COURSE DESCRIPTION
In this class, we will investigate the form, development, and role of images of people in ancient Egypt, the Near East, Greece, and Rome. Using visual and literary sources, we will focus on how we define a portrait and will confront the variety of problems that the representation of the individual entails. How essential are the concepts of “likeness” and “realism” to the definition of a portrait, and to its function? How are portraits manipulated to serve specific public or private roles? Who does the manipulating, and who is the audience? Does there exist a correlation between the portrait of an individual and that individual's character? We will address these questions and others, concentrating on the use of portraiture in shaping personal, political, and cultural identities. Readings may include Plato, Apology; Aristophanes, Clouds; Pseudo-Aristotle, Physiognomics; Plutarch, Life of Alexander; Vasari, Life of Leonardo; and Wilde, The Picture of Dorian Gray. We will make use of objects in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

LEARNING GOALS (COURSE OBJECTIVES)
- Depth of knowledge of the ancient world
- Reading and use of visual material as sources
- Nuanced approaches to the study of unfamiliar cultures
- Writing skills, particularly the use of primary and secondary sources to build persuasive argumentation
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation (20%)

Please note: Attendance does not constitute participation, and participation should be informed by the assigned readings. The participation grade takes into consideration periodic short written assignments, reading responses, in-class projects, and annotation of images as assigned.

Written assignments choice of 3, 4, or 6 (60% total)
Final project (20%)

GRADING

Grading of assignments will be based on the following criteria:

- Content (direct and focused engagement with the assigned topic; delineation of a coherent thesis; relevant engagement of primary material and, where relevant, secondary scholarship in support of your thesis)
- Structure (presentation of argument and supporting discussion in a clear and logical way)
- Grammar, punctuation, spelling, and word choice

READINGS

Please purchase Oscar Wilde’s The Picture of Dorian Gray from a bookstore of your choice or check it out from a library.

All other readings are available via the course site under the “Readings” tab.

COURSE SITE

Find readings, announcements, assignments, images, and more on our site
https://wp.nyu.edu/readingfaces2016/
COURSE POLICIES

Your attendance—physical and mental—is essential to the success of this class and to your success in this class. More than two unexcused absences or persistent late arrivals to class will severely affect your final grade; excused absences are limited to documented medical and family emergencies and religious holidays.

Grades of Incomplete will only be given in cases of documented medical or family emergencies that interfere with your ability to complete coursework in a timely manner. Before requesting an Incomplete, please familiarize yourself with Gallatin’s school-wide policies at http://www.gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/policy/grades/incompletePolicy.html.

Electronics, including laptops and cell phones, should be silenced and put away during class.

Papers are due on the day assigned and at the time assigned. Late papers will not be accepted except in cases of documented medical or family emergency.

Because in-class assignments are designed to stimulate discussion and to raise questions in class, make-up assignments will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Expectation of Academic Integrity

As a Gallatin student you belong to an interdisciplinary community of artists and scholars who value honest and open intellectual inquiry. This relationship depends on mutual respect, responsibility, and integrity. Failure to uphold these values will be subject to severe sanction, which may include dismissal from the University. Examples of behaviors that compromise the academic integrity of the Gallatin School include plagiarism, illicit collaboration, doubling or recycling coursework, and cheating. Such behaviors are subject to sanction regardless of intent; in other words, accidental violations are still violations, and will be treated as such. For a full description of the academic integrity policy, please consult the Gallatin Bulletin or Gallatin website [www.gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/policy/integrity.html].

If you have any questions about how to cite properly or about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask me!

In addition, please know that the internet is not a reliable source for papers written for this class: there is a great deal of misinformation out there, particularly about the ancient world. Websites ending in .com, .net, or .org are not acceptable sources for your papers, and it is in your interest to check with me before citing any information found online for your research in this class. You will be held responsible for the integrity of any information gleaned from internet sources. If you are having trouble locating information in other media, please let me know and I’ll be happy to help you.
Week 1. Introduction
W. Sept. 7. Welcome and syllabus review

Week 2. Defining portraiture
M. Sept. 12. Names and faces
Read for today:
Before class today: Add an annotation (this may be a comment, question, a link to further research, or a response to another student’s annotation) to the image of the Mona Lisa on the course website’s page “Annotated Portraits”

Read for today:

Week 3. Formal Analysis
M. Sept. 19. Formal analysis practice
Read for today:

W. Sept. 21. Formal analysis workshop
Write for today and bring to class: Formal analysis (2 pages)

Week 4. Portraits of Kingship
Read for today:
Before class today: Add an annotation to the image of Naram-Sin on the course website

W. Sept. 28. Akhenaten’s portraits
Read for today:
*The Great Hymn to Aten*

**Friday, Sept. 30. Class Trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.**
There are two options for times: 4:30 pm or 6:00 pm. The tours will cover the same material, so you only have to attend one. Classes will be held in the Ancient Near Eastern and Greek galleries and will last approximately one hour. We will meet in the main lobby. The Met is located at 1000 Fifth Avenue at East 82nd Street; get directions at www.metmuseum.org. This trip is a required component of the course, and will contribute to your Attendance and Participation grade.
Week 5. Role portraits in the Greek world
M. Oct. 3. Athletes, generals, philosophers
Read for today:
Before class today: Add an annotation to the image of Socrates on the course website

W. Oct. 5. Socrates
Read for today:
Aristophanes, Clouds
PAPER 1 DUE BY THE BEGINNING OF CLASS TODAY

Week 6. Alexander the Great
M. Oct. 10. FALL BREAK: NO CLASS!
Read for today:
Plutarch, The Life of Alexander

Friday, Oct. 21. Class Trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
There are two options for times: 4:30 pm or 6:00 pm. The tours will cover the same material, so you only have to attend one. Classes will be held in the Ancient Near Eastern and Greek galleries and will last approximately one hour. We will meet in the main lobby. The Met is located at 1000 Fifth Avenue at East 82nd Street; get directions at www.metmuseum.org. This trip is a required component of the course, and will contribute to your Attendance and Participation grade.

Week 7. Later Alexanders
M. Oct. 17. The Successors Quandary
In-class project

W. Oct. 19. The Ptolemies
PAPER 2 DUE BY THE BEGINNING OF CLASS TODAY

Week 8. The Romans: Verism and the Republic
M. Oct. 24. Verist portraits
Read for today:

Read for today:
**Week 9. The Romans: Augustus**

**M. Oct. 31. Creating an imperial image**

Read for today:

FRIGHTFUL! PAPER 3 DUE BY THE BEGINNING OF CLASS TODAY

**W. Nov. 2. The Prima Porta**

Read for today:

Before class today: *Add an annotation to the image of the Prima Porta on the course website*

**Week 10. The Romans: Imperial style**

**M. Nov. 7. Beards and beardedness**

Read for today:

**W. Nov. 9. More hairiness**

*Tentative: Digital instruction for final video*

PAPER 4 DUE BY THE BEGINNING OF CLASS TODAY

**Week 11. The Romans: Mixing identities**

**M. Nov. 14. The Damnation of Memory**

Read for today:

**W. Nov. 16. The Tetrarchy**

Read for today:

**Week 12.**

**M. Nov. 21. TBA**

PAPER 5 DUE BY THE BEGINNING OF CLASS TODAY

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

**Week 13. Reading faces**

**M. Nov. 28. Aristotle’s Physiognomics**

Read for today:
Pseudo-Aristotle, *Physiognomics*

**W. Nov. 30. Modern physiognomics**

Read for today:

FRIDAY DEC 2. PAPER 6 DUE BY 5 PM TODAY

**Week 14. Portrait of the soul**

**M. Dec. 5. Dorian Gray**

Read for today:
Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

**W. Dec. 7. Dorian Gray, cont.**

**Week 14. Portrait of the soul**

**M. Dec. 12. More Dorian**

**T. Dec. 13 = MONDAY SCHEDULE. Even more Dorian**

**FINAL VIDEO PROJECT DUE BY 5:00 PM TODAY**

**W. Dec. 15. Wrapping up!**