

Schedule

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 below.

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.

August 2025							September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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31																					30													

Public and Private

1 Introduction and Themes

Tuesday, August 26

📖 Pomeroy, Introduction to *Goddesses*

2 Women in *The Epic of Gilgamesh*

Tuesday, September 2

★ *Gilgamesh*, Introduction

★ *Gilgamesh*, Tablet 1: The Coming of Enkidu

★ *Gilgamesh*, Tablet 2: The Taming of Enkidu

★ *Gilgamesh*, Tablet 6: Ishtar and the Bull of Heaven

Read one of the following:

- ♦ “Ishtar’s Proposal and Gilgamesh’s Refusal” / Abusch
- ♦ “Initiation and the Primal Woman in *Gilgamesh* and Genesis 2-3” / Bailey
- ♦ “Inanna-Ishtar as Paradox and a Coincidence of Opposites” / Harris

Gender and the Greeks

3 Ancient Goddesses and Gods

Tuesday, September 9

📖 ch. 1, “Goddesses and Gods”

★ *Theogony* / Hesiod

Read one of the following:

- ♦ “The Cults of Demeter and Kore” / Nixon
- ♦ “The Greek Family in History and Myth” / Slater
- ♦ “Signifying Difference: The Myth of Pandora” / Zeitlin

4 The Bronze Age and its Homeric Echo

Tuesday, September 16

📖 ch. 2, “Women in the Bronze Age and Homeric Epic”

★ “Agamemnon’s Insult” (from *Iliad*) / Homer

★ “Nausicaa and the Stranger” (from *Odyssey*) / Homer

★ “The Artifice of Penelope” (from *Odyssey*) / Homer

Read one of the following:

- ♦ “Early Greece: The Origins of the Western Attitude Toward Women” / Arthur
- ♦ “The Divided World of *Iliad* VI” / Arthur
- ♦ “Approaching Women Through Myth: Vital Tool or Self-Delusion?” / Dowden
- ♦ “Is Female to Male as Nature Is to Culture?” / Ortner

5 Greece Emerging from the Dark Age

Tuesday, September 30

📖 ch. 3, "The Dark Age and the Archaic Period"

- ★ *Works and Days* / Hesiod
- ★ "Sayings of Spartan Women" / Plutarch
- ★ Selected Poems / Sappho

Read one of the following:

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

6 Women and the Athenian Polis

Tuesday, October 7

📖 ch. 4, "Women and the City of Athens"

- ★ from *Eumenides* / Aeschylus
- ★ from *The Histories* / Herodotos

Read one of the following:

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

⚠️ The Images essay is due Monday, Oct. 6.

7 Living Unpublicly in Classical Athens

Tuesday, October 21

📖 ch. 5, "Private Life in Classical Athens"

- ★ from *The Bacchae* / Euripides
- ★ "The Women at the Adonis Festival", from *Idylls* / Theocritus

Read one of the following:

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

8 Images of Women in Athenian Literature

Tuesday, October 28

📖 ch. 6, "Images of Women in the Literature of Classical Athens"

- ★ from *Antigone* / Sophocles
- ★ from *Medea* / Euripides

Read one of the following:

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

⚠️ The Proposal is due Monday, Oct. 27.

Gender and Public Religion

9 The Female Pharaohs of Egypt

Tuesday, November 4

- ★ *Hatshepsut: From Queen to Pharaoh* [packet of selected articles] / Roehrig (ed.)
- ★ *The Birth of Hatshepsut*
- ★ Epitaph of Kheredankh, Daughter of Shepmin

Read one of the following:

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

⚠️ The last day to withdraw from Spring 2025 courses is Thursday, Nov. 6.

10 Women and the Kingdom of Israel

Tuesday, November 11

- ★ *The Book of Esther*
- ★ *The Book of Ruth*

Read one of the following:

- ◆ "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" / Archer
- ◆ "Reading Between the Lines: Sarah and the Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis, Chapter 22)" / Brock

Gender and the Romans

11 The Roman Aristocratic Matron

Tuesday, November 18

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

Read one of the following:

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

12 Beyond the Roman Aristocracy

Tuesday, November 25

- ch. 9, "Women of the Roman Lower Classes"
- ★ "The Twelve Tables", fragments
- ★ selections from *Metamorphoses* / Ovid

Read one of the following:

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

13 Women and the Roman Religion

Tuesday, December 2

- ch. 10, "The Role of Women in the Religion of the Romans"
- ★ "Cato on the Oppian Law" / Livy
- ★ selected letters / Pliny the Younger

Read one of the following:

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

14 The Hellenistic and Graeco-Roman Eras

Tuesday, December 9

- ch. 7, "Hellenistic Women"
- ★ Epilogue, "The Elusive Women of Classical Antiquity"
- ★ "Advice to the Bride and Groom" / Plutarch
- ★ Roman Accounts of Cleopatra / Plutarch

Read one of the following:

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

⚠ The Position Paper is due Monday, Dec. 8.

15 Final Exam

Tuesday, December 16

The final exam will be held in-person on Tuesday, Dec. 16 from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. in our normal meeting room.