



UCL

Expand

**Societies and
Cultures**

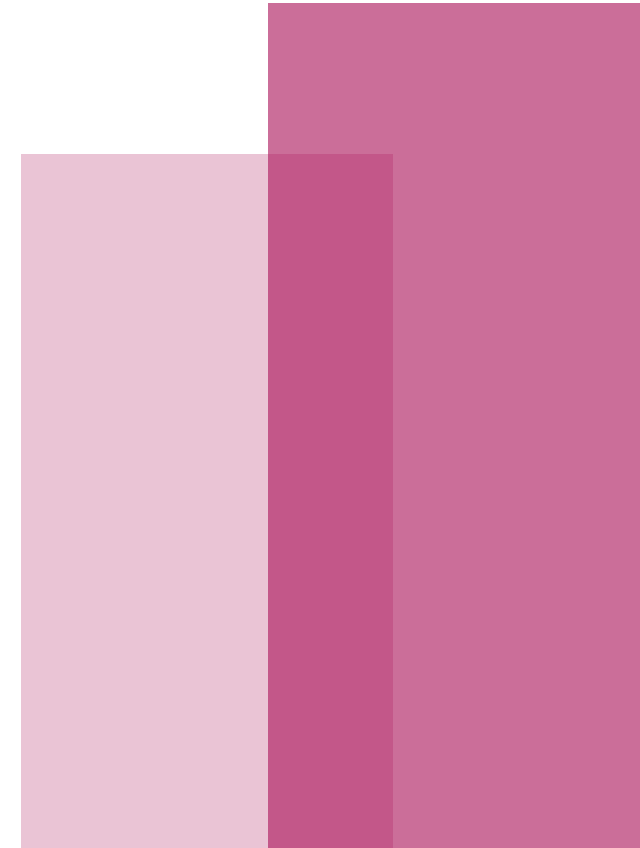
Research and Analysis



Participation and Exclusion: Slaves
and Women in Roman Plays

Session Aims

- To gain practical experience analysing ancient play scripts.
- To research key themes in the ancient play scripts (specifically about women and slaves).
- To begin building a collection of notes on each key theme to use in your final project.



Starter Activity

Thinking about the introduction session last week, answer the following question:

Why should we study the plays from Rome?

Put your answers on the Mentimeter slide by going to [Menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and typing in the code.

The Plays of Plautus

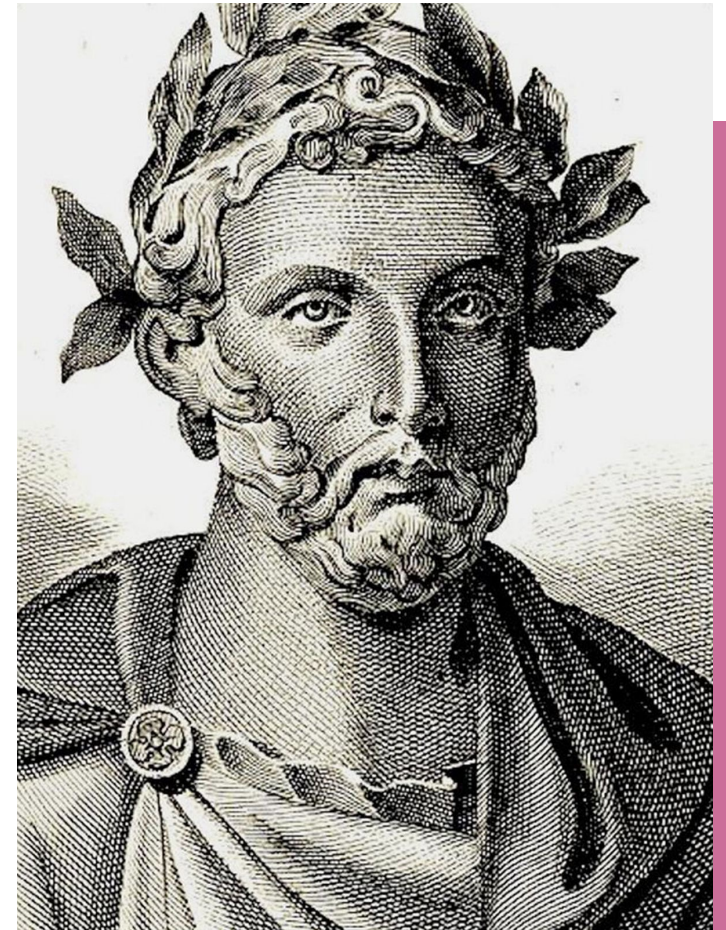
Born in Sarsina somewhere around 254 BCE

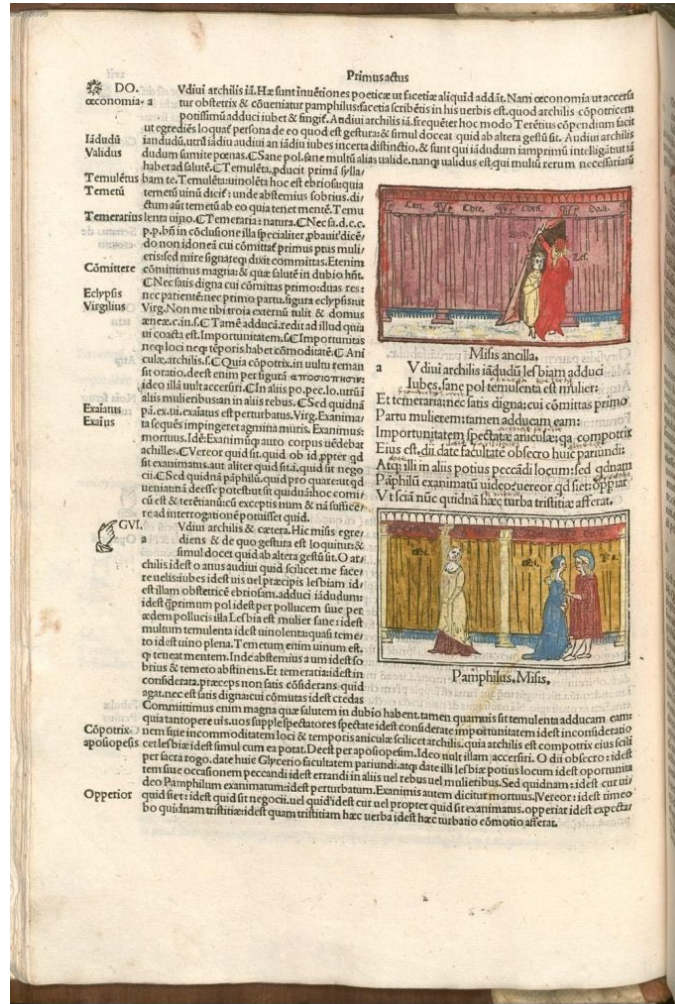
We have 21 plays written by Plautus

The basic themes of Plautus' plays include:

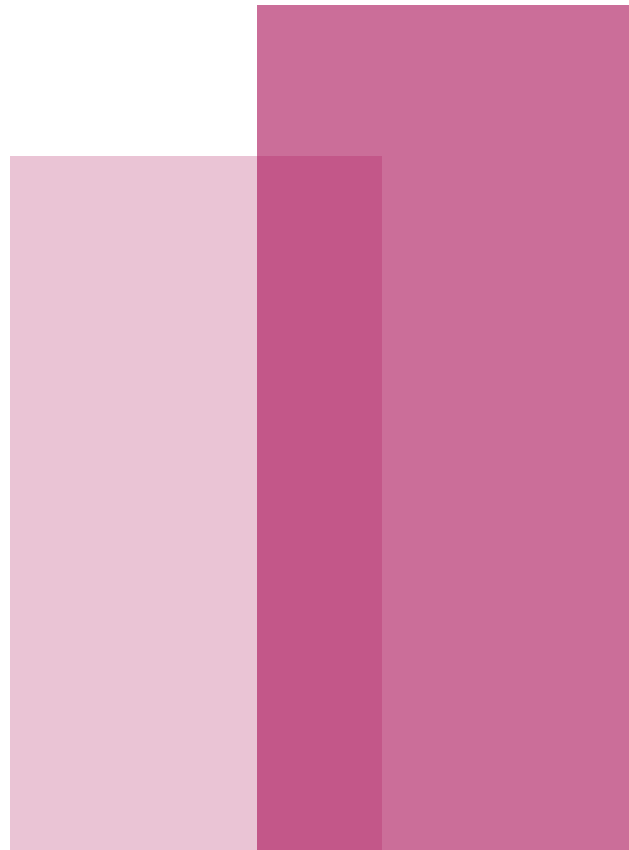
- Fathers and sons
- Tricky slaves
- Women and sex
- Foreigners and war

A really good starting point for the plays of Roman theatre is this video by Crash Course, which I would recommend watching if you haven't already.





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Handling Ancient Sources

Answer the following question:

What should historians be careful of when handling ancient sources?

Put your answers on the Mentimeter slide by going to [Menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and typing in the code.

Then VOTE on your favourite response.



Studying Slaves and Women in Ancient Rome



What is a marginalized group?

A group which has been peripheralized from the centre of society.

Communities, peoples or populations that experience discrimination and exclusion (either social, political, or economic) because of unequal power relationships.

The difficulties of studying historically marginalised groups:

1. Almost no source material
2. The sources we do have were written by wealthy, aristocratic men (usually in positions of political power)

Analysis Activity

In groups, you will be given an extract relating to women and slaves to annotate on Padlet.

Annotate your extract with answers to these two questions:

- How are the women and slave characters treated in this extract?
- Do they have any power in the scene?

Extension Question:

- How do you think the audience might have responded?

Extract One - The Opening Act of *Pseudolus*

Characters:

- Callidorus – the young ‘hero’ who is in love with a prostitute. He is very upset at the opening of the play because he has no money to buy her and she has been bought by someone else.
- Pseudolus – the slave of Callidorus. He is clever and chatty and sorts out all his master’s problems for him.

Extract Two – From Act Two of *Casina*

Characters:

- Lysidamus - an old man who has fallen in love with a young woman called Casina (who does not love him back).
- Cleostrata – his wife who knows about Casina and plots to have revenge on her husband, who she dislikes.

Developing Your Project

5 minutes to brainstorm your initial ideas for your project.

- What might you want to focus on?
- What information could you include?
- Do you want to do a post or a different format?

This is also an opportunity to ask any questions that you have about the projects. Feel free to use the chat to ask questions anonymously if you would like.



Next steps

Read through the notes made on both Padlets so that you have a complete set of notes for both.



What's coming up?

Drop-in sessions are run on the following evenings from 6pm – 7pm.

Monday 26th February

Monday 4th March

Monday 11th March

Monday 18th March

Monday 25th March

These sessions are not compulsory, but feel free to come along if you have any questions or would like to speak to a member of the UCL Expand team.

Your next subject session will be on (**INPUT DATE: following Wednesday evening**) from 6pm – 7:30pm.

Any questions?

If you need any support, or have any further questions, please don't hesitate to send the UCL Expand Team an email at

wp.post16@ucl.ac.uk or drop us a text on **07857630033**.

