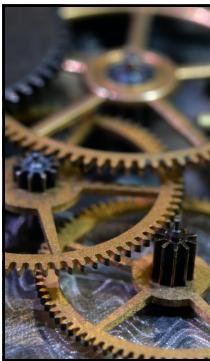




Introduction and Evidence

Women in Antiquity | Meeting #1

1



Upcoming Dates

- Monday, October 12
Representations and Images Essay
- Monday, October 26
Position Paper Proposal
- Sunday, September 6
Responses for Week 1 Due

2

What is this course?

Women in Antiquity
HIA 311, cross-listed with ACU 311, HIA 750,
LEH 354, and WST 311

Tuesdays
6:00 – 8:40 p.m. in Carman 209

markbwilson.com/courses/DD/DD_wia/



3

Who am I?

Mark Wilson
Adjunct Assistant Professor,
Dept. of History

- mark.wilson@lehman.cuny.edu
- Carman 292
- Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays,
5:00 to 5:45 p.m.



4

Five things today

- Gender in the ancient world
- The syllabus
- Themes for the course
- Eras of history
- Evidence

5

Gender in the ancient world

6



7



Problems studying gender in antiquity

- Evidence from the ancient era is fragmented
- ... tends to be written by men
- ... tends to deal with the public space
- ... is written by the upper classes
- Interpretation is shaped by modern ideas
- Gender, equality, and participation in society are different discussions
- Translation

8



9



10



11

EPITAPH TO CLAUDIA
Friend, I have not much to say; stop and read it.
This tomb, which is not fair, is for a fair woman.
Her parents gave her the name Claudia.
She loved her husband in her heart.
She bore two sons, one of whom she left on earth, the other beneath it.
She was pleasant to talk with, and she walked with grace.
She kept the house and worked in wool.
That is all. You may go.

12

EPITAPH TO ANYMONE

Here lies Anymone, wife of Marcus,
best and most beautiful, worker in wool,
pious, chaste, thrifty, faithful, a stayer-at-home.

13

FROM EURIPIDES, *MELANIPPE CAPTIVE*

"Women are better than men, as I will show

Women run households and protect within their homes
what has been carried across the sea, and without a
woman no home is clean or prosperous.

Consider their role in religion ... women prophesy the will
of [Apollo] Loxias in the oracles of Phoebus

Why is it, then, that women must have a bad reputation? ...

There is nothing worse than a bad woman, and nothing
better in any way than a good one, but their natures differ."

14

FROM CARCINUS, *SEMELE*

"O Zeus, why need one say evil of women in detail?
It would be enough if you merely said woman."

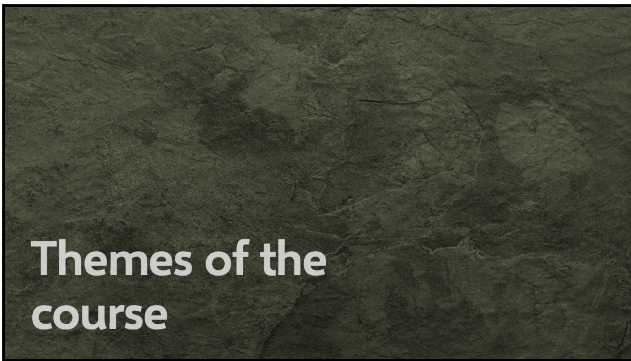
15



Understanding gender is subjective

- Contemporary expectations of behavior
 - Gender (men as well as women)
 - Class
 - City and nation
- Selectivity of evidence
 - Point of view
 - Survival
 - Preservation
- Modern (anachronistic) interpretation
 - Even perfectly preserved evidence is warped by
 - Our own expectations
 - Unwarranted extrapolation

16



17



Public and Private

- Men are responsible for the public
- Women are responsible for the private
- Both are crucial to the community's survival
- Historical evidence tends to come from the public

18



Present and Future

- Men are responsible for the present
- Women are responsible for future
- Both are crucial to the community's survival
- Women's ability to create life separates them from men

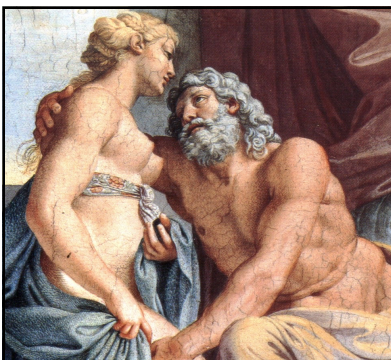
19



Rich and Poor

- Gender roles differ according to class and culture
- Historical evidence tends to come from the wealthy
 - Leisure to write and create
 - Motivation to record information about property and power

20



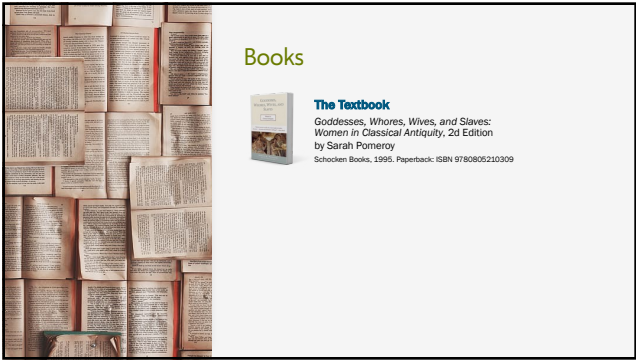
Mortal and Divine

- Ancient cultures are mostly pagan
- Pagans have many gods that represent local natural forces
- Each culture tells different stories about their gods and goddesses
- Behavioral standards for gods are often different from those for goddesses

21



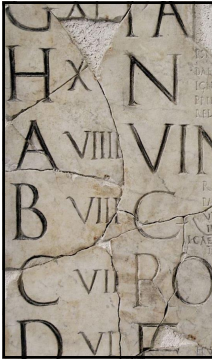
22



23



24



Meetings and Reading Assignments



- 1. Introduction and Overview
- 2. The Greek World
- 3. The Greek Mind
- 4. The Greek World and the Roman World
- 5. The Greek World and the Roman World

GENDER AND THE GREEKS



3 Ancient Goddesses and Gods

Tuesday, February 10

- Before the meeting, read all of the following:
 - ch. 1, "Goddesses and Gods"
 - "Theology / History"
- Before the meeting, read one of the following:
 - "The Cult of Demeter and Kore" / Nixon
 - "The Greek Family in History and Myth" / Slater
 - "Signifying Difference: The Myth of Pandora" / Jantzen

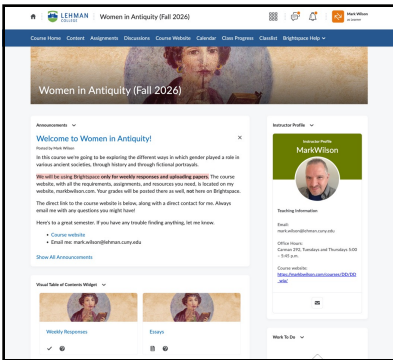
25



Approaching the course

- Come to class prepared
- Read critically
- Ask questions
- Take notes
- Discuss with each other
- Manage your time
- Use me as a resource

26



Brightspace

- Weekly Responses
- Uploading essays

Everything else is on the course website

27



The course website
markbwilson.com/courses/DD/DD_wia/

28



Questions about whatever

29



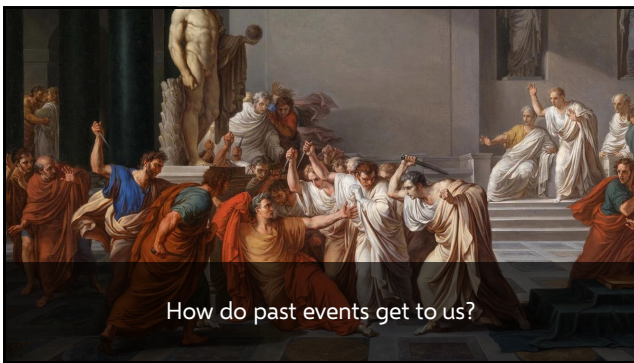
website:
markbwilson.com

email:
mark.wilson@lehman.cuny.edu

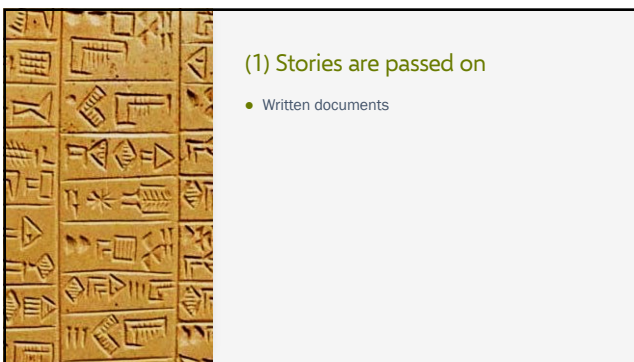
30



31



32



33



(1) Stories are passed on

- Written documents
- Oral history

34



(2) Things survive

- Archaeology

35



(2) Things survive

- Archaeology
- Material culture
 - tools, coins, household goods, etc.

36



(2) Things survive

- Archaeology
- Material culture
 - tools, coins, household goods, etc.
- Art

37



Example

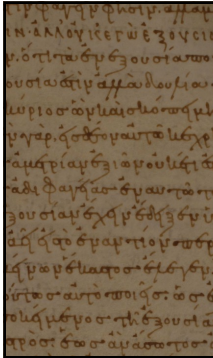
- *The Epic of Gilgamesh*
- Survives as 4000-year-old baked clay tablets
- Both the tablets and the contents are artifacts

38

Kinds of evidence

- Primary source
 - Eyewitness testimony from the place and time being studied
- Secondary source
 - A scholar collects and interprets primary sources on a subject
- Tertiary source
 - General scholarly consensus on a subject
 - Includes encyclopedias, textbooks, and almost everything on the web
 - NOT ALLOWED as a source for history papers

39

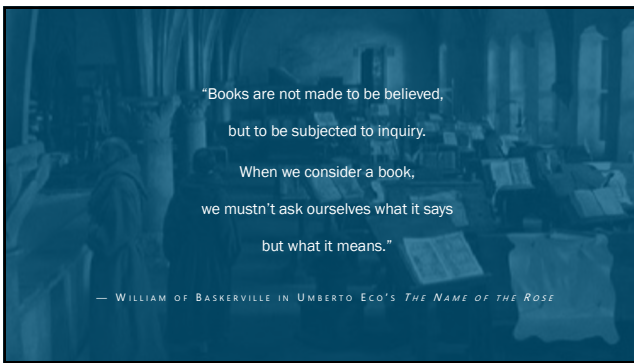


Problems with primary sources?

- Intentional bias
- Unintentional bias
- Point of view
- Survival
- Translation

CONCLUSION:
There are no facts in history

40



"Books are not made to be believed,
but to be subjected to inquiry.
When we consider a book,
we mustn't ask ourselves what it says
but what it means."
— WILLIAM OF BASKERVILLE IN UMBERTO ECO'S *THE NAME OF THE ROSE*

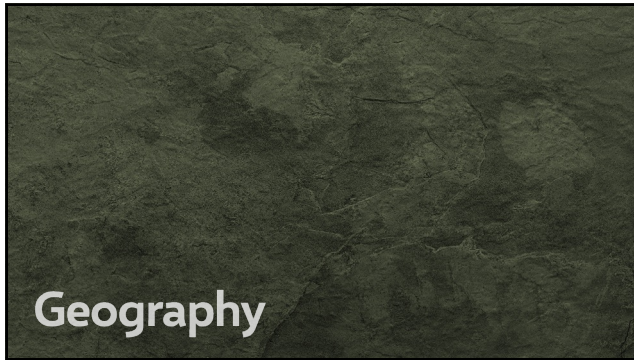
41



Example

- Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, 79 CE
- Account by Pliny the Younger
- Nothing is ever written for no reason

42



43



44



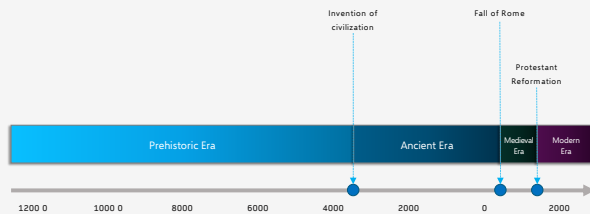
45

The "Common Era" calendar

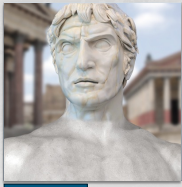


46

Eras of (Mediterranean) history



47

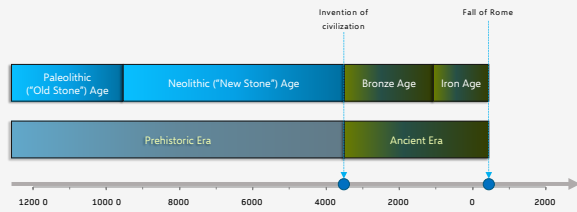


ancient era

a historical period from ~3000 BCE to ~500 CE, characterized by experimentation with systems of *community and empire*

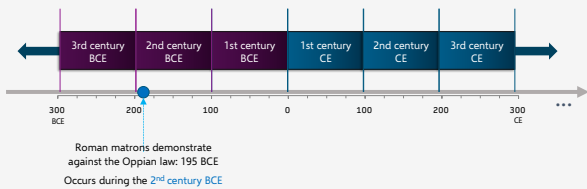
48

Ages of technology



49

Counting centuries



50

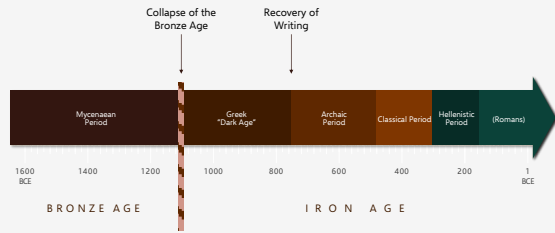


Periodization

- Historians divide history into "eras" based on how we can characterize society
- Archaeologists divide history into "ages" based on changes in prevalent technology
- These periods help organize our studies, but also overgeneralize places and times within each period

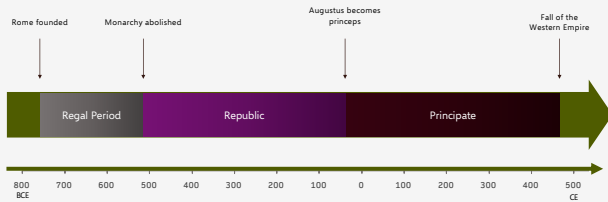
51

Periods of Greek History

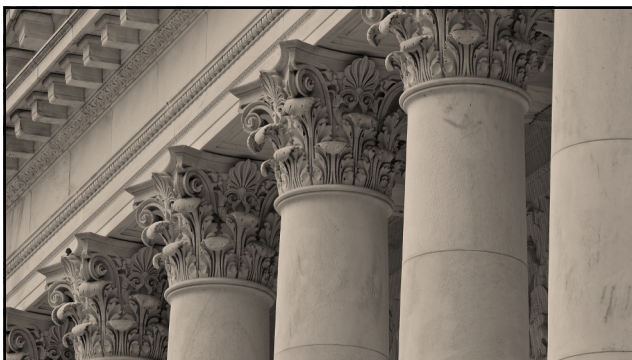


52

Periods of Roman History



53



54
