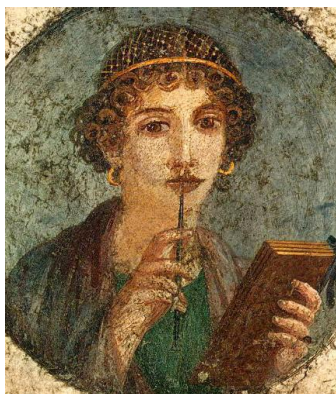


# WAGS 31: Queer Canons

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Sappho



Virginia Woolf

\* = text in reading notes packet

@ = text online

€ = streaming video under *E-reserves* on CMS page

Λ = readings in Hubbard cited by item number

Jan. 26 Introduction: Canon Building and Queer Reading

## One: The Importance of Being Sappho

Jan. 28 Sappho Λ 1.5-1.27 + Hubbard pp. 16-17;  
Virginia Woolf, *Orlando* (1928), intro. and chap. 1

Feb. 2 Alcman Λ 1.4; Nossis Λ 6.16-6.19; Anacreon Λ 1.31;  
*Orlando*, chap. 2 -4

Feb. 4 *Orlando*, finish;  
@ Susan Gubar, "Sapphistries." *Signs* 10.1 (1984): 43-62



Chiron and Achilles

## Two: Greek Love and Roman Sex

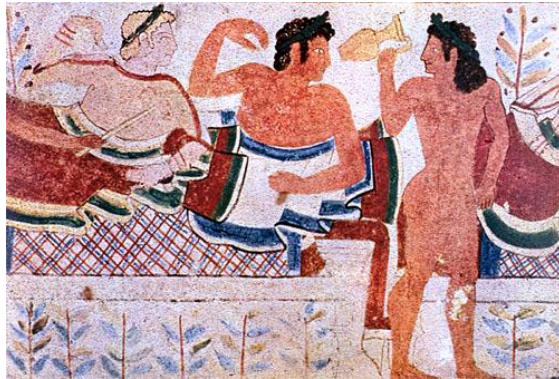
Feb. 9      Archaic Greek lyric  $\Lambda$  1.1-1.3, 1.28-1.86, 1.88-1.89;  
               Greek graffiti  $\Lambda$  2.22-2.27;  
               Aristophanes  $\Lambda$  3.1-3.13;  
               Athenaeus  $\Lambda$  2.21;  
               Hubbard, pp. 1-16, 21-24, 87-89

Feb. 11      \* Plato, *Symposium*, sections 172-201;  
               Plutarch, *Pelopidas*  $\Lambda$  2.14;  
               Hubbard, pp. 163-166 ;  
               Iconography: Hubbard, pp. 18-20 + figures after p. 267

### **Feb. 12: First essay (ungraded) due electronically by 12:00 noon**

Feb. 16      \* *Symposium*, finish;  
               Plutarch, *Alcibiades*  $\Lambda$  2.5;  
               Theocritus  $\Lambda$  6.10, 6.12, 6.13

Feb. 18      Plato, *Phaedrus*  $\Lambda$  5.9;  
               @ James Davidson, "Dover, Foucault and Greek Homosexuality:  
               Penetration and the Truth of Sex." *Past and Present* 170 (2001): pp. 3-33



Symposium (Etruscan tomb painting)

Feb. 23      Catullus  $\Lambda$  7.39-41 & 45-47;  
               Virgil, *Aeneid*  $\Lambda$  8.16-17;  
               Pompeian graffiti  $\Lambda$  9.16;  
               Martial  $\Lambda$  9.18-31;  
               Petronius, *Satyricon*  $\Lambda$  9.14 (6.1-26.6, pp. 395-404);  
               ☉ Federico Fellini, "Satyricon" (1969) (sample);  
               Hubbard, pp. 308-311, 344-346, & 383-386;  
               @ Davidson, "Dover," finish

### Intermezzo: Renaissance

Feb. 25      \* Michelangelo Buonarroti, selected sonnets;  
               \* William Shakespeare, selected sonnets;  
               \* Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own* (1928), chapter 3

**Feb. 28: second essay due electronically by 12:00 noon**



Oscar Wilde



Radclyffe Hall

### Three: Daring to Speak Its Name

- March 2      Oscar Wilde, "The Importance of Being Earnest" (1895) and  
*The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1891), chapters 1-2
- March 4      *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, chapters 3-9 and 12-14
- March 9      *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, chapters 18-20;  
 ☪ Albert Lewin (dir.), "The Picture of Dorian Gray" (1945)
- March 11     Radclyffe Hall, *The Well of Loneliness* (1928), book 1
- March 23     *The Well of Loneliness*, books 2-4
- March 25     *The Well of Loneliness*, book 5;  
 Willa Cather, *The Professor's House* (1925), book 1, chapters 1-7
- March 30     *The Professor's House*, finish book 1
- April 1      *The Professor's House*, books 2-3;  
 Nella Larsen, *Passing* (1929), part 1
- April 6      *Passing*, finish;  
 Judith Butler, "Passing, Queering: Nella Larsen's Psychoanalytic Challenge,"  
 Norton Critical Edition, pp. 417-435



Jocasta and Oedipus in  
Pasolini's "Edipo Re"

## Four: The Invention of Sexualities

April 8           \* Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* (430-428 BCE);  
@ Sigmund Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*, chap. 5 (excerpts)

**April 10: third essay due electronically at 12:00 noon**

April 13           € Pier Paolo Pasolini (dir.), "Edipo Re" (1967)

April 15           Yukio Mishima, *Confessions of a Mask* (1949), chapters 1 & 2

April 20           *Confessions of a Mask*, finish;  
Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality* (1976), vol. 1, Part One: "We 'Other  
Victorians'" (pp. 1-13) and Part Four, "The Deployment of Sexuality,"  
Chap. 3, "Domain" (pp. 103-114) (on reserve in Frost, HQ12 .F6813 1980)

April 21 (Mon.) Leontine Sagan (dir.), "Mädchen in Uniform" (1931),  
4:00 and 7:30, Barker Room, Media Center, Frost Library

April 22           James Baldwin, *Giovanni's Room* (1956), part 1

April 27           *Giovanni's Room*, finish;  
€ Marlon Riggs (dir.), "Tongues Untied" (1989)



"Mädchen in Uniform"

- April 29      Manuel Puig, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (1976), chapters 1-5;  
                  @ Susan Sontag, "Notes on Camp" (1984)
- May 4          *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, finish;  
                  Eve Sedgwick, *The Epistemology of the Closet* (1990) (on reserve in Frost  
                  PS374.H63 S42 1990), pp. 67-90
- May 6          € Sally Potter (dir.), "Orlando" (1992)

**May 10: fourth essay due electronically at 12:00 noon**

**Requirements:** Students write one ungraded short essay and three formal essays, ranging from 1250 to 2000 words, with editorial conferences as the essays are being written or, with the first and ungraded essay, to offer feedback on the completed essay. There is also the expectation of faithful attendance and productive participation as contributor and listener.

**Goals and Methods:** This seminar aims to develop skills of critical reading and analytical writing by active participation in class discussion, as informed by questions/comments submitted before class, and by consultation with the instructor in the writing of the four essays.

The four essays should provide original interpretation that goes beyond class discussion. Assignment sheets with suggested topic areas will be distributed more than week before the deadline, and you should sign up for editorial conferences (times posted on the CMS page) in the days before the deadline. These conferences work best if the writer sends in advance a whole or partial rough draft. Analysis in the essays may range from straightforward interpretation to theoretical approaches.

**Academic Honesty:** Please review the webpage on Academic Honesty <https://www.amherst.edu/campuslife/deanstudents/acadhonesty>, including Amherst's Statement on Intellectual Responsibility, and the page on academic honesty on the Classics / WAGS 38 site. The essay assignments do not require or encourage the use of secondary sources, and any sources used (other than the reading notes and class discussions) should be cited. When in doubt, please ask.

Texts: The reading notes are available at the office of Women's and Gender Studies, 14 Grosvenor House. The following texts are available at Amherst Books:

Baldwin, James, *Giovanni's Room* (Delta) 0385334583

Cather, Willa, *The Professor's House* (Vintage) 0679731806

Hall, Radclyffe, *The Well of Loneliness* (Anchor) 9780385416092

Hubbard, Thomas K., *Homosexuality in Greece and Rome: A Sourcebook of Basic Documents* (U California) 0585466025

Larsen, Nella, *Passing* (Norton Critical Edition, ed. K. Caplan) 0393979164

Mishima, Yukio, *Confessions of a Mask* (New Directions) 9780811201186

Puig, Manuel, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Vintage) 0679724494

Wilde, Oscar, *The Picture of Dorian Gray and Other Writings* (Bantam Classic) 0553212540

Woolf, Virginia, *Orlando* (Wordsworth Classics) 9781853262395