



KIIS ITALY, Winter 2019-20

GWS 470 Topics: Sexuality and Society in Ancient Italy

Professor: Dr. Richard J. King

Email: richardking@bsu.edu

Syllabus subject to change

How did ancient Italians represent women and men? And, what and how did they think about sexuality? In this course, we examine ancient Italian views about gender and sexuality as portrayed in their literature, but also in artifacts of ancient culture encountered in the program (for example, in sculpture, painting, architecture, and inscription). These will help us reconstruct some ideals of behavior for men and women in ancient society, what constituted deviation from these ideals, and how Romans may have experienced these social structures.

II. **PURPOSE:**

Students will examine the content of ancient Greco-Roman and Etruscan texts and study visual art to assess ancient amatory culture and how ancient social structures shaped that experience.

III. **COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Students are expected: to read primary and secondary sources that survey ancient discussion of love and eroticism in Ancient Rome and Etruria; to visit (archaeological) sites in Italy; to become acquainted with ancient artifacts as witness to ancient uses of amatory themes (museums); and to synthesize an understanding of love and eroticism as it was structured in ancient Italian society. This will be shown through written/ oral assignments, quizzes, exams and projects.

IV. **COURSE OUTLINE:**

Gods and Sexuality. Emotions, laws, and Sexuality. Virginity, Chastity, Marital Sexuality. Same-Sex Desire. Transgression, Deviance, Sex Work.

V. **INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

Instructional activities include lectures, discussion in class, visits to sites and museums, course readings. Visits to sites in Rome and Florence will prompt discussion of ancient society and amatory experience in considering the places we visit as texts.

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.

VI. **FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:**

This course is part of the KIIS winter study abroad in Rome and Florence (the Italy Winter trip).

VII. **RESOURCES:** None.

VIII. GRADING PROCEDURES:

Scale:

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

Below 60 E (F)

Students will write short response papers (descriptions and analyses of places and art-objects pertaining to myth). These short compositions will contribute 40% of the course grade. Short quizzes will contribute 30%. Students will write an essay, selected in consultation with the instructor and contributing 30% of the grade.

IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY:

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

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person's material as one's own), or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were the student's own work.

Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place.

XI. TEXTS AND REFERENCES:

Required Text:

Larson, Jennifer. Ed. *Greek and Roman Sexualities: A Sourcebook* (London/New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2012.) Google e-book \$17.04. Amazon Kindle: \$23.99; paper: \$39.76.

Other digital materials may be provided via email (for computer or tablet, print)

XII. Note:

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.

Disability Accommodation

KIIS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative, <https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS

Assistant Director, Rebekah Golla, rebekah.golla@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Assistant Director, Rebekah Golla, or KIIS Office Manager, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Assistant Director, Rebekah Golla, or KIIS Office Manager, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus' disability accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty; the KIIS Office will notify your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter.

In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Assistant Director Rebekah Golla (+1-270-779-8091) or KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson (270-745-5398 / andrea.anderson@wku.edu) or WKU's Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@wku.edu) or Joshua Hayes (270-745-5121 / joshua.hayes@wku.edu). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at 270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>; additional Title IX resources can be found here <https://www.wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/titleixbrochure.pdf>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.