What is love? Affection? Sexual attraction? How has this fundamental concept evolved and morphed over the past two thousand years? In this course, we’ll investigate sex and romantic love in ancient Greece and Rome, considering how ancient literature treats issues like marriage and infidelity, sex work and slavery, homosociality and homosexuality, and consent and sexual violence. We’ll also explore how modern ideas about love, sex, beauty, and desire - as well as the tropes and forms of modern ‘love stories’ - have been shaped by ancient texts.