In this course we will examine issues of gender and sexuality in ancient Greece and Rome. Through close analyses of ancient texts and material remains, we will discuss representations of gender in literature and art, sexual norms and codes, medical theories concerning the male and female body, and views on marriage, rape, adultery, and prostitution. In addition we will examine the relationship between the construction of gender identities and sexuality in literature, and whether or not modern constructions of sexuality are applicable to the ancient world. Authors and texts include Homer, Hesiod, Sappho, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes, the Hippocratic Corpus, Livy, Ovid, Catullus, and Sulpicia.

participation 20%  

Paper: 4-5 pages, spacing 1.5, times/helvetica font. I will give you a list of suggestions/prompts to choose from, however, I strongly urge you to come up with your own idea for a paper topic. Your paper must incorporate readings from the class, and it must have an argument. If you would like help with ideas and/or organization, please come see me during office hours. We'll be discussing papers on Jan. 10. Papers will be due Jan. 18, 11.59 pm.

Project: this project will be a group project on a topic pertaining to gender and sexuality in the ancient world. On Jan. 21 we'll be discussing project topics/project format and choosing groups. This will be a creative project for which there will also be a written component. On Jan. 28 you will be presenting your project to your peers in small groups. Your peers will be evaluating your projects and returning to you your evaluations at the end of class. On Jan. 30 you will hand in your project with the written portion and your peer evaluations. The written portion must be 3-5 pages, and will explain why you have chosen to focus on the particular aspect/topic, why you have chosen to convey the information in the format you have chosen, what concerns/questions were raised by your peers, and how you addressed your peer evaluations in the final product.

Readings

Readings are to be completed before the class on the day for which they are listed, i.e. you need to complete the Homer and Hesiod readings before class on Jan 8, when we'll be discussing these readings.

Jan 8: Homer, Hesiod
Blundell, pages 20-24 ('Creation Myth').
Hesiod, *Works and Days*, lines 1-128.
Froma Zeitlin, 'Signifying difference: the case of Hesiod's Pandora' in *Playing the Other*, 53-87.
Blundell, pages 47-57 ('Women in the poems of Homer').
Homer, *Odyssey*: Book 10, pg 234-48 (Circe); Book 19 (Penelope and her Guest), pg 390-409; Book 23, pg 455-467 (The Great Rooted Bed).

Jan 9: Sappho and the Physical Feminine Constructed
Blundell, 82-101 ('Women as poets: Sappho').
J. J. Winkler, 'Double Consciousness in Sappho's Lyrics' in *SGCW*, 40-65 (read 'Sources' first).
Blundell, 98-112 ('Women's Bodies').
H. King, 'Bound to Bleed: Artemis and Greek Women' in *SGCW*, 78-93 (read 'Sources first).

Jan 10: The 'reality' of being a woman
Blundell, 113-59 ('Women in Athenian Law and Society'/Sparta and Gortyn').
Xenophon, *Oeconomicus*, selections.

Jan 14: Greek 'Homosexuality'/Pederasty
Plato, *Symposium*.
Plato, *Phaedrus*, selections.

Jan 15: Greek 'Homosexuality'/Pederasty
Foucault, *History of Sexuality*, selections.
Anti-Foucault: selections from James Davidson, *The Greeks and Greek Love*.

Jan 16: The Tragic Woman
Sophocles, *Antigone*.
Euripides, *Medea*.

Jan 17: Aristophanic Women/Reign of the Phallus
Aristophanes, *Thesmophorizousae*.
Eva Keuls, *The Reign of the Phallus*, selections.

****Jan 18: paper due by 11.59 pm. Please email the paper as a PDF or word document to me at jessicae@middlebury.edu.

Rome

Jan 21: Sex and the City (foundational myths of Greece and Rome)  
**** group project discussion
Blundell, 58-64 ('Amazons').

Jan 22: Roman 'Homosexuality'/Masculinity
Craig Williams, 'Effeminacy and Masculinity' and 'Sexual Roles and Identities' in *Roman Homosexuality: Ideologies of Masculinity in Classical Antiquity*, selections.
Jan 23: The Physical Feminine Constructed/'Reality' of the Roman Woman
Pliny the Elder, *Natural History*, selections.
A. Richlin, 'Pliny's Brassiere' in *SGCW*, 226-245 (read 'Sources' first).
Dixon, 73-88 ('Womanly Weakness in Roman Law').
Shelton, selections (Cato the Elder, *CIL*).

Jan 24: The Poet and the Muse/A Feminine Voice?
Catullus, Tibullus, Sulpicia, selections.
Dixon, 133-156 ('The allure of "La dolce vita" in Ancient Rome').

****Jan 28: Project Presentations

Jan 29: Roman Rape
Ovid, *Amores*, selections.
Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, selections.
Terence, *Eunuchus*.
Dixon, pages 45-55 ('Rape in Roman Law and Myth').

****Jan 30: The Economy of Sexuality in Greece and Rome

****final project due

Jan 31: Euripides' *Bacchae* and the Bacchanalia debacle
(or what happens when women drink too much)
Euripides, *Bacchae*.
Froma Zeitlin, 'Playing the Other: Theater, Theatricality, and the Feminine in Greek Drama' in *SGCW*, 104-131 (read 'Sources' first).
Shelton, selections (Livy, *CIL*).