Religion and Sexuality: Human Sexuality in Greek History and Culture

May 12—25
3 Hours Credit

The Course

is designed primarily to examine four related issues and ideas:
1) What is the meaning of the Greek term *eros* and does it bear any relation to the modern concept of "sexuality"?

2) Given the apparent tolerance of same-sex sexual expression in Classical antiquity, and given the significant resistance to homosexuality in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in Europe and America, what causal factor(s) may help to explain this apparent shift in sexual attitudes? Is Christianity the primary causal factor?

3) How has the Greek tradition of erotic enquiry served modern theorists of sexuality, from Freud to Foucault?

4) What happens to our enquiry if we shift our attention from sexuality to desire? Are the ancient texts we have been reading concerned with human *sexuality* or with human *desire*?

Participants who successfully complete the program's course and the Transfer Credit Approval Form will receive 3 semester hours of course credit. Undergraduate students should register for RELS 4640 or ANTH 4980 and graduate students should register for RELS 6640 or ANTH 6980.

For Funding and scholarship information, visit mystudyabroad.gsu.edu and select the Scholarship and Financial Aid tab.

Program Costs

The program cost is tentatively set at $2200.00. This price includes tuition and housing for the duration of the program, but does not include R/T airfare to Rome.

Application Information

Students interested in applying should find this program’s listing at mystudyabroad.gsu.edu and begin an online application. Students must also contact Dr. Ruprecht to begin the application for The American University of Rome. Students also have the option of extending their stay for two additional courses during June and July. More information can be found at https://www.my.aur.it/ICS/Course_Offerings__Syllabi.jnz

Contact Information

Dr. Louis Ruprecht    lruprecht@gsu.edu    25 Park Place, Rm 1715
May 12-25

Recommended Textbooks to Bring:

Anne Carson, Eros the Bittersweet: An Essay (Princeton, 1986)

Michel Foucault, The History of Sexuality, Volume I: The Will to Knowledge (1976)

Michel Foucault, The History of Sexuality, Volume II: The Use of Pleasure (1984)

Sigmund Freud, Three Contributions to the Theory of Sex (Basic, 2000)


GENERAL INFORMATION FOR “RELIGION AND SEXUALITY”

Students will make their own travel arrangements to Rome; STA Travel is recommended.

Unless otherwise specified, the class will meet on campus each weekday, 9am-1pm.

You are expected to keep a daily reading journal, which will be turned in to me each Friday. Optional weekend trips may include visits to the following: I recommend bringing Alta Macadam’s The Blue Guide: Rome:

In Rome, the Non-Catholic Cemetery at the Pyramid, the Montemart Museum (Capitoline) at the Gasworks, the Basilica of San Paolo fuori di mura, the Church and excavation at San Clemente, the Villa Giulia Etruscan Museum; to the south, Naples, Herculaneum and Pompeii; to the north in Umbria, Orvieto, Todi and Assisi.

We will meet once in April before departing for Rome.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Louis Ruprecht  lruprecht@gsu.edu  25 Park Place, Rm 1715

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE

May 10: Recommended departure date

May 11: Arrival in Rome, check-in to university housing

May 12: Discussion of Plato, Symposium and Phaedrus, to be read before arrival

May 13: Euripides, Medea and Hippolytos; Seneca, Medea and Phaedra

May 14-15: Optional Trips

WEEK TWO

May 16: Sappho, translations by Mary Barnard (1958) and Anne Carson (2002)

Fragments ## 1, 2, 16, 15, 31, 51, 105-107, 130, 146, with ancient testimonia

May 17: John Boswell, Christianity, Homosexuality and Social Tolerance, xv-xviii, 3-59, with the following biblical passages: Genesis 19, Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13, Romans 1:26-27, I Corinthians 6:9-10, and I Timothy 1:10

May 18: Sigmund Freud, Three Contributions to a Theory of Sexuality (98 pages)

May 19: Michel Foucault, History of Sexuality, Volume One, Preface and “The Repressive Hypothesis” (3-35), and History of Sexuality, Volume Two, Introduction and “True Love” (3-32, 235-246)


WEEK THREE

May 23: Anne Carson, Eros the Bittersweet, 3-110

May 24: Anne Carson, Eros the Bittersweet, 111-173

May 25: SHORT PAPERS DUE ON ANNE CARSON; IN-CLASS FINAL EXAM

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