School of Humanities

Department of Classics and Ancient History

Configurations of Gender and Sexuality

Dr Genevieve Liveley

Teaching Block 1
Unit Code: CLAS 32335, 20 credits

Unit Description for unit catalogue: Are contemporary notions of gender and sexuality the same as those in the ancient world? Is sex a universal signifier? Can the pornographic be said to have existed in ancient Greece and Rome? The aim of this unit is to explore different constructions and configurations of gender in a broad range of ancient texts, highlighting in particular the role of literature in constructing and questioning identity and sexuality. In addition to the set texts to be read in translation students will be required to engage with a variety of both ancient and contemporary perspectives on gender and sexuality.

Contact Hours and Mode of Teaching: 2 hours per week, seminar

Methods of Assessment: One essay (worth 50%), and a ninety-minute examination (worth 50%).

Essential Reading

Books required for purchase
You must own a copy of this book:


Books recommended for purchase
You should consider owning at least two of these books:

S. Goldhill (1995) Foucault’s virginy
T. Laqueur (1990) Making sex: body and gender from the Greeks to Freud
Laura K. McClure (ed.) (2002) Sexuality and Gender in the Classical World: Readings and Documents
A. Richlin (ed.) (1992) Pornography and representation in Greece and Rome

Further Information
A full bibliography and programme of study will be supplied in a unit handbook

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