



Required Textbooks

None.

Assessments

Papers, final project,

Course Description:

This course will focus on spectacle and public performance in the ancient world. Topics discussed will include the Olympics, Greek drama, musical competitions, chariot racing, exotic animal hunts, and gladiatorial games. We will examine a mix of literary sources, material objects, and archaeology in order to understand the role of these spectacles in society at large. Although we cover a range of different types of popular culture from various times and places, we will discuss a number of common issues, such as, who funds these spectacles, who is in the audience, what kind of ideological claims are being made, and what can we learn from ancient popular culture about class, gender, identity, et cetera?

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