

Gender in Ancient Eastern Mediterranean

Tuesdays 12:30-2:20 pm at Chester New Hall 103

Instructor

Dr. Hanna Tervanotko

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Office Location

University Hall

Office Hours

Tuesdays 2:30-3:30pm

Course Overview

This course analyzes gender roles in Biblical literature and other texts of ancient Near East and Mediterranean regions. By examining how gender is depicted in different genres of literature and material artifacts, we will learn about ancient authors' understanding of gender identities.

Course Materials

- The Bible: You need access to an English translation of the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament and Apocrypha (preferably NRSV). I recommend you to use a physical Bible instead of an app on your phone.
- All secondary sources (e.g., articles) can be accessed via Avenue to Learn course platform.
- OPTIONAL RESOURCE: Sara Parks, Shayna Sheinfeld, Meredith J.C. Warren, *Jewish and Christian Women in the Ancient Mediterranean*

Goals

Requirements

- Group work
- Media exercise, due October 23, 2022
- Course project, due December 10, 2022

Course Schedule

Week	Subject	Theme & Readings
Week 1 (9/6)	Welcome and Introduction; epistemologies to study antiquity	What are we going to do in this course? Material and Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sara Parks, "Historical-Critical Ministry."

Week	Subject	Theme & Readings
Week 2 (9/13)	Paradise and Fall; biased readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Francis Borchardt, “Historical Critical method.” <p>It is all Eve’s fault</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genesis 2-3 • Carol Meyers, “Eve in Eden: Genesis 2-3” chapter 2 in <i>Rediscovering Eve: Ancient Israelite Women in Context</i>, 59-81.
Week 3 (9/20)	Birth, pronouns	<p>Inaccessible ancient identities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Stone, “bye, bye binary.” Bye Bye Binary: God as Mother-Bear – The Shiloh Project • Images of Jerusalem in the Hebrew Bible (bibleodyssey.org) • David Wheeler Reed, “What the early church thought about God’s gender”: https://theconversation.com/what-the-early-church-thought-about-gods-gender-100077
Week 4 (9/27)	Family life	<p>Concepts of marriage, sexuality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keturah (Gen 25:1-4) • Zipporah (Exod 2:11-23; 4:8-31; 18; Num 12:1) • Batsheba (2 Sam 11-12) • Tracy Lemos, “Weddings and Marriage Traditions in Ancient Israel” https://www.bibleodyssey.org/passages/related-articles/weddings-and-marriage-traditions-in-ancient-israel • Johanna Stiebert, A Closer Look at Biblical

Week	Subject	Theme & Readings
		<p><u>Marriage – The Shiloh Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Athalya Brenner, “Foreign Woman.”
Week 5 (10/4)	Free people and Slaves	<p>But everyone is not free in Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hagar (Gen 16, 21) <li>• Jayme Reaves, “Sarah as victim and perpetrator: Whiteness, power, and memory in the matriarchal narrative.” <li>• Watch Jennifer Glancy, “Slavery in Early Christianity”: https://www.brandeis.edu/projects/fse/conferences/beyond-slavery/videos/jennifer-glancy.html
Week 6	Midterm recess – Enjoy	
Week 7 (10/18)	Widowhood	<p>To marry or not marry?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book of Ruth <li>• Gale A. Yee, “She Stood in Tears Amid the Alien Corn: Ruth, the Perpetual Foreigner and Model Minority.” <li>• Vivian Ketchum, “What about Orpah?”
Week 8 (10/25)	Celibacy	<p>Celibate Christ followers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acts of Thecla <li>• Despina Iosif, “Shut up, woman! The Apocryphal Acts of Paul and Thecla and their impact.” https://www.joshobrouwers.com/articles/apocryphal-acts-paul-thecla/
Week 9 (11/1)	Education in antiquity	<p>Education and Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael Riegler and Judith R. Baskin, “May the Writer Be Strong: Medieval Hebrew

Week	Subject	Theme & Readings
Week 10 (11/8)	Practice of religion	<p>Manuscripts Copied by and for Women.”</p> <p>Official religions and Lived ancient Religions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hannah in the temple (1 Sam 1:2-2:21) <li>• Woman of Endor (1 Sam 28:3-25) <li>• Miriam (Exod 15:20-21; Num 12:1-15; Micah 6:4) <li>• Deborah (Judg 4-5) <li>• Huldah (2 Kings 22) <li>• Noadiah (Neh 6:14) <li>• Isaiah’s wife (Isa 8:1-4) <li>• Carol Meyers, “Women’s Religious Life.” <li>• Ann Jeffers, “Women’s Rituals.” <li>• Kimberly Stratton, https://theconversation.com/sirens-hags-and-rebels-halloween-witches-draw-on-the-history-of-womens-power-149110
Week 11 (11/15)	Professional lives	<p>Not only housewives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Babatha archive: https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/babatha <li>• http://cojs.org/anthony-j-saldarini-babathas-story-biblical-archaeology-review-24-2-1998/ <li>• Prisca (1 Cor 16:19; Rom 16: 3-5; 2 Tim 4:19) <li>• Phoebe (Rom 16:1-2), also other women in Rom 16 <li>• Euodia and Syntyche (Phil 4:2-3) <li>• Lydia (Acts 16) <li>• Agriculture (Prv 31:16; Josh 15:16-19; cf. Ruth working in the field) <li>• Mill (Exod 11:5; Matt 24:41)

Week	Subject	Theme & Readings
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shepherding (Gen 29:9; Exod 2:16) • Midwives (Exod 1:15) • Nurses (<u>Gen 35:8</u>; Exod 2:7; <u>2 Sam 4:4</u>; <u>1 Kings 1:4</u>) • Professional mourners (Jer 9:17) • Servants (Acts 12:13) • Tentmaking (Acts 18:3) • Commercial tasks (Acts 16:14)
Week 12	Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Prof away	
Week 13 (11/29)	Beauty concepts	Beauty and Violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susanna and the Elders • Hanna Tervanotko, “Beautiful Men and Women”. • Video: Susanna and the Elders (http://shiloh-project.group.shef.ac.uk/?p=1605)
Week 14 (12/6)	How ancient ideas influence us?	

Course Policies

Academic integrity

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. The academic credentials that you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is knowingly to act or fail to act in a way that results, or could result, in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.

For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity. The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and can be easily avoided by simply citing the source of your information whenever there is any doubt. Please be sure to do this – better safe than sorry! Should you have any questions, please let me know.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com

In this course we may use a web-based service (turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically through Avenue, where it will be run through turnitin.com to check for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to turnitin.com; however, the instructor will still assure (by other means) that standards of academic integrity have been upheld. To see the turnitin.com policy, please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

Academic accommodation of students with disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail at sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/StudentsAcademicStudies/AcademicAccommodationStudentsWithDisabilities.pdf>).

Modifications to this course

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check her/his McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

E-mail communication

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all email communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

McMaster Student Absence Form

The McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>) is a selfreporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report MEDICAL absences that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work (that is less than 25% of the course grade). Please note that this tool cannot be used during any final examination period. You may submit a maximum of ONE Academic Work Missed request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately regarding the nature of the accommodation. If you are absent for more than 3 days, exceed one request per term, are absent for a reason other than medical, or have missed work worth 25% or more of the final grade, you MUST visit your Faculty Office. You may be required to provide supporting documentation. This form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence.

Late Submission

Late submission of any course work may affect the grade. Late submissions should always be negotiated with me.

Contacting the instructor

Your first contact is the course Teaching Assistant, for logistical questions about the course, reporting absences, or matters relating to accessing the readings. If the TA cannot answer your question, or if your concern is of a sensitive nature, please email me. I will make an effort to answer emails in a timely manner, but do not expect an answer to emails between the hours of 6 PM and 9 AM on weekdays and on weekends. For anything that cannot be answered by the syllabus, contact me. Come by at our posted office hours or make an appointment to meet.

Covid Policy

I acknowledge that the pandemic continues influencing our lives. Should you need accommodations due to unpredicted situations, do not hesitate to contact me. Let's try to make each other's lives easier, not more difficult.

