

Course Number

Classics 310

Course Title

Constructing Identity in the Ancient Mediterranean World

Quarter/Year

Winter 2021

Day/Time

TTh 11-12:20

Instructor

Gunter

Degree/Distro Fulfillment

Classics/Areas IV, VI

Course Description:

How did individuals define themselves in the ancient Mediterranean world, and how did they express their affiliation with multiple and diverse ethnic, religious, linguistic, and other collective social identities? How did groups portray perceived differences between themselves and others? What do we know of the construction of gender identities, race, age, and class distinctions? What dynamic roles did dress, hairstyle, body decoration or ornament, and personal possessions play in establishing and expressing individual and collective identities?

This course explores evidence for self- and group-fashioning in Greece, Rome, and their neighbors in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Persia. We examine a wide range of textual and material sources, including works of art, archaeological contexts such as burials and religious institutions, biographies, autobiographies, and legal documents, including dowries. We also consider culturally significant modes of self-representation and commemoration, such as portraits and funerary monuments, along with the collecting and transfer of objects that represented accumulated social entanglements, such as heirlooms.



Required Textbooks

All readings will be available online, through CANVAS or NU Libraries.

Assessments

Written responses, group discussions, class presentation, short paper.