

Focus: Can ancient texts  
have contemporary value?

**Agenda:**

**What was the role of women in Ancient Greece?**  
**Structure of Ancient Greek Comedy**  
**Begin Lysistrata**

**Next class: bring your novel as we will be reading in class!**  
**Class credit for HAVING YOUR NOVEL WITH YOU!**

**Homework: continue reading novel**

Ancient Greece - what do we know?

Women

take care of household matters  
+ children

less often seen in public

} Athens

Sparta

women were more equal

had to be educated to teach the  
children

had to take care of finances/land  
could own their own property

What do you know about women in <sup>Athens</sup> Ancient Greece?

- duties generally confined to the household
  - led certain religious rites
    - ↳ priestesses, maenads
  - Spartans more militaristic
    - ↳ women have more rights
    - ↳ They are trained to fight
  - all female social circles
  - Sappho
- excluded from politics

## Typical Structure of a Comedy

Aristophanic comedies have a more elaborate structure than the typical tragedy. The chorus is also larger: 24 (as opposed to 12-15).

**Prologue:** As in tragedies.

**Parode (Entrance Ode):** As in tragedies, but the chorus takes up a position either for or against the hero.

**Agôn (Contest):** Two speakers debate the issue (typically with eight feet per line), and the first speaker loses. Choral songs may occur towards the end.

**Parabasis (Coming Forward):** After the other characters have left the stage, the chorus members remove their masks and step out of character to address the audience.

First the chorus leader chants in anapests (eight per line) about some important, topical issue, typically ending with a breathless tongue twister.

Next the chorus sings, and there are typically four parts to the choral performance:

**Ode:** Sung by one half of the chorus and addressed to a god.

**Epirrhema (Afterword):** A satyric or advisory chant (eight trochees [long-short] per line) on contemporary issues by the leader of that half-chorus.

**Antode (Answering Ode):** An answering song by the other half of the chorus in the same meter as the ode.

**Antepirrhema (Answering Afterword)** An answering chant by the leader of the second half-chorus, which leads back to the comedy.

**Episode:** As in tragedies, but primarily elaborating on the outcome of the agon.

**Exode (Exit Song):** As in tragedy, but with a mood of celebration and possibly with a riotous revel (cômos), joyous marriage, or both.

## Roles

Yolizanta

Zystrata

Harold-Hashir  
Envoy-Carter

Kellyn - Cleanice

Chorus of women -  
Julia

Myrrhane - Abby

Athenian  
Citizen -  
Grace

Magistrates - Elliott

Cinesias - Pooja

↳ child - Amber  
Chorus of old men - Rishi

Christian - Lampito

Sai - Myrrhine

Gudi - Chorus of Old men

Ben - Leader of chorus of old men

Akash - Cine Sio

Yasmeen - Lysistrata

Alaric - Magistrates

Mariana - Chorus of women

Camryn - Leader of chorus of women

