

2023 Colloquium Program  
Monday, April 17, 2023  
Location: ECC 208

- 9:00-9:05** Prof. Richard Last, Introductory remarks
- 9:05-9:20** Prof. George Kovacs, Program Coordinator of Ancient Greek and Roman Studies, Looking ahead to 2023-2024
- 9:20-9:40** Catherine Rawling-Kay. 'Upon A Silver-Studded Seat: Guest-Friendship and Seduction in the *Hymn to Aphrodite*'
- *Abstract:* Central to the *Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite* is the interaction between Anchises and Aphrodite herself. Its description in the hymn contains elements of epiphany scenes, with the appearance of a divinity to a mortal and the offer of cult worship, but also of seduction, brought out by the focus on Aphrodite's shining dress and adornments. There is less description of Anchises' wardrobe, but we are given details of some of his possessions, including a silver-studded stool. The presence of this metallic artefact calls to mind scenes of divine guest-friendship, and its broken conventions in the *Hymn to Aphrodite*. Reading the hymn with this in mind reveals new aspects of how Anchises' worth and status is elevated, while the responsibility for the transgressive mixing of divine and mortal is placed on Aphrodite, who lures Anchises from the honourable and expected path of a theoxenic interaction with offers of wealth. This treatment of Anchises may speak to a use of the hymn as a lineage-confirming myth for a Troad family.
- 9:40-10:00** Shelby Beebe-Johnson. 'Buried Alive: A Rereading of the Myth of Tithonus (*Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite*, ll.220-232)
- *Abstract:* In the *Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite*, when Aphrodite explains why she will not seek immortality for Anchises, she tells him the story of Tithonus. In this story, Tithonus is taken by Eos to be her lover. She begs Zeus to grant him immortality but regretfully forgets to ask that he also remain ageless. As a result, Tithonus became so decrepit that he could no longer move his limbs, leading him to be locked away by Eos. William Brockliss has interpreted this story as an example of a disabled Homeric character being sexually exiled. This argument is not sufficient for the fate of Tithonus as he was not just exiled from sexual pleasure but from the living world itself. This paper will present a new rereading of the myth of Tithonus by focusing on line 236 which details Tithonus' fate and show that certain Greek words have connections with burying the dead and funerary connotations. From this, it will be argued that the story of Tithonus can be seen as him being treated as if he was the living dead and was buried alive as opposed to sexually exiled.
- 10:00-10:20** Marija Reston. 'The Gigantomachy: Thracian Inspiration'
- *Abstract:* forthcoming
- 10:20-10:40** Coffee/snack break in SCR

**10:40-11:00** Sasha Jones. ‘Denouncing Pericles in Comedy: Aspasia as a Tool of Criticism’

- *Abstract:* This article explores Aspasia’s role in Athenian politics and how her position as a metic and 'concubine' was used by comedic playwrights to denounce Pericles in ancient Athens. This essay looks at the existing historiography and attempts to merge the two most prominent schools of thought to better understand Aspasia’s role in history. This article will look at a variety of ancient comedies to determine how playwrights used Aspasia (and her reputation) to undermine Pericles. This will provide valuable insight into how contemporaries and future generations criticized Pericles. It will also give voice to Aspasia and situate her alongside her well-known peers since little is known about her life.

**11:00-11:20** Caitlyn Groleau. ‘Cheap Dye DIY: The Creation and Use of Purple Textiles in Greek Theatre’

- *Abstract:* The paper examines how purple dye was made in the ancient world and explores how such a costly colour could be achieved using cheaper materials. This is then related to the stage productions of Aeschylus’ Agamemnon and Euripides’ Helen within specific demes of Attica.

**11:20-11:40** Cyanna Blackmore. ‘Setting Up For Failure: How 4th Century Policy Crippled the Western Empire in the 5th Century’

- *Abstract:* An exploration of the consequences of 4th Century internal decision-making in the 5th Century detailing what structural cracks were baked into the foundation of the Western Roman Empire and how the Eastern Roman Empire managed to avoid the same issues.

**11:40-12:00** Connor Hopper. ‘Gothic Christians along the Lower Danube in the Mid-Fourth Century CE’

*Abstract:* This paper examines the development and spread of Christianity along the lower Danube in the mid-fourth century CE. Specifically, I am interested in analyzing what impact Christianity had on Gothic society, and to what extent it played a role in Romano-Gothic diplomatic relations. Overall, I aim to demonstrate that a broad network of Christians developed along the lower Danube in the mid-fourth century CE, and that this network involved Goths and Romans both elite and non-elite.

**12:00-12:10** Prof. Ian Storey, *summary remarks*

**12:10-12:30** Prof. George Kovacs, *closing remarks and rewards*