

Daniel Libatique
CLAS 199 01 - Gender and Sexuality in the Ancient World
Final Essay
5/10/19

Corporeal Inviolability in Ancient and Modern Militaries

... Walters asserts that “the Roman soldier, symbol of all that is manly in Roman society, is dangerously like the slave, that ever-present, unmanly inferior and outsider” (1997, 40). ...

... Palinurus, a slave, explains which identities are sexually off-limits for *viri* in Roman society: “So long as you stay away from brides, widows, unmarried women, (male) youths and free boys, love whom you like” (Plautus *Curculio* 31-38). ...

... Roman sexuality was based on a zero-sum game of penetration: “Roman assumptions about masculine identity rested ... on a binary opposition: *men*, the penetrators, as opposed to everyone else, the penetrated. The penetrated *other* included women, boys, and slaves; adult Roman men who displayed a desire to be penetrated were consequently labeled deviants and anomalies” (Williams 1999, 7). ...

... Catullus casts aspersions on Mamurra’s masculinity because of his lack of self-control: “Who can look at this, who is able to suffer it, / unless he is unchaste and voracious and a gambler? / Mamurra has what Gallic Comata used to have, / and has what farthest Britain had” (Catullus 29). ...

Works Cited

Catullus 29 (p. 266 in Ormand).

Plautus *Curculio* 31-38 (p. 188 in Ormand).

Walters, Jonathan. 1997. “Invading the Roman Body: Manliness and Impenetrability in Roman Thought.” In *Roman Sexualities*, edited by Judith P. Hallett and Marilyn B. Skinner, 29-43. Princeton.

Williams, Craig. 1999. *Roman Homosexuality: Ideologies of Masculinity in Classical Antiquity*. New York and Oxford.