

Women in Antiquity

Welcome to the course. Here's what you need to know to get started.

This course explores the different ways in which gender played a role in various ancient societies, through history, mythology, and literature.

On the website: Quick Welcome & Orientation Video (8:36)

Things you need to know

Here's a breakdown of the course and how this site works, with links to the relevant pages.

You can also browse through the course website by using the navigation arrows to the left and right of the page image; the site menu at the top right of every page; or the site map, also linked at the top right of every page. Return to this page by clicking on the home icon, or choosing "Overview" from the site menu.

- **Announcements** and updates will be posted on the Announcements page.
- **A textbook** is required for this course.
 - The rest of the readings are all posted here on the course website.
- **Our class meetings** are once a week, on Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:40 p.m.
 - These meetings are in person in Carman [Room TBA].
 - Students are expected to come to each class having done the readings listed on the Schedule page.
- **Your grade** for this course will come from:
 - weekly quizzes at the start of some class meetings;
 - two presentations (one on a primary source and one on a secondary source);
 - one short essay on representations and images plus a research paper due at the end; and
 - one final exam.

Students can monitor their progress on the My Grades page.
- **This website** is the syllabus for this course.
 - Participation in this course includes adherence to the policies and expectations in this syllabus, including rules on assignments and attendance, academic integrity, and essay format and structure.
- **Helpful resources** here on this site include:
 - maps and timelines;
 - quiz notes;
 - guidance on citations and sources;
 - lecture and assignment videos;
 - slides for each class meeting;
 - a step-by-step guide to writing an essay;
 - an index of ancient texts online;
 - Word and Google Docs essay templates;
 - image galleries;
 - and more.
- **PDF versions** exist for most pages—look for the PDF icon at the top right of any page.
 - If you want a PDF version of the full syllabus to reference or print, click here or go to the Print/PDF page.
 - There's also a site map to help you find what you need.
- **Questions?**
 - Email me with any questions, concerns, curiosities, or ideas at mark.wilson@lehman.cuny.edu.
 - Or come to my office hours, which are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 to 5:45 in Carman Hall room 292.

Course Details

Meeting times, office hours, and objectives.

HIA 311: Women in Antiquity. 3 hours, 3 credits. In-Person lecture. Writing Intensive.

Examination of the image, role, and status of women in Greek, Roman, and other ancient societies as seen from the important literary works of antiquity.

Details HIA 311-XT81 (48924), Fall 2026. Crosslisted with: HIA 750-XT81 (48915), ACU 311-XT81 (48099), LEH 354-XT81 (45412), WST 311-XT81 (48691). Meetings: Tuesdays 6:00–8:40 p.m., in [Room TBA].

Instructor Dr. Mark B. Wilson, Adjunct Assistant Professor. Office: Carman 292. Email: mark.wilson@lehman.cuny.edu. Website: markbwilson.com.

Office hours Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:00–5:45 p.m. in CA-292.

Rationale

The written evidence from the ancient world is dominated by the actions and perspectives of men, who both ruled public life and created most of the cultural expression that has endured. Increasingly over the past several decades historians have sought to overcome this evidentiary bias by striving to represent women's perspectives both in the narratives of individual cultures and times and through the specific exploration of the voices, deeds, and representations of women of antiquity, as a pathway to understanding both the meaning of womanhood in any given society and the mores of the cultures they helped bring about and shape for posterity.

Specific Learning Objectives

In this course we'll be pursuing a number of goals, including:

- Exploration of the emergence of civilization and its implications for humanity
- Exploration of gender roles in the ancient world, in different cultures and across time
- Examining social, cultural, religious, economic, and political norms that affected, and were shaped by, women in ancient societies
- Understanding images of women in ancient cultures, and how they related to the lives of women in those societies
- How the study of women's roles has affected modern understanding of ancient cultures
- Development of the skills associated with the study of history, including the interpretation of primary sources and other evidence.

Books

One book is required. Some possible ways to get it are listed below.

The assigned book is available from Lehman College Bookstore and from Amazon and other online retailers (try searching aggregators such as Bookfinder for the best deals). Make sure you do so enough in advance that you'll receive the books in time for the assignments.

Note: In addition to the book below, we will also be reading and discussing primary source readings. All of the readings are available here on the website and are linked to from the schedule page under the weeks they are assigned.

On the website: Bookstore links.

Assigned Books

● ***Goddesses, Whores, Wives, and Slaves: Women in Classical Antiquity***

by Sarah Pomeroy. New York: Schocken Books, 1995. Paperback: ISBN 9780805210309. Publisher cost new: \$16.95. Ebook: ISBN 9780307791474.

- Getting this book:
 - Available as a full-text ebook online via Leonard Lief Library.
 - Available as a physical copy in the stacks via Lief Library.
 - A copy of the book is available via Cloudflare and Zlibrary.
 - Available for hourly rental via the Internet Archive.
 - Rent (new or used) or buy (new or used) from the Lehman College online bookstore (see section links above).
 - Buy Kindle or paperback (new or used) via Amazon.
 - Buy (new or used) via Valore Books, Abe Books, Alibris, Better World Books, or Powell's.
- The 1995 edition has a new preface by the author and has a few updates, so try to find that rather than the original version, which was first published in 1975.

Grading

Your overall course grade will come from a combination of weekly reading responses, written essays, and an in-class exam.

Your grade for the course will be determined from the following:

Attendance, Responses, and Quizzes 20%

Each week there will be

- attendance taken at class meetings, 5%
- a required online post in response to a primary source, and 5%
- a short, 5-minute in-class quiz. 10%

Quizzes are based on the assigned readings. **Note:** In-class quizzes take place at the start of our class meetings and are not made up, so it is important to arrive on time and prepared.

Presentations 15%

You'll give two in-class presentations on a source:

- one on one of the assigned primary sources, and 7½%
- one on one of the assigned secondary sources. 7½%

A written version is due a week after your presentation.

Written Assignments 35%

There will be

- a 3-to-4 page essay on images of the ancient world, and 10%
- a 6-to-8 page term paper using evidence to take a position on a research topic of your choice relating to gender in the ancient world. 25%

Exam 30%

For this course there will be an end-of-term in-class final exam.

Expectations

Critical information and guidelines for successfully completing your objectives for the course.

The best path to doing well in the course and gaining a more solid understanding of the past is to engage actively with the material and with class discussions.

This website is the syllabus for this course. As with any course, you are responsible for knowing the requirements for the course. Participation in this course includes adherence to the policies and expectations in this syllabus, including rules on

- assignments and attendance,
- academic integrity [see Policies], and
- essay format and structure [see Essay Musts].

Attendance and Participation

- **Participation in class discussion is a required part of the course.** Missing classes will damage your grade.
 - Textbooks are designed to give you the basics; in our class meetings we try to make sense of things, and sift out what's important. Missing classes means you miss out on a key part of our trying to put things together.
 - If you miss quizzes, it will put a big crimp in your grade for the course. Quizzes are not made up, so the quizzes you miss will count against you.
- Religious observances that affect your class attendance should be discussed in advance.
- **If you are not feeling well**, please stay home.
- If you must miss class (due to illness or for another reason), arrive late, or leave early, I ask that you **advise me by email** before the class meeting.

Guidelines

Don't waste this opportunity! Make the most out of this class.

- **Please use me as a resource.** Interact with me in class meetings online or send me emails with any questions you have—whether they relate to the requirements of the course, or to ideas we're reading about or discussing in class.
- **Come to the class meetings prepared.** By prepared, I mean you should have done the readings and videos for that day—and thought about them. Come in ready to talk about your reactions to the readings, and the questions they raised in your mind.
- **Take notes in class.** You are responsible for the material discussed in class meetings, and will be expected to discuss this material on exams and in assigned essays. Taking notes in class gives you a resource to review what was discussed.
- **Check your email.** Make sure I have a good email address for you and check it, as I occasionally send information and updates by email. If you have not gotten an email from me within the first week after school begins, check your spam folders. If you can't find an email from me, send me an email to let me know how best to reach you.
- **Talk to me if you're struggling.** Reach out to me via email, and the sooner the better. Don't wait until it's too late to turn things around. If you're considering withdrawing, talk with me first and see if we come up with a plan.

Submitting Assignments

- **All written assignments must be submitted via Brightspace** using the upload links there. Brightspace is accessed through CUNY Login. If you have trouble with Brightspace, please call the IT helpdesk at (718) 960-1111 or go the Lehman College Brightspace support page. I won't accept written assignments by email. If Brightspace itself is down, I'll announce alternative arrangements to the class.
- **Late assignments. Late assignments will be marked down.** I'll still accept late submissions, but there will be a penalty that will hurt your grade.
 - Written assignments will be marked down one letter grade per week after the assignment due date, up to a maximum of 30 points. That means you're still better off turning in your paper late, and having it be marked down, than not turning it in at all.
 - I do not give extra credit opportunities except to the entire class. I do not grade on a curve.
 - **Incompletes.** I do not give incompletes unless we've discussed and agreed on the grounds for giving one prior to the final exam.
 - **Make-ups and rewrites.** Make-up assignments or exams are given only in cases of documented medical emergency or comparable life disruption. I do not accept rewritten essays after an assignment has been submitted, graded, and returned; but some deductions are reversible (see the sample grading sheet on the Requirements page).
- Any instances of plagiarism, whether on essays, papers, quizzes, or exams, will have dire consequences. See the policies page for what counts as plagiarism and the penalties involved in presenting the work of others as your own.
- Any student who would have received an F for the course owing to nonsubmission of assignments, but who gets a C or better on the final exam, will receive a D for the course. Any student who does not attend the final exam, regardless of prior standing, will automatically receive a WU for the course, unless excused by documented personal emergency.

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 (★).

September 2026							October 2026							November 2026							December 2026						
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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Public and Private

1 Introduction and Themes

Tuesday, September 1

- 📖 Pomeroy, Introduction to *Goddesses*

2 Women in The Epic of Gilgamesh

Tuesday, September 8

- 📄 *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
- ★ “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 15

- 📖 ch. 1, “Goddesses and Gods”
- 📄 *Theogony* / Hesiod
- ★ “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 22

- 📖 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

- ★ “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 29

- 📖 ch. 3, “The Dark Age and the Archaic Period”
- 📖 *Works and Days* / Hesiod
- 📖 “Sayings of Spartan Women” / Plutarch
- 📖 Selected Poems / Sappho

- ★ “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 6

- 📖 ch. 4, “Women and the City of Athens”
- 📖 from *Eumenides* / Aeschylus
- 📖 from *The Histories* / Herodotos

- ★ “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

7 Living Unpublicly in Classical Athens

Tuesday, October 20

- 📖 ch. 5, “Private Life in Classical Athens”
- 📖 from *The Bacchae* / Euripides
- 📖 “The Women at the Adonis Festival”, from *Idylls* / Theocritus

- ★ “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

- The Images essay is due Monday, Oct. 13.

8 Images of Women in Athenian Literature

Tuesday, October 27

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

- The Proposal is due Monday, Oct. 26.

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

Gender and Public Religion

9 The Female Pharaohs of Egypt

Tuesday, November 3

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

- The last day to withdraw from Fall 2026 courses is Thursday, Nov. 6.

- ★ "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

10 Women and the Kingdom of Israel

Tuesday, November 10

- 📖 *The Book of Esther*
- 📖 *The Book of Ruth*

- ★ "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 17

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

- ★ "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 24

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

- ★ "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 1

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

- ★ "Re-reading (Vestal) Virginité" / 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 8

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

- ★ "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. 7.

15 Final Exam

Tuesday, December 15

- The final exam will be held in-person on Tuesday, Dec. 17 from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. in our normal meeting room.

Written Assignments

For this course, you'll write an essay and a research paper based on evidence from the ancient world.

The written assignments for this course are as follows. Mark your calendar, and leave time to prepare, write, and review each assignment.

❶ *Essay on Representations and Images*

Due Monday, Oct. 13.

The images essay uses images from antiquity to talk about ideas important to gender in ancient culture.

See the Essay on Representations and Images assignment page for details and specific requirements.

❷ *Proposal*

Due Monday, Oct. 26.

A one-page proposal for the position paper, with response and guidance from me on research and interpretation.

See the Proposal assignment page for details and specific requirements.

❸ *Position Paper*

Due Monday, Dec. 7.

Use evidence from primary and secondary sources to take a position on a research topic of your interest.

See the Position Paper assignment page for details and specific requirements.

❹ *Presentation Write-Up*

Due the week after you present.

For each of your two presentations on sources from the assigned readings, write a 2–3 page essay that summarizes what the reading tells us.

See the Presentation Write-Up assignment page for details and specific requirements.

Note: All written assignments are uploaded to Brightspace.

Essays – Images

The images essay uses images from antiquity to talk about ideas important to ancient culture.

On the website: Quick overview: The Images Essay (11:00)

The assignment: Write a 3- to 4-page essay that uses depictions of gender in the ancient world to take a position on the representations of cultural ideas and beliefs.

What you need to do

● Get ready.

Review the requirements. Review the Requirements for All Papers. This page has important guidance and videos on formatting your document, structuring your essay, and using evidence.

Watch the video. The overview video linked above explains what I want you to cover in the essay and what I'm expecting in terms of arguments, evidence, and structure.

A resource you may find helpful is the Elephant Pamphlet, which gives step-by-step guidance on preparing for and writing a position paper.

● Choose your topic from one of the two prompts below.

Option A *Two pieces in a museum.* How a culture sees abstract ideas (masculinity, virtue, old age, divinity, and so on) is often reflected in its artwork. What can two different works of art depicting the same idea, but from different times or places, tell us about how the cultures that produced them?

Compare the two works to explore what their creators/artists believed about the idea they were representing. What insight do these beliefs give us into the cultures the two artists came from?

Option B *The ancient world on film.* Every depiction of an historical event, whether in prose, poetry, painting, theater, or film, involves an artist using history to convey his or her own beliefs. What do the creators of these works want you to believe?

Compare the agenda of the filmmakers with the agenda of the authors of the primary source. How did these creators reshape this event for their own purposes? How do these similarities and differences show what this event means to the people who create art about it?

● Choose two works depicting the ancient world to compare.

Option A For the museum option, you need to choose two works of art from the ancient world that (a) represent the same idea or concept but (b) come either from different periods or from different places in the ancient world.

Choosing your subjects:

- Your two works of art must represent the same idea or concept. For example, you can choose two little girls, two warriors, two fertility goddesses, etc.
- Your works of art must be from the ancient world (before 500 CE) and from either two different places or two different periods. The two pieces can be in any visual medium: sculpture, painting, relief, etc.
- You should experience the artwork face-to-face by attending a museum in person. Possible venues include: Metropolitan Museum’s Egypt Collection; Metropolitan Museum’s Greek and Roman Art Collection; Brooklyn Museum of Art’s Ancient Egyptian Art Collection; and Fordham Museum of Greek, Etruscan and Roman Art. You are not limited to these venues or to New York.

Option B For the film option, you need to choose a film that is set in the ancient world and that is based on ancient primary sources.

Choosing your subjects:

- First, choose and watch any feature-length film or two episodes of a TV series set in the ancient world (3500 BCE to 500 CE). The film or series needs to be a fictional account set in the ancient world, not a documentary.
- Then find the ancient primary source material it was based on and read it. For example, if you chose the movie *Gladiator*, which is set in the era of the emperor Commodus, the primary source would be ancient accounts of Commodus’s reign.
- Your primary source(s) *must* come from the ancient world (before 500 CE).
- Some suggestions for possible films or series and their corresponding sources are below.

● Find three aspects of your works that are strong examples of your topic.

Option A

- For the museum option, choose three aspects of the works you can discuss for both pieces that seem to reflect how the artist felt about the subject and what the subject stood for.
- Some possibilities include facial expression, dress, use of technique or medium, stiffness/fluidity, apparent strength/weakness, idealism/realism, or any other elements offering some kind of insight into what the artist was trying to convey.
- For each aspect, relate your subjective impressions of how it manifests in the first piece; then how the second piece is similar or different and in what way.
- For example: say you’ve chosen two sculptures depicting different love goddesses, and one has a crafty expression while the other has an innocent expression. The contrast can be used to talk about how each artist might have thought about the goddesses’ relationships with mortals; the nature of love; etc.

Option B

For the film option, choose three moments or depictions from the film and find the corresponding events or depictions in the primary source.

- For each moment or depiction, describe and discuss how it appears in the film and how it is presented similarly or differently in the primary source material.
- For example:
 - In the movie *Gladiator*, the movie uses the fictional character Maximus to talk about Roman culture and the nature of imperial rule.
 - Meanwhile, the primary sources about Commodus talk about the emperor’s personality and character and what that means about the criteria for a ruler.

Please take note: This essay is about the agenda of the primary source author as much as the filmmakers’. Do not use the source to “fact check” the film and list what it got “wrong”. You must consider the primary source to be at least as skewed, manipulative, and agenda-driven as the film.

● **Write a 3- to 4-page essay in which you take a position on the works you're studying.**

You'll need an Introduction State what you believe these works show us about the culture, beliefs, and social expectations of the cultures involved and how they were perceived and used by others in a way that answers the question in the prompt you chose. (This is your thesis statement.

... **a Body** Describe and discuss, one by one, each of the three aspects of the works you are studying. For each section, discuss what the evidence tells us about the ideas being represented.

... **and a Conclusion.** Tie your examples and assertions together and show how they support your overall thesis.

● **Finalize your essay.**

Citations are important. Make sure your evidence is cited and that you include a bibliography. For how to do citations and bibliographies, see the Research and Citation Center. You will be marked down drastically if your paper is not properly cited.

Option A For the museum option, instead of a bibliography, on a separate "Works Discussed" page after your essay, list the title of each work, artist, date created, place of origin, and the museum. Paste in photographs of the items from your visit or from the museum's website. Footnotes/parenthetical cites are not needed for this assignment.

Option B For the film option, instead of a bibliography, on a separate "Works Discussed" page after your essay, list the title of film, year, director, stars and studio. Then list the book or books you drew your written evidence from, using standard citation style. You will need to provide footnotes/parenthetical cites for the primary source(s) you used, but not for the film.

Optional draft. You may email me an optional draft two weeks before the final due date. It should include most of your paper (at least two-thirds of the final content, with sections to be written described in square brackets). I'll give feedback, but not a grade, to help you refine your final paper.

Double-check the requirements. Make sure your essay meets the Requirements for All Papers for formatting, structure, and evidence, as well as the specifications given above for what's expected for this assignment.

Once you're sure your essay meets the requirements, upload it as DOCX or PDF to Brightspace.

Commonly used films and their primary sources

There is a list of some possibilities for the film and sources option. The list is not exhaustive; feel free to discuss other options that might occur to you. Links to most of these primary sources can be found on the ancient texts page on my website.

Essays – Proposal

The proposal gives a one-page preview of your position paper.

On the website: Quick overview: The Proposal (6:22)

The assignment: Give a one-page preview of the research paper you'll be submitting at the end of the semester. This one-pager includes your problem/question, the possible sides to this question, and your proposed argument.

What you need to do

● Get ready.

Watch the video. The overview video explains what I want you to cover in the proposal and what I'm expecting to be included.

● Choose a problem or question you want to explore.

Choose a controversy or debate pertaining to gender in the ancient world. One starting point is to look over the 13 meeting topics. What would you like to dig more deeply into?

You can choose a question or problem that the people at the time might have debated—e.g., “How are the expectations for goddesses different from those of mortal women?”; or a question that might arise among modern historians—e.g., “Is Athens really more repressive of women than Sparta?”

Choose a topic you're interested in and have fun with it. Make it wacky, make it provocative—anything is fine as long as you make an argument regarding your chosen topic and support it with facts.

● Formulate a preliminary thesis statement.

Opposing sides. The problem you're interested in addressing should involve something that could be argued with opposing positions. You should be able to delineate the problem by describing the opposing views people might take.

To make sure you have two clear opposing opinions, you might want to express them in the form “Some say... Others say....”

Preliminary thesis. Your thesis statement, both here and in the final paper, should be a statement of opinion that someone could disagree with. It can take the form of following up the description of the opposing opinions with your own: “I believe....”

You can change it later. Remember that your thesis is provisional. You can change anything about your approach and interpretation after the proposal; in fact, uncovering information as you do your research makes refining or changing your initial assessments very likely.

● Write your one-page proposal.

What to include: Your proposal is structured like the introduction to your position paper, and may serve as the basis for it. It should include

- your problem/question;
- the opposing sides; and
- your preliminary thesis.

A sample proposal can be found on the course website on the Proposal page.

● Finalize your proposal.

Submit your proposal Upload your proposal to Brightspace.

Feedback and guidance. The proposal is not graded, but whether you submitted a proposal on time will be factored into the final grade for the position paper.

I will give you feedback on things like the feasibility of researching your topic, whether the scope is too big or too narrow for a paper like this, and some possible sources you might want to look at.

Essays – Position Paper

Use evidence from primary and secondary sources to take a position on a research topic of your interest relating to gender in the ancient world.

On the website: Quick overview: The Position Paper (14:16)

The assignment: Write a 6- to 8-page position paper, due at the end of the semester, in which you express an opinion about a topic related to gender in the ancient world, and use evidence to back up that opinion. In this paper, you're taking a side on some question or controversy, and you're using reasoning and research to support your side of the argument.

What you need to do

● Get ready.

Review the requirements. Review the Requirements for All Papers. This page has important guidance and videos on formatting your document, structuring your essay, and using evidence.

Watch the video. The overview video linked above explains what I want you to cover in the essay and what I'm expecting in terms of arguments, evidence, and structure.

A resource you may find helpful is the Elephant Pamphlet, which gives step-by-step guidance on preparing for and writing a position paper.

● Find your evidence.

Review your feedback. The next step after writing your proposal and reviewing my feedback is to gather the research you will need to support the arguments you'll be making in your paper.

Find 3 sources. Research your topic and find **at least three sources** that will provide you with evidence for your argument; these need to be primary and secondary sources only (see the Research and Citation Center for more on sources).

I'll point you toward some possibilities in my feedback on your proposal.

Kinds of sources. Ideally you should have a mix of primary and secondary sources, but it will depend on the topic.

- *Tertiary sources* are not allowed. These include textbooks, encyclopedias, and most websites. See the Research and Citation Center for more on sources.
- For guidance on finding full-text online primary and secondary sources, see the Research and Citation Center. We will talk about this in class as well.

● **Write a 6- to 8-page research paper in which you take a position on your topic.**

You'll need an Introduction ... In your introduction, briefly describe the problem and state the position you will argue as a thesis statement. Your introduction should follow the format of the proposal (see the proposal page).

A sample intro can be found on the course website.

... a Body ... In the body of your paper, make three assertions as to why your thesis statement is valid.

For each assertion, describe and discuss the evidence from the primary and secondary sources.

Each section starts with an assertion followed by evidence, and each section builds on the previous sections to make an overall argument.

... and a Conclusion. Tie your examples and assertions together and show how they support your overall thesis.

● **Finalize your essay.**

Citations are important. Make sure your evidence is cited and that you include a bibliography. For how to do citations and bibliographies, see the Research and Citation Center. You will be marked down drastically if your paper is not properly cited.

Optional draft. You may email me an optional draft two weeks before the final due date. It should include most of your paper (at least two-thirds of the final content, with sections to be written described in square brackets). I'll give feedback, but not a grade, to help you refine your final paper.

Double-check the requirements. Make sure your essay meets the Requirements for All Papers for formatting, structure, and evidence, as well as the specifications given above for what's expected for this assignment.

Once you're sure your essay meets the requirements, upload it as DOCX or PDF to Brightspace.

Essays – Presentation Write-Up

After you present on your chosen reading, you'll submit a written version.

The assignment: For each of your two presentations on sources from the assigned readings, write a 2- to 3-page essay that summarizes what the reading tells us. It's due one week after you present in class.

What you need to do

Your write-up should do the following:

- **Briefly summarize** what the document says and, more importantly, analyze what the author is trying to say about the subject at hand. In other words, you need to identify and discuss what you believe is the author's interpretation, bias, and point of view and how it affected the author's treatment of the topic. Give examples from the document that illustrate your assessment of the author's spin.
- **Provide perspective** by relating the material in the document, and the author's bias on it, to the bigger picture—the material being discussed in class.

The main point of the presentation and the write-up is NOT to summarize the reading. Summary should be less than 25% of your presentation and your write-up. The main point is to analyze the reading and talk about what it means and what it tells us about that place and time in ancient history.

Writeup deadline. Your write-up needs to be posted to Brightspace before the next class meeting after you present in class. In this final version of the write-up you can incorporate ideas and reactions that came up during the in-class discussion that followed the presentation.

Essay Musts

Structure, formatting, and evidence requirements for all essays and papers.

All written assignments for this course MUST adhere to these requirements or be subject to a reduced grade. Check for all of the following before submitting any paper.

Formatting Musts

Video: Formatting Musts (5:02)

All papers submitted to me must:

- Be double-spaced, in 12 pt. standard font, with one-inch margins.
- Not have extra blank lines between paragraphs. Instead, indent the first line of each paragraph to show a new paragraph has begun.
- Have a cover page with the title, your name, my name, and the date.
- Have page numbers on each page after the cover. The cover should not have a page number.
- Include both citations and a bibliography. (See Evidence musts.)
- Run at least the required length specified in the assignment.
- Have titles of books, films, and plays italicized and capitalized.
- Be submitted on time via Brightspace as a Word or compatible file attachment or as a PDF attachment. Late papers will be marked down.

See “Hints for meeting requirements” below. Watch the video for important guidance and how-tos. If you are uncertain how to do any of this, **ask me before submitting your paper.**

Evidence & Content Musts

Video: Evidence Musts (12:07)

All papers submitted to me must:

- Support all assertions with specific, cited evidence from your sources.
- Use only primary and secondary sources. Tertiary sources, including textbooks, encyclopedias, and many websites, are not allowed, ever.
- Provide a footnote or a parenthetical citation for all direct quotations, descriptions, paraphrases, and ideas from sources, with the required info (author from bibliography plus page or section number).
- Include a bibliography listing all sources used, with all required info (author, title, publisher, year).
- Be written by you and NOT by another person or AI software.

See “Hints for meeting requirements” below. Watch the video for important guidance and how-tos. If you are uncertain how to do any of this, **ask me before submitting your paper.**

Structure Musts

Video: Structure Musts (9:01)

All papers submitted to me must:

- Have an introduction paragraph that:
 - states the problem or question being addressed;
 - discusses possible opinions on this problem; and
 - ends with a thesis statement—a statement of opinion that someone could disagree with, stating what specifically you intend to prove in this essay.
- Cover three reasons why your thesis is true. Each of the three main sections of your paper should have:
 - an assertion (what your reason is),
 - a description of supporting evidence (some moment in your evidence that’s an example of your assertion), and
 - a discussion of how your evidence demonstrates the point you’re making.
- Have a conclusion that summarizes your three reasons and why they support your thesis.

See “Hints for meeting requirements” below. Watch the video for important guidance and how-tos. If you are uncertain how to do any of this, **ask me before submitting your paper.**

Hints for meeting requirements

Formatting Musts

- Watch the Formatting Musts video for more on making sure your essay conforms to requirements.
- **Page counts.** Page counts are for full pages not counting the cover page and bibliography. If the requirement is “3-4 pages”, what I am looking for is at least 3 full pages of text, not counting the cover and not counting the bibliography.
- **Use the template.** Save the trouble of setting up the cover and page numbers—use the MS Word template file I created. There is also a Google Docs version.
- **Brightspace notes.** You may only submit via Brightspace. Do not submit written assignments as submission text—they must be file attachments. If you need help with Brightspace, go to the Lehman IT Brightspace support page or call the IT helpdesk at (718) 960-1111.

Evidence & Content Musts

- **Watch the Evidence Musts video** for more on making sure your essay conforms to requirements.
- **You may not use tertiary sources for any assignment.** Tertiary sources include textbooks, encyclopedias, study guides, dictionaries, my lectures, YouTube videos, TV documentaries, blogs (even history-themed ones), essay aggregation platforms, and generally almost everything on the internet except online scholarly journals and transcribed primary sources. See the Sources page for more. If you're not sure, ask me.
- **No AI software.** Having someone (or something) else write your paper is academic dishonesty and a form of plagiarism, not to mention being unreliable. Only by exploring the evidence yourself do you know that what you're saying makes sense.
- **Citing direct quotes is not enough.** This common mistake will lose you points. Paraphrases and ideas must also be cited.
- **Citation styles.** You can use Chicago, MLA, or any other citation style. What matters to me is that anything that's not your analysis must have a footnote or a parenthetical citation that points to an item in your bibliography. See the Elephant Pamphlet for more on citations and bibliographies.
- The number of sources you need to use varies from assignment to assignment.

Structure Musts

- Watch the Structure Musts video for more on making sure your essay conforms to requirements.
- See the Elephant Pamphlet for more on how to do all of this, including thesis statements, essay structure, and citations.
- **Optional draft.** You can submit an optional draft for any paper, no later than one class meeting before the due date. I won't grade it, but I'll give you feedback about how well you're addressing your topic and thesis. To make sure I see it soonest, please email me your optional draft rather than uploading it to Brightspace.
- **Grammar.** I will not mark down for grammar, but clarity is important. Please spell-check and, if you're not sure about your writing, have a friend read it.
- **See me for guidance.** I am available anytime, by email or in office hours, to discuss any aspect of your paper.

On the website: A sample interpretive essay can be found on the Essay Musts page.

Grading Criteria for Essays

All essays are graded by assessing the following criteria:

- **Introduction (20%)** • States a topic and problem within the assignment • Ends with a definite thesis statement (a specific opinion that can be disagreed with) • Thesis gives insight into the assignment prompt
- **Organization (25%)** • Main body organized in 3 sections, each addressing a different aspect of the thesis and building support for it • Each section is driven by a specific, concrete assertion • Each section is self-contained and focused on its topic
- **Analysis (25%)** • Interpretation dominates over description (why over what) • Analysis prefers the specific to the general • Analysis provides insight on the relevant time and culture • Analysis supports the section assertions and overall thesis • Analysis provides in-depth answers to questions in prompt
- **Evidence (15%)** • Evidence used is relevant and well-chosen • Assertions are consistently supported by evidence • Independent voice retained with judicious use of quotes
- **Conclusion (15%)** • Paper ends with an appropriate concluding paragraph • Conclusion draws together the arguments made in each section and reinforces the thesis • Conclusion answers questions from assignment prompt

Grading Deductions

There are two kinds of deductions relating to formatting, citations, and other technical requirements (see above for the requirements for all papers). Some deductions are reversible and can be gotten back by resubmitting the assignment with the issues corrected. Other deductions are not reversible.

Reversible deductions. If you have one of these deductions, you may resubmit your paper with these problems fixed, and I will modify or remove the deductions. Only these deductions can be reversed.

Nonreversible deductions. These deductions reflect problems inherent to the paper as it was submitted. They cannot be reversed.

No cover sheet	-3	Submitted late (1 week)	-10
No page numbers	-2	Submitted late (2 weeks)	-20
Work titles not italicized/capitalized	-2	Submitted late (3+ weeks)	-30
Missing items in bibliography	-4	Too short	-10
No bibliography	-8	Fewer sources than required	-20
Some citations missing	-5	Tertiary sources used	-10
Many citations missing	-10	Heavy use of tertiary sources	-25
All citations missing	-30	Plagiarism	-100

Presentations

You'll make two short in-class presentations on primary and secondary sources.

Each student signs up for two presentations: the first on one of the primary source excerpts assigned as class readings, and the second on one of the secondary source articles assigned each week.

Your presentation will give the class your perspective on

- (a) what this reading means,
- (b) the author's perspective on the topics, and
- (c) how it relates to the material being discussed in the course.

Sign-ups. Sign up for the first of these presentations on the Sign-up #1 page, and the second on the Sign-up #2 page. Your presentation will be given the day that reading is assigned on the schedule.

Write-ups. A 2-to-3-page written version is due by the next class meeting after your presentation. More on that [here](#).

Responses

Post your weekly responses here.

Posts are due no later than the Sunday following the class meeting. This semester, the weekly responses are posted in the discussion forums on Brightspace.

Meetings and Due Dates

Week/Meeting	Post by
Week 1 Tue, Sep 1: Introduction and Themes	Sun, Sep 6
Week 2 Tue, Sep 8: Women in The Epic of Gilgamesh	Sun, Sep 13
Week 3 Tue, Sep 15: Ancient Goddesses and Gods	Sun, Sep 20
Week 4 Tue, Sep 22: The Bronze Age and its Homeric Echo	Sun, Sep 27
Week 5 Tue, Sep 29: Greece Emerging from the Dark Age	Sun, Oct 4
Week 6 Tue, Oct 6: Women and the Athenian Polis	Sun, Oct 11
Week 7 Tue, Oct 20: Living Unpublicly in Classical Athens	Sun, Oct 25
Week 8 Tue, Oct 27: Images of Women in Athenian Literature	Sun, Nov 1
Week 9 Tue, Nov 3: The Female Pharaohs of Egypt	Sun, Nov 8
Week 10 Tue, Nov 10: Women and the Kingdom of Israel	Sun, Nov 15
Week 11 Tue, Nov 17: The Roman Aristocratic Matron	Sun, Nov 22
Week 12 Tue, Nov 24: Beyond the Roman Aristocracy	Sun, Nov 29
Week 13 Tue, Dec 1: Women and the Roman Religion	Sun, Dec 6
Week 14 Tue, Dec 8: The Hellenistic and Graeco-Roman Eras	Sun, Dec 13

Later posts can be submitted for partial credit.

Exams

There will be a final exam on the material from the course, held in-person.

Final Exam

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

Please arrive on time. You will only have the two-hour exam period to take the exam.

If you miss the final exam: Make-ups will be arranged only in cases of documented personal or medical emergency. Otherwise, per CUNY policy a student who does not complete the course by taking the final exam will automatically receive a grade of WU (unofficial withdrawal), which counts as an F toward your GPA, unless an incomplete has been mutually agreed by both student and instructor prior to the ultimate submission deadline for the course (Sunday, December 27).

An exam review sheet and other review materials will be posted on the Exams page two weeks before the exam.

Academic Policies

College and course policies on accommodations, attendance, tutoring, and academic integrity.

A variety of accommodations are available to students with disabilities, and tutoring is available to students seeking help.

Listed below are various official school policies included in all Lehman College syllabi, with clarifications relating to this course as required. You are responsible for this information and for all information in this syllabus.

Attendance Policy

Student handbook notes that “Students are expected to attend all class meetings as scheduled, and are responsible for all class work missed as a result of late registration/absence. Excessive absences in any course may result in a lower final grade.”

- Participation in online discussion is a required part of the course. Missing classes will damage your grade.
 - Textbooks are designed to give you the basics; in our class meetings we try to make sense of things, and sift out what’s important. Missing classes means you miss out on a key part of our trying to put things together.
 - If you miss quizzes, it will put a big crimp in your grade for the course. Quizzes are not made up, so the quizzes you miss will count against you.
- Religious observances that affect your class attendance should be discussed in advance.

Accommodating Disabilities

Lehman College is committed to providing access to all programs and curricula to all students. Students with disabilities who may require any special considerations should register with the Office of Student Disability Services in order to submit official paperwork to instructor.

- Office of Student Disability Services: Shuster Hall, Room 238, 718-960-8441.
- Student Disability Services: <http://www.lehman.edu/student-disability-services/>
- Email: disability.services@lehman.cuny.edu.

Technology and Brightspace Information

You are required to use Brightspace to access course materials and to post assignments to plagiarism check.

You are required to provide your best email address to me; if not provided I will use the one given by the school. Either way you must sign into that email account for course messages—and check it! Brightspace will only allow me to send individual and mass messages to Lehman accounts. If there is an issue, this is the only account to which I can send and if I email the class something, the fact that you didn’t know about an assignment or course change because you don’t check your email will never be accepted for not knowing the information.

- Brightspace Links and Support: <https://lehman.edu/itr/brightspace/>
- For Information Technology: <http://www.lehman.edu/itr/>

Instructional Support Services (ISSP)

Lehman College's Instructional Support Services Program (ISSP) is home of the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) and Science Learning Center (SLC). Both offer students an array of activities and services designed to support classroom learning. Open to students at any level, there are individual, small group, and/or workshop sessions designed to improve "proficiency in writing, reading, research, and particular academic subject areas. Computer-assisted writing/language tutorial programs are also available," as well as individual tutors, workshops and tutors.

- Regular tutoring hours for fall and spring semesters are: M-T 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Lehman College Tutoring Center (LTC): Humanities, Social Sciences, and Writing Tutoring: <http://www.lehman.edu/academics/instructional-support-services/humanities-tutoring.php>
- Or visit the offices in the Old Gym, Room 205; or call ACE at 718-960-8175, and SLC at 718-960-7707.

Library Tutors are also available in the Library. These tutors offer help with Library resources and computers.

Writing-Intensive Course Requirements

Lehman Students must complete four writing-intensive courses. In a WI Course, "students should be expected to write approximately 15-20 pages of proofread, typed work that is turned in to the instructor for grading." Various courses stipulate various requirements designed to meet this requisite over the course of the semester. WI courses focus on revision, short and long assignments, graded and ungraded writing, journals, etc, and each will have "a class-size limit of twenty-two. Under no circumstances will more than twenty-five students be admitted to any writing-intensive section."

- Writing Intensive FAQs: <http://www.lehman.edu/academics/general-education/writing-faqs.php>

Student Handbook

Students are strongly encouraged to download and become familiar with the Student Handbook.

- Student handbook link: <http://www.lehman.edu/campus-life/support-services.php>

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy

Assignments that include any plagiarism will receive a zero.

Students engaging in repeated instances of plagiarism will fail the course outright and will be remanded to the College for disciplinary action. See the Academic Integrity policy below.

What counts as plagiarism?

Here is CUNY's official definition of plagiarism:

- Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's ideas, research or writings as your own. The following are some examples of plagiarism, but by no means is it an exhaustive list:
 - Copying another person's actual words without the use of quotation marks and footnotes attributing the words to their source.
 - Presenting another person's ideas or theories in your own words without noting the source.
 - Using information that is not common knowledge without acknowledging the source.
 - Failing to acknowledge collaborators on homework and laboratory assignments.
- Internet plagiarism includes submitting downloaded term papers or parts of term papers; paraphrasing or copying information from the internet without citing the source; and "cutting & pasting" from various sources without proper attribution.

Key points

Use of writing or ideas. The key phrase is right up front in the definition: "another person's ideas". Copying and pasting from another source without attribution is plagiarism, but so is using someone's ideas even if they're reworded. Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's work and presenting it as your own, under your name.

What is an essay? When you present an academic essay, it's an act that says, "This is what I think. These are the conclusions I have drawn from studying this issue." An essay is your assessment of a subject, and the ideas in it are presented as your ideas, with any ideas not your own carefully footnoted and clearly segregated so it's clear what is your analysis and what is evidence drawn from primary or secondary sources.

Paraphrasing. Paraphrasing or putting things into your own words does not alter the use of someone else's ideas as your own. Here's why. If the phrase appearing in an essay written by someone else is, for example, "To apply this type of painting to residential interiors was a Roman idea", and in your essay it's reworded as "it was the Romans who applied this type of painting method to home walls", it doesn't change the fact that someone else's ideas are being presented as if they were your own, as if those ideas originated in your own mind. It's still intellectual dishonesty.

Citations. All information from any source you use must have a citation, period. This is true whether it's a direct quote, a paraphrase, or just an idea you're talking about that came from the source you used. For more information on citations, please see the section on citations and bibliographies in the Elephant Pamphlet (pages 13-19).

Self-plagiarism. Reusing writing you've previously submitted for credit, in order to get credit for it a second time, is a form of academic dishonesty known as "self-plagiarism." For example, if you retake a course, you may not submit a paper, or

parts of that paper, that you previously submitted for credit the first time you took the course for the same assignment the second time you take that course. You must write a different paper consisting of new material for the submission the second time around. Similarly, if you wrote a paper for course A, and course B has a similar assignment, you may not submit that paper, or parts of that paper, for the similar assignment for course B. You must write a different paper consisting of new material for course B.

CUNY plagiarism policy

“Academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York. Penalties for academic dishonesty include academic sanctions, such as failing or otherwise reduced grades, and/or disciplinary sanctions, including suspension or expulsion.” All violations are reported to the Department and Lehman College’s Academic Integrity Officer.

Policy for this course

Lehman College is committed to the highest standards of academic honesty.

Acts of academic dishonesty include—but are not limited to—plagiarism (in drafts, outlines, and examinations, as well as final papers), cheating, bribery, academic fraud, sabotage of research materials, the sale of academic papers, and the falsification of records. An individual who engages in these or related activities or who knowingly aids another who engages in them is acting in an academically dishonest manner and will be subject to disciplinary action.

Plagiarism includes the incorporation of any material that is not original with you without attribution, whether from a book, article, web site, or fellow student, in any paper or assignment.

Assignments that include any plagiarism will receive a zero and the offending student will be subject to additional action by the College. Students engaging in repeated instances of plagiarism will fail the course outright and will be remanded to the College for disciplinary action.

- For detailed information on definitions and examples of Academic Dishonesty, including Cheating, Plagiarism, Obtaining Unfair Advantage and Falsification of Records and Documents, please refer to the student handbook or visit: <http://lehman.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2017-2019/Undergraduate-Bulletin/Academic-Services-and-Policies/Academic-Integrity>

Citations Center

What you need to know to properly cite your papers.

On the website: Evidence Musts (12:07)

Citations are absolutely essential in any academic paper, but particularly and especially in history. All information that is not from your own head must be cited, whether it's a direct quote, a paraphrase, or even just an idea.

Citations are how we can tell the difference between what you're claiming is your research and analysis, and the work of others. If you don't cite others' work, you're claiming it for your own, and that's plagiarism. Plagiarism is not tolerated at any academic institution; the lightest you'll get off is a zero for the paper, but in many cases harsher penalties are invoked, including an F for the course and academic disciplinary proceedings that may result in a range of transcript-damaging punishments.

It is therefore crucial that you distinguish evidence you've gathered from primary and secondary sources from your own discussion, interpretation, and analysis. You do that with citations.

Having proper citations means making sure your paper has both of the following:

- a bibliography: A list of the books and articles you used, and
- footnotes or in-text cites: which item in your bibliography a piece of information came from, plus a page number.

See the following pages for more on how to make sure your papers are properly sourced and cited.

Cite Center – Sources

What kinds of evidence can you use, and what are the problems with them?

On the website: Reliability / Kinds of Sources (3:07)

There are three categories of source evidence.

1. Primary sources are documents and artifacts that come from the time and place being investigated and to firsthand testimony.
2. Secondary sources are where a scholar writes about and interprets primary sources, drawing conclusions about what they tell us about the time and place they come from. Secondary sources include scholarly books that use primary sources and articles in peer-reviewed academic journals.
3. Tertiary sources involve writers bringing together secondary sources and averaging them out to make general statements.

Primary Sources

Primary sources are great because they give us direct access to what we're writing about. But you must remember that they ***are not the truth and must not be taken at face value.***

Primary sources are always distorted by intentional bias (the author wants to convince you of something); unintentional bias (the author's writing is shaped by his or her culture and upbringing); point of view (the author only knows what he or she actually saw); translation (all ancient sources were written in another language unlike English, so the content is always altered by translation); survival (only some documents survive from the ancient world, and some of them were deliberately selected to survive in the intervening centuries while others were not, skewing out evidence pool). You must always ask what idea the author was trying to convince you of in writing the work at hand.

If the events themselves are "level zero", primary sources ("level one") are a full layer of distortion away from the truth. Because of bias and point of view, there is always this layer of distortion in all primary sources. All primary source evidence is skewed and we cannot know the pure truth. There are no facts in history. Consequently, primary source evidence must always be unpacked for bias and other distortions.

Secondary Sources

Secondary sources are valuable because they provide both expert testimony and useful contextualization not always present in primary sources. But secondary sources are, by their nature, interpretations. They are the subjective conclusions of a particular researcher, and history works by historians looking at the same evidence and positing different and often conflicting interpretations until there is a general agreement (which in many cases does not happen, especially in ancient history where there's less evidence to examine). They are not the truth either; they are informed opinion. Secondary evidence adds a layer of interpretation to events, distancing them even further from events than primary sources.

Tertiary Sources

These include textbooks, encyclopedias, dictionaries, and most web sites (excluding peer-reviewed journals and transcriptions of primary sources). Also banned are "reference entries" (these generally come from encyclopedias) and reviews, which involve a scholar talking about a secondary source (and which is therefore tertiary). You want the secondary source itself, not a review.

Tertiary sources are not allowed under any circumstances, and you will be strongly penalized for citing tertiary sources in any paper for a history course..

Cite Center – Bibliography

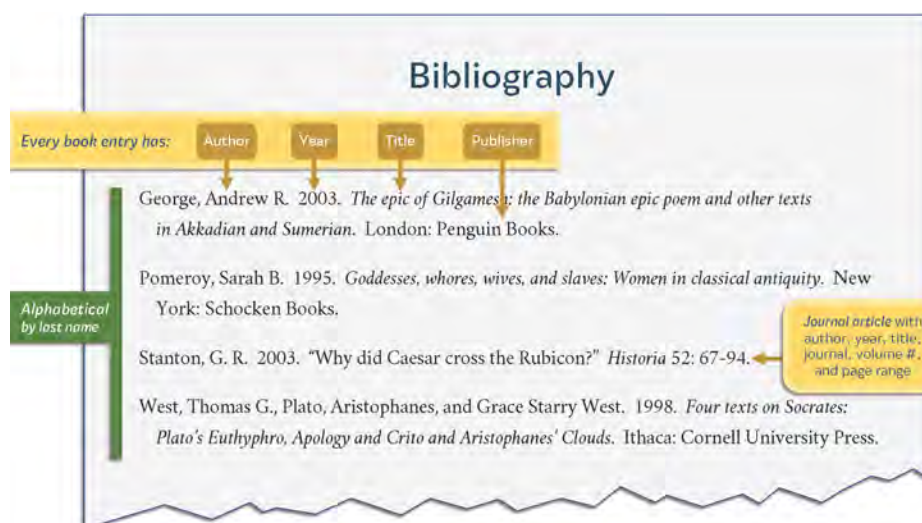
Every written assignment must have a bibliography listing all books and articles used.

On the website: Bibliography (2:13)

The idea is that anyone looking at your paper should be able to find the sources you used. To make this possible, you list each source you used with its basic identifying info.

- For a journal article, the bibliography info needed is:
Author name. Year. "Title of Article." *Journal Name* VolumeNumber: PageNumbers.
- For a book, the bibliography info needed is:
Author name. Year. *Book Title*. City: Publisher.

Here's what it should look like:



FAQ: Bibliography

- **Where can I find the info?** Check the copyright page. If there's more than one copyright year, use the earliest one. Or look it up on worldcat.org.
- **Ebooks too?** Yes. Online full-text ebooks and ebooks downloaded to a reader must also be listed. Usually there's still a copyright page. With full-text resources found through the Library's OneSearch feature, the info you need will be on the library info page you opened it up from.
- **Chicago style? MLA?** I don't care which academic style you use. Two things matter: that you list each source you used (once), and that each entry contains author, year, title, and publisher.
- **What about journal articles?** Same idea: you give the author, year, article title, journal name, journal volume number, and page range. See the third entry in the sample above for an example.
- **How do I list online primary sources?** Online primary sources were almost always transcribed from a book. Most of the time the info on that book is listed at the beginning of the translation, or at the bottom of the web page. Make sure to include the translator's name, the year, and the publisher. If you can't find it, email me.

Cite Center – Footnotes

All info that came from your sources must be cited with a footnote or an in-text parenthetical citation.

On the website: Footnotes (2:53)

Two key ideas to bear in mind:

1. Doesn't matter if it's a quote, a paraphrase, a description, or an idea. **If it came from a source, it must be cited.**
2. A footnote says this information came from one of the items in your bibliography, and that it came from a particular page.

A footnote says: "I found the information I'm quoting or describing in this book, on this page." Like so:

1 Any information that came from your sources **must be cited**, whether it's a **direct quote**, a **paraphrase**, a **description**, or even an **idea**.

Prostitutes are consistently shown in ancient literature to be outside the social structure of the community, and yet at the same time they are presented as manifestations of the feminine idea. In *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, Enkidu's actuation as a man, a citizen, and as a counterpart to Gilgamesh is all made possible by the harlot Shamhat, who performs "the work of a woman"¹—the miraculous transformation of a male beast of the wild into a valuable member of society on equal footing to its king. The most famous woman in fifth-century Athens was Aspasia, who started as a trained consort (called a *hetaera*) and ended as a madam.² She stood separate from conventional society, yet was still seen as an empowered embodiment

¹ George, 7.
² Pomeroy, 89.

direct quote? footnote it

info from a source, but not quoted? footnote it

FAQ: Footnotes and in-text cites

- **Do I have to use footnotes?** No. You can use in-text parenthetical cites, as in (George, 7).
- **How do I footnote?** In most programs, go to the Insert menu and click on "Footnote...".
- **What if the author appears twice in the bibliography?** Give the author name plus part of the title, then the page number, as in (Pomeroy, *Goddesses* 89).
- **What about ancient primary sources?** There's a special way. See the Ancient Sources page.

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¹ George, 7.
² Pomeroy, 89.

2 A footnote points to an item in the bibliography and adds a page number.

Bibliography

George, Andrew R. 2003. *The epic of Gilgamesh: the Babylonian epic poem and other texts in Akkadian and Sumerian*. London: Penguin Books.

Pomeroy, Sarah B. 1995. *Goddesses, whores, wives, and slaves: Women in classical antiquity*. New York: Schocken Books.

Stanton, G. R. 2003. "Why did Caesar cross the Rubicon?" *Historia* 52: 67-94.

West, Thomas G., Plato, Aristophanes, and Grace Starry West. 1998. *Four texts on Socrates: Plato's Euthyphro, Apology and Crito and Aristophanes' Clouds*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Cite Center – Research

Huge amounts of scholarly material is available online to aid your research, through the Lehman Library and other resources.

Scholarly material is available online to provide you with primary and secondary evidence to support the arguments you're making in your papers.

Primary sources

All of the ancient primary source texts available in English on the web that I could find are consolidated on the Ancient Texts page on my website. The Ancient Texts page is also linked to the Resources page.

If you're looking for dirt on Cleopatra, for example, one of the sources you'll want is Plutarch's biography of Mark Antony. Look under P for Plutarch and click on the "E" (for English) opposite Parallel Lives, which is what he called his biographies.

If you click on the "Archives" tab, you'll see a list of great websites that are chock full of ancient primary sources.

I strongly recommend you make use of primary sources as eyewitness testimony to the time and place you're investigating, but remember—primary sources can't be taken at face value. You must always ask what idea the author hoped to convince you of, every time, for every passage. Nothing was ever written for no reason.

Journal articles and full-text books via OneSearch

The CUNY library system has a huge amount of online secondary scholarship in the form of full-text books and scholarly journal articles.

To make sure you're looking at online-accessible materials: enter your search in the search box on the Lief Library home page. Get your results. In the right-hand panel, click on "Full Text Online" and then on "Apply Filters" at the bottom. This filter will include both online journal articles and online full-text books.

Don't just stop at the first page—keep loading results. But consider your search terms. If you search for "Cleopatra", for example, you'll get a million hits, a lot of them about Shakespeare's play (which is not ancient and so not relevant to us). But if you search (say) "Cleopatra suicide" you'll get some relevant journal articles, a chapter in a book called Cleopatras specifically devoted to her suicide, and so on.

- **Warning:** Some tertiary sources will come up in these searches.
- As a reminder, tertiary sources (encyclopedias, dictionaries, textbooks) are not allowed. Most of the encyclopedia entries are marked by the "reference entry" tag (instead of "book" or "article"). But if it looks like an encyclopedia, dictionary, or textbook, you can't use it. Ask me if you're not sure.
- Note that while you're off-site, you'll need to be logged in using the ID code on your Lehman ID to access the full-text material.
- Lehman Library has a 24/7 ask-a-librarian chat for guidance on finding what you are looking for. It's linked to at the top of the library home page.

Links:

- MBW Ancient Texts page: <http://markbwilson.com/pages/texts.html>
- Lief Library main page and OneSearch access: <http://www.lehman.edu/library/>
- Lehman Library Remote Resources Guide: <https://libguides.lehman.edu/offcampus>

Other online resources

You may find what you need using the CUNY library resources. There are also other resources online. Here are a couple:

- **The Internet Archive** at Archive.org is a good resource for scanned copies of old books in general. However, this collection includes kids' books, novels, textbooks, and other material that isn't scholarly. Make sure the book you pick is a scholarly work that relies directly on primary sources. Also, note the year. The scholarship in older books might have been superseded by more research historical research and consensus.
- **Google Scholar** searches peer-reviewed journal articles available online. For the most part you're better off with the CUNY library search, because CUNY provides you free access to articles that are behind a paywall for nonacademics. But sometimes an article will come up here and not in the library search. Google Books rarely provides more than a snippet, but there are exceptions.

Citations

Remember to get the citation information you need for your footnotes and bibliography when you're browsing these online resources.

For the things you find through the library search, these will be on the library catalog page, and also on the full-text page that the catalog page links to. Make sure to record this information for your bibliography.

- For a journal article, the bibliography info needed is:
Author name. Year. "Title of Article." *Journal Name* VolumeNumber: PageNumbers.
- For a book, the bibliography info needed is:
Author name. Year. *Book Title*. City: Publisher.

Cite Center – Ancient

With an ancient primary source, you cite author, work, book, and section in the footnote.

With an ancient primary source, you cite author, work, book, and section in the footnote. For example, Tacitus Annals 3.76. The specific book or web transcription you used still goes in the bibliography as usual.

Why are cites different for ancient sources?

The thing about ancient sources is, there are lots and lots of different versions, editions, and translations for each work. Think about The Iliad by Homer. There are hundreds of different versions, printings, and translations in English alone, not to mention every other language and printing that exists. Everyone has their own copy, and it could be any version of the original text. Referring to a page number in the edition you happen to have in front of you is of limited usefulness.

To get around this problem, scholars long ago divided each ancient work into books, chapters, and sections (for prose works) or books and line numbers (for poetry and plays). The other copies of The Iliad out there won't have the page numbering you have—but they will be divided the same way.

You may already be familiar with this idea from a particular kind of ancient primary source—scripture. The Bible, Qur'an, Torah, and other scriptures are divided this way (e.g., John 3:16; Quran 2:185).

Examples

Here's how it works in practice.

Only one work survives

“Every political system has a source of corruption growing within it, from which it is inseparable. For kingship it is tyranny, for aristocracy it is oligarchy, and for democracy it is government by brute force”
(Polybius 6.10.3).

Polybius only survives via his greatest work, *The Histories*. Thus, no need to specify the work, just book, chapter, and section number.

Multiple works survive

“The busts of twenty most illustrious families were borne in the procession, with the names of Manlius, Quinctius, and others of equal rank. But Cassius and Brutus outshone them all, from the very fact that their likenesses were not to be seen”
(Tacitus Annals 3.76).

Several works survive from the Roman historian Tacitus. For such writers, specify work, chapter, and section.

Poetry and plays

“No man or woman born, coward or brave, can shun his destiny”
(Homer Iliad 6.489).

Homer's works, *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, are epic poetry. They're divided into books, then the lines are numbered within each book.

For ancient plays (not divided into acts as modern plays are), you give line numbers: e.g., Aristophanes *Clouds* 625-629.

Note: Print editions and better online transcriptions give chapters and sections—follow the links on the cites above for examples. Use the Ancient Texts page on my website to find online sources.

Maps and Timelines

Maps and timelines to help contextualize your exploration of the ancient world.

The main set of maps below are ones that I made for my courses. There's also a large set of additional maps from various books and websites under the "More" tab on the website.





