History 241: Sex, Love, and Marriage in the Roman World

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Office hours: MW 10:15-11:15 am and 4-5:30 pm; by appointment and by chance  
[Please note: sometimes afternoon office hours will need to be rescheduled due to meetings or talks the instructor must attend]

When it comes to sex, the Romans have long had a bad reputation: orgies, rampant adultery, scenes out of a Fellini movie. It wasn't (all) like that, however. In this class we will read some of the most entertaining works of literature written by Romans and by Greeks living under Roman rule: love poetry, novels, comedies, satires, and even Christian romances. We'll explore how ancient ideas of love and marriage differed and were similar to our own, and decide if the Romans deserve their reputation for sexual licentiousness and decadence.

Texts available in the bookstore (please use these translations only):


Other reading assignments will be posted on Blackboard, or URL's will be provided for readings available on-line.
TRIGGER WARNING: Some of the reading assignments can get pretty nasty. Roman writers had no qualms about talking about rape (as a dramatic device, especially), sodomy (to use an old-fashioned word), and even bestiality. Satirical and invective poets (Martial, Juvenal, and sometimes Catullus) delighted in making very unpleasant sexual insults about both men and women. If this will bother or upset you, then you need to see me right away. This course may not be right one for you.

REQUIRED WORK:
Because class time will center on student discussions of the texts read, attendance is required at all classes and class participation is an important part of the grade. Written assignments include 10 very short responses to the readings of 1-2 pages) for which prompts and grading information are given on Blackboard; a midterm involving identification and discussion of significant passages in the texts read, and a take-home essay exam. In addition, each student will give a short oral report on some ancient author or topic that we are not reading as a group (a list possible topics and authors will be given).

Weekly short reading responses: 25%
Midterm: 25%
Exam: 25%
Oral report, attendance and class participation: 25%

Emory Writing Center

The Emory Writing Center offers 45-minute individual conferences to Emory College and Laney Graduate School students. It is a great place to bring any project—from traditional papers to websites—at any stage in your composing process. Writing Center tutors take a discussion- and workshop-based approach that enables writers of all levels to see their writing with fresh eyes. Tutors can talk with you about your purpose, organization, audience, design choices, or use of sources. They can also work with you on sentence-level concerns (including grammar and word choice), but they will not proofread for you. Instead, they will discuss strategies and resources you can use to become a better editor of your own work. The Writing Center is located in Callaway N-212. Visit http://writingcenter.emory.edu for more information and to make appointments.

HONOR CODE

The honor code is in effect throughout the semester. By taking this course, you affirm that it is a violation of the code to cheat on exams, to plagiarize, to deviate from the teacher’s instructions about collaboration on work that is submitted for grades, to give false information to a faculty member, and to undertake any other form of academic misconduct. You agree that the teacher is entitled to move you to another seat during examinations, without explanation. You also affirm that if you witness others violating the code you have a duty to report them to the honor council.
Syllabus: *Sex, Love, and Marriage in the Roman World*

**Jan 14 (W)**  Introduction to the class

**Jan 19 (M)**  MLK Day – no class

**Jan 21 (W)**  **Gender Roles in Roman Ideology: Livy’s History of Rome**
Reading: Livy book 1 (PDF on Blackboard)
1-2 page response (prompt will be provided) due by 1 pm

**Jan 26 (M)**  **Sex, Love, and Marriage in Roman Comedy: Plautus I**
Reading: Plautus, "The Pot of Gold" and "Pseudolus"

**Jan 28 (W)**  **Sex, Love, and Marriage in Roman Comedy: Plautus II**
Reading: "The Brothers Menaechmus" and "The Swaggering Soldier"

**Feb 2 (M)**  **Sex, Love, and Marriage in Roman Comedy: Terence**
Reading: Terence, "The Mother-in-Law" and "The Eunuch"
1-2 page response due by 1 pm

**Feb 4 (W)**  **The Impact of new Religions**
(Read only the first selection, from Livy's History of Rome)

**Feb 9 (M)**  **Catullus I: Friends, Enemies, and Lovers**
Reading: Catullus, Poems I-LX (1-60) and LXIX-CXVI (69-116)
1-2 page response due by 1 pm

**Feb 11(W)**  Catullus II: continue with poems from Monday’s class

**Feb 16 (M)**  **Catullus III: Epic Love**
Reading: The Poems of Catullus, LXI - LVII (61-68)

**Feb 18 (W)**  **Love and Empire: the emperor Augustus on marriage and adultery**
Readings: Suetonius, *Life of Augustus* (on Blackboard)

**Feb 23 (M)**  **The Augustan Poets Respond: Propertius and Horace**
Reading: *Latin Lyric and Elegiac Poetry*, selected poems
1-2 page response due by 1 pm
Feb 25 (W)  **The Augustan Poets Respond: Tibullus and Sulpicia**  
   Reading: *Latin Lyric and Elegiac Poetry*, selected poems

Mar 2 (M) **The Augustan Poets Respond: Propertius, Tibullus, and Sulpicia**  
   Reading: same as for Feb 23 and Feb 24

Mar 4 (W) **Propertius, Tibullus, Sulpicia**

Mar 9-13  Spring Break – no class

Mar 16 (M)  **The Augustan Poets Respond: Ovid**  
   Reading: Ovid, *Amores* (in *Latin Lyric and Elegiac Poetry*, pp. 91-133)  
   1-2 page response due by 1 pm

Mar 18 (W)  **Love's How-To Book**  
   Reading: Ovid, *The Art of Love* I and III (Melville translation)

Mar 23 (M)  MIDTERM

Mar 25 (W)  **A Fine Romance: Callirhoe**  
   Reading: Callirhoe, books 1-4

Mar 30 (M)  **All's Well that End's Well?**  
   Reading: Callirhoe, books 5-8  
   1-2 page response due by 1 pm

Apr 1 (W)  **Magic and Metamorphosis**  
   Reading: Apuleius, *Golden Ass*, pp. 1-74

Apr 6 (M)  **Cupid and Psyche and less edifying scenes**  
   Reading: Apuleius, *Golden Ass*, pp. 75-160  
   1-2 page response due by 1 pm

April 8 (W)  **Wicked Wives and a Beneficent Goddess**  
   Reading: Apuleius, *Golden Ass*, pp. 161-240

Apr 13 (M)  **Boy Meets Girl; Boy Meets Boy**  
   Reading: *Leucippe and Clitophon*, Books 1-4  
   1-2 page response due by 1 pm
Apr 15 (W)  The Trials of Leucippe  
Reading: Leucippe and Clitophon, Books 5-8

Apr 20 (M)  Christianity: Virginity, Marriage, and Sex  
Reading: Paul, 1st Letter to the Corinthians  
Apocryphal Acts of Paul and Thekla  
1-2 page response due by 1 pm

Apr 22 (W)  Student Oral Presentations

Apr 27 (M)  Student Oral Presentations

Apr 30 (Thursday)  TAKE HOME EXAM DUE by 5:30 PM