

XIDS 2002: What do you Know about Love in the Ancient World?

Instructor: Dr. Nadya Williams (nwilliam@westga.edu)

Class meeting time and location: Monday, 5:00-6:40pm, Pafford 107

Office hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 9:00am-12:00pm (online office hours on CourseDen), and Thursday 2:15-3:15pm (office hours in the UCC, ground floor open area)

I am also available by appointment to speak with you either over the phone or to meet with you on campus at a time convenient to you. My phone number is 678-554-7765. My campus office location is TLC 3239.

Course Description:

While we may not think of the Greeks and Romans as romantics, much of Greek and Roman mythology, art, and literature deals with love. Greek and Roman myths are filled with stories of love gone wrong. Ancient philosophers repeatedly attempted to define love, and the literary writers produced prodigious amounts of love poems, some addressed to people, but others to places and concepts. And as rulers and even ordinary people in different periods of antiquity attempted to make alliances that enhanced their own power, marital love (or lack thereof) drove the course of Greek and Roman history.

Proceeding chronologically, this interdisciplinary First Year Seminar will introduce you to the many aspects of love in ancient Greece and Rome from the perspectives of literature, mythology, philosophy, law, art and archaeology, theology, and history. In the process, you will get to discuss such timeless questions as: what is love? What does love look like in a functional, healthy relationship, and how can one live a life that is filled with love and driven by it? Finally, how is love of a person or persons different from love for country or a concept or the divine? In discussions and written assignments, you will work on drawing connections between the approaches to these questions in the ancient world and in your own life today. In order to provide additional perspectives on love in antiquity and in real life, several guest speakers from campus and the community will visit the class over the course of the semester.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- I. Written and Oral Communication: students will adapt written and oral communication to specific rhetorical purposes and audiences.
- II. Life-Long Learning: Students will recognize and begin to implement the skills necessary to become life-long, active learners through the exploration of an academic topic that focuses on a contemporary and/or enduring topic, question, or problem.
- III. Interdisciplinary research: Students will evaluate critically primary sources of various types (both textual and visual), and make use of these sources in posing and answering important historical questions

A Note on Respectful Communication:

This seminar, just like any other class that you will take in college, brings together a group of students from a variety of backgrounds and schools of thought. This means that you are guaranteed to have disagreements with each other over your interpretation of particular readings, ideas, concepts, etc. These disagreements can be a beautiful part of learning, but only if we all treat each other with respect in all of our conversations and communications. Thus when you disagree with someone else in the class about anything related to the class or outside of it, I ask that you listen and try to understand. The same is true for the many times when you will disagree with our historical subjects. As a human being and as a historian, you are never obligated to agree with someone else's different approach or interpretation to an issue. As long as you are in this class, however, you are obligated to listen, and try to understand perspectives other than your own. Indeed, that would be the most loving thing to do.

Required books:

There are no required textbooks that you need to purchase for this course. Links to all readings are placed on this syllabus and on CourseDen.

Grading Criteria (further information will be provided upon request):

Attendance and participation in class discussions and activities – 35%

This is a First Year Seminar, which means that this class relies on student discussion, and the instructor will keep lectures to a minimum. In order for the course to be enjoyable to all (and in order to ensure a good participation grade for you), you must be present in class, and you must be prepared to discuss the readings.

Short response papers on reading assignments – 35%

Each student will write five one-page response papers on the weekly readings. These are informal writing assignments, allowing you to focus on one aspect of the week's reading that has particularly struck you as significant. You will submit the papers online on CourseDen.

Final paper – 20%

Each student will write one 5-7 page paper on any aspect of the topic of love in the ancient world.

Final project presentation – 10%

Each student will give a ten-minute in-class presentation on the topic of his/her final project during the last two class meetings of the semester.

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N.B. There will be no curve in this course! Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale, keeping in mind that the University of West Georgia does not recognize +/- grades:

89.49 - 100 = A

79.49 - 89.48 = B

69.49 - 79.48 = C

59.49 – 69.48 = D

< 59.48 = F

Class Communication:

Per university policy, all email communications between faculty and students should be limited to the UWG email accounts and CourseDen email. I will not respond to emails sent from other accounts.

University Policies for Students:

All Students Please Note!

For important policy information, i.e., the UWG Honor Code, Email, and Credit Hour policies, as well as information on Academic Support and Online Courses, please review the information found in the **Common Language for Course Syllabi** documentation

at https://www.westga.edu/academics/assets/docs/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf. Additions and updates are made as institution, state, and federal standards change, so please review it each semester.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty on ANY assignment in this course, including response papers, will result in an F for the course, and the referral of the student to the appropriate university committee. There will be no exceptions to this policy! Academic dishonesty can take many shapes, such as cut-and-pasting anything from the internet. Please avoid inadvertent plagiarism by ALWAYS citing any sources that you use when writing papers or essays. For further information, see <http://www.westga.edu/~handbook/index.php?page=honorcode>

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Date	Class Topic	Readings and Assignments Due
08/14	Introductions and definitions; love in the myths of the Trojan War	--

08/21	Dysfunctional relationships in Greek and Roman mythology This week only, class meets online! Instructor out of town!	<i>Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite</i> ; selections from Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i> Instead of our usual in-class discussion, this week's discussion is online. Please log in to the course website on CourseDen to complete the discussion assignment.
08/28	Conflicting obligations: love of family vs. love of the city vs. romantic love	Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i> Guest speakers: Dr. Lara Willox and Sarah Jones Response paper 1 due by 5:00pm
09/04	Labor Day holiday: NO CLASS!	
09/11	Defining love in Greek philosophy	Selections from Plato's <i>Symposium</i> Guest speaker: Dr. John Garner Response paper 2 due by 5:00pm
09/18	Regulating love in Greek law	Lysias 1, "On The Killing of Eratosthenes" Guest speakers: Dr. Steve Goodson and Martha Goodson
09/25	Dysfunctional romance and the founding of Rome	Selections from Livy, Book 1; Vergil, <i>Aeneid</i> , book 4 Response paper 3 due by 5:00pm
10/02	Love in the Age of Augustus, and Ovid's controversial handbook on romance	Selections from Ovid, <i>The Art of Love</i>
10/09	Roman love poetry: ideal or reality?	Selections from Propertius and Sulpicia Response paper 4 due by 5:00pm
10/16	Excavating (and buying/selling) love in Pompeii: what can archaeology tell us about real life?	TBA
10/23	Love, humanity, and God in Early Christianity: theological approaches and definitions, part I	Gospel of John Response paper 5 due by 5:00pm
10/30	Love, humanity, and God in Early Christianity: theological approaches and definitions, part II	Gospel of John Guest speaker: Carol Clarke
11/06	Re-defining love in Late Antiquity; Student research presentations begin	Selections from Augustine's <i>Confessions</i> Guest speaker: Dr. Dan Williams
11/13	Student research presentations	--

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11/20	Thanksgiving Break: NO CLASS!	
11/27	Student research presentations	--
12/01		Final papers due in CourseDen Dropbox by 5:00pm