

**Course Number**

CLA 310

**Course Title**

Greek and Latin Literature: The Amazons: Warrior Women of Greek Myth and History

**Quarter/Year**

Spring 2022

**Day/Time**

MW 12:30-1:50

**Instructor**

Anna Darden

**Distro Fulfillment**History, Society and Culture  
Material Culture of the Ancient  
Mediterranean**Course Description**

The Amazons were a fantastical race of warrior women who lived on the periphery of the Greek world. They represented a world turned upside down, antithetical to Greek masculine values. The queens of the Amazons were powerful enemies to the best of the Greek heroes, coming into conflict with Achilles, Heracles, and Theseus. In this course we will discuss the place of the Amazons in ancient literature, in various artistic traditions, and in relation to cultures on the periphery of the Greek world where the idea of female warriors did not seem so impossible. Specific topics for this course include, Amazons at Troy, the “romance” of

Achilles and Penthesilea, the Amazonomachy on Greek temples, cross-dressing in the myth of Heracles and Omphale, sons of Amazons, “historical” Amazons, and the modern afterlife of the Amazons.

*Battle of the Amazons on a fifth-century vase in the Met, New York*

**Required Textbooks**

Euripides I: Alcestis, Medea, The Children of Heracles, Hippolytus (The Complete Greek Tragedies). Third Edition. Edited by Mark Griffith, Glenn W. Most, David Grene, and Richmond Lattimore. University of Chicago Press, 2013.

**Assessments**

Attendance, Class Participation, Paper, Final, Writing Assignments