



KIIS GREECE, Summer 2018

ENG 290 Topics: Women in Ancient Greek Literature

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Syllabus subject to change

TITLE: ENG 290 Topics: Women in Ancient Greek Literature (3 credit hours)

DESCRIPTION: From goddesses to humans, from Athena, Demeter, Hera, and Aphrodite to Penelope, Helen, Sappho, Artemisia, Lysistrata, Aspasia, Praxithea, and Medea, we will explore many dynamic female characters in ancient Greek literature and how well they reflect to us the lives of women in ancient Greek culture. What was their role in their cultures? How did they define their society for both men and other women? Through readings, discussion, writing, and visits to classical sites, we will investigate how these characters shape how we see women in both classical and contemporary society.

PURPOSE: Students will be introduced to the environment, both natural and cultural, of the ancient Greeks and visit sites or view artifacts that contextualize the role of women viewed through the spectrum of ancient Greek literature, thus making the writings themselves more vivid.

COURSE OBJECTIVES This course will examine examples of ancient Greek writings, poetry and dramatic literature to understand how the Greek woman was represented. Additionally, students will study societal influences that affected these ancient examples and how those examples in turn help shape our contemporary viewpoints of women.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will develop an appreciation of Greek literature and historical writings; gain an awareness of ancient conventions and social context (and contemporary examples of their influences); and develop communication skills in writing and discussion.

CONTENT OUTLINE: We will read materials pertaining to the ancient Greek ideal of the feminine and discuss historic and contemporary influences. Visits to ancient sites and museums will compliment our readings as we develop, for example, a sense of how the female form has been depicted and how it has shaped our contemporary view of beauty.

INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES: Students will be graded on a series of worksheets which will integrate reactions to the literary texts, sites visited, and other aspects of the Greek experience. A mid-term essay exam and final essay will account for the remainder of the graded work. All three elements—worksheets, mid-term exam, and final essay—will be averaged together for the final grade.

FIELD EXPERIENCES: Visits to more than 30 sites and museums throughout the trip will illuminate the context of the ancient Greek world. All program excursions are required unless specifically designated as optional.

Please be aware that some of the material in this class may trigger disturbing thoughts or memories. Many of the works of art are explicit or nudes. Please feel free to step out of class if you feel uncomfortable or threatened.

TEXTS:

- *Three Plays by Aristophanes: Staging Women*, 2nd ed., Jeffrey Henderson, trans., 2010 (ISBN: 0-4158-7131-X)
- All other readings—essays, literature, reviews—will be downloaded from online sources, or provided by the instructor.

GRADING: Students' grades will be calculated as follows:

Worksheets	33%
Mid-term Examination	33%
Final Essay (5-7pp)	33%

Letter grades are equivalent to the following percentages:

100--90 = A	69--60 = D
89--80 = B	59--below = F
79--70 = C	

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Students are expected to attend every class and to participate in out-of-class activities as directed by the instructor. KHS requires that any unexcused absence result in grade reduction, and multiple unexcused absences may result in expulsion from the program.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: Any form of cheating, plagiarism, or other academic dishonesty will result in a penalty, ranging from a zero on the assignment in question, to a failing grade for the course, or expulsion from the program. Basically, it will not be tolerated.

PREREQUISITES: None.