospect
 - The mode by which a society collectively assesses itself
 - Very much associated with the marital bond
- We find out about social expectations of sexuality in terms of deviation from the norm
- Adultery – responsibility of man? Woman? Both?
- Rape – extreme form of this
 - Tends to show up in literature or storytelling (epic, mythology, plays, poetry)
 - Larger than life events and crises brought forward to exaggerate the normal human response
 - Info about rape is less reliable because it tends to be more dramatized
 - Adultery more mild and attitudes toward it can be taken a little more at face value
- Prostitution
 - Alternative path to social norm
 - Not at bottom of society but at the side of society
 - Very different from what we think of as prostitution today (see discussion in class)
 - Could be a form of a secure social bond (see daughter's wedding scene outside – Prostitution)
 - Was part of a woman's preparation for the future (marriage and plans)
- Stigma is of not being part of the advancement of community – not part of the community's story



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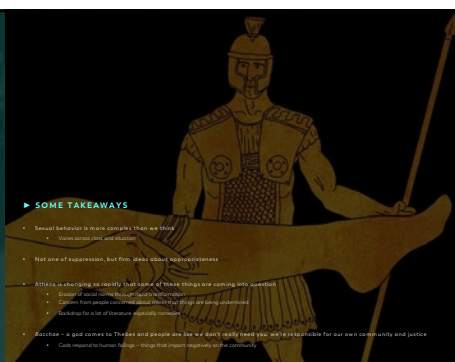
Secondary Source Reading

K. J. Dover

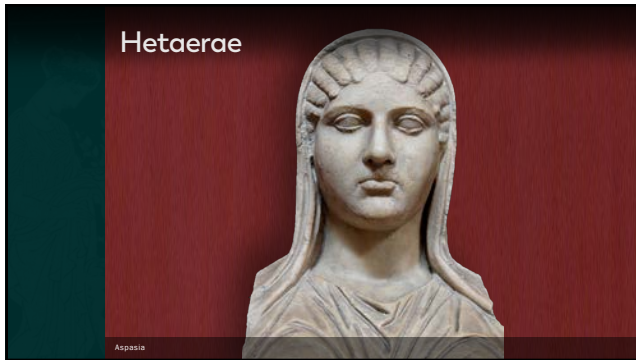
"Classical Greek Attitudes to Sexual Behavior"

SOME TAKEAWAYS

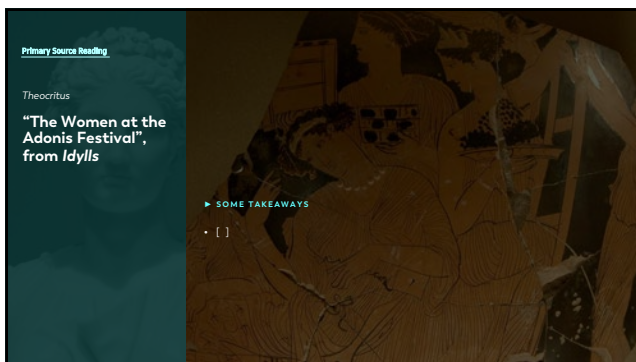
- Sexual behavior is more complex than we think
 - Women slaves, war, and elation
- Not one of forgiveness, but firm, takes about responsibility
- Athens is changing so rapidly that some of these things are coming into question
 - Sense of shame, honor, and self-respect
 - Custom from people concerned about their own things and their own interests
 - Outside for a lot of reasons especially commerce
- Paucity – a god comes to Thetis and people are like we don't really need you we're responsible for our own community and justice
 - Gods depend on human beings – things that count regularly in the community



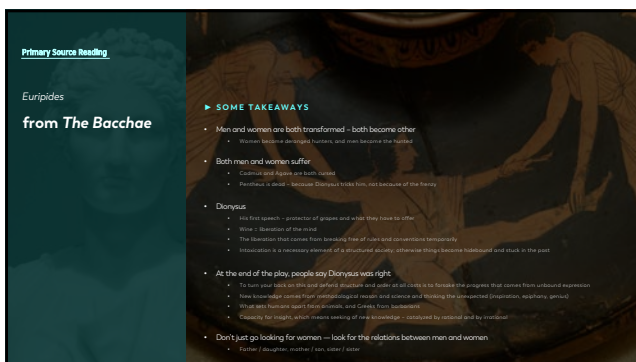
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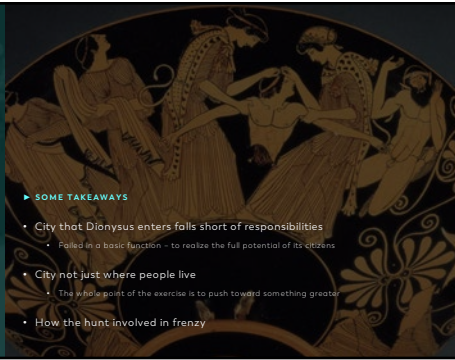
Secondary Source Reading

Charles Segal

“The Menace of Dionysus: Sex Roles and Reversals in Euripides’ *The Bacchae*”

► SOME TAKEAWAYS

- City that Dionysus enters falls short of responsibilities
 - Palled in a basic function - to realize the full potential of its citizens
- City not just where people live
 - The whole point of the exercise is to push toward something greater
- How the hunt involved in frenzy



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