LSH 351L: Sex, Love, and Marriage in the Ancient Mediterranean

Section 01 (34750)
Spring 2016
Course Meetings: T/Th 3:40-5:00pm
Course Location: STON 217

Professor: Dr. Jennifer Elizabeth Singletary (Prof. Jen)
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(Since I check my email regularly, this is the best way to contact me. In the unlikely event that you do not receive a response within 48 hours, feel free to email me again.)
Office Location: LA 101
Office Telephone: 243-5793
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:30pm and by appointment

Course Description

This course explores ancient texts and material culture (artifacts) that reveal ancient conceptions concerning sex, love, and marriage, produced within diverse cultures of the ancient Mediterranean world, including Mesopotamia, Egypt, Anatolia, Israel, and Greece. Topics covered in this course include: erotic literature and art, (cultic) prostitution, sex and magic, marriage and the family, marriage and courtship practices, homosexuality, celibacy, and love and romance.

Prerequisites

None. This course only requires an interest in exploring ancient texts and artifacts that reveal conceptions about sex, love, and marriage in ancient Mediterranean societies!

Course Goals and Objectives: Learning Outcomes

In this course, students will:
* Explore the literature and material culture of various ancient Mediterranean cultures.
* Analyze texts and artifacts to examine the historical, aesthetic, philosophical, and cultural features and significance of these works and gain an understanding of their significance within diverse ancient cultures.
* Develop and express coherent and insightful arguments analyzing ancient texts and artifacts as reflections of and contributors to the historical, cultural, social, political, economic, and psychological contexts of their producers, readers, listeners, and viewers.
Required Course Materials

All readings for this course will be posted on Moodle, available online, or available through the library’s e-reserves.
*Note: You must have copies of all assigned readings with you and accessible in class for discussion! These may be print or electronic. Electronic copies on a smartphone are NOT sufficient (they’re too small)!

Additional Required Materials:
Reading Questions: A set of 1-3 study questions will be posted on Moodle for most reading assignments. You will need to answer the Reading Questions as you complete each of the assigned readings. These questions will form the basis of our in-class discussions. I may or may not collect these at any given meeting! You can also use your notes with your answers to these on any pop quizzes I might give, so be sure to complete them before each meeting and bring a copy of the questions and your answers to them with you to every class! The midterm and final will also contain questions based on the Reading Questions, so these will help you study for the exams as well. You are responsible for checking Moodle for the Reading Questions and completing them before each class meeting.

Course Requirements, Evaluation, and Grading

Your grade for the course will be based on the following:
Participation  30%  Attendance, preparation of readings and Reading Questions, and active participation in class discussions. Simply showing up will not guarantee you full participation credit (though it certainly helps)! Two (2) unexcused absences are allowed without penalty. Additional unexcused absences will be penalized 5 points per absence from the participation grade. The participation portion of your grade may also include occasional pop quizzes based on the Reading Questions, so come prepared every meeting! Due: Each meeting

Midterm  20%  Short essay questions based on the material discussed in the first half of the course. Take-home exam. Due: 3/7/16.

Final  20%  Short essay questions based on the material discussed in the second half of the course. Students will be allowed notes. Exam will be during University scheduled exam slot.

Final Group Project  30%  Groups of 4 students will create and present an original, multimedia final project: a virtual museum exhibit on a
theme related to sex, love, and marriage in the ancient Mediterranean. (More information on this project will be given later in the course.) Due: 5/3/16

Other Details

1. Grading Scale: A (94-100), A- (90-93), B+ (87-89), B (84-86), B- (80-83), C+ (77-79), C (74-76), C- (70-73), D+ (67-69), D (64-66), D- (60-63), F (59 and below).

As noted in the UM Explanation of Transcript, the letter grades have the following meanings:

- A: Superior performance
- B: High degree of performance
- C: Adequate performance
- D: Minimum performance
- F: Achievement does not merit awarding credit

2. Late/Missed Quizzes or Exams: Late quizzes or exams will only be accepted in cases of documented emergencies other very compelling reasons (as determined by University policy and at the instructor’s discretion). Advance notice is required unless absolutely unavoidable. You are responsible for arranging for the make-up with the instructor.

3. Other Late Work: Except in cases of documented emergencies (as determined by University policy and at the instructor’s discretion), NO late work will be accepted. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible (and preferably in advance of the due date) to arrange to turn in work that is late due to a documented emergency.

4. Academic Honesty Policy: “All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code (http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php).” All work submitted for this course should be your own work (not submitted for previous courses within or outside the University), and all references to others’ work must be properly cited.

5. Disability Services Statement: “The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.”
Course Schedule: Outline of Topics

Note: This schedule is a general outline of topics covered in the course. Specific daily/weekly topics, readings, and any other assignments will be posted in the Detailed Course Schedule on Moodle. Be sure to check the Detailed Course Schedule often: you are responsible for keeping up with any changes or updates!

WEEK ONE: Welcome to the Course!
  Studying the History of Sex, Love, and Marriage
(Tuesday meeting cancelled; first meeting on Thursday)

WEEK TWO: Introduction to the Literature and Material Culture of the Ancient Mediterranean World

WEEK THREE: Sexuality and Eroticism in Ancient Literature

WEEK FOUR: Divine Sexuality and Eroticism in Ancient Literature

WEEK FIVE: Sexuality and Eroticism in Material Culture

WEEK SIX: Sex and Magic

WEEK SEVEN: Prostitution and Cultic Prostitution

WEEK EIGHT: Homosexuality

WEEK NINE: Celibacy

WEEK TEN: Marriage

WEEK ELEVEN: SPRING BREAK

WEEK TWELVE: Marriage

WEEK THIRTEEN: Love and Romance

WEEK FOURTEEN: Love and Romance

WEEK FIFTEEN: Student Presentations on Final Projects