The fictional narratives of Greco-Roman antiquity play a foundational role in the Western literary tradition. In this module students will encounter the extant masterworks of Chariton, Xenophon of Ephesus, Achilles Tatius, Longus, Heliodorus, and Apuleius—authors once widely read in the ancient world—as well as two Jewish and Christian examples: Joseph and Aseneth and the Acts of Paul and Thecla. The ancient novels, the earliest examples of the genre, are a ripe literary field to explore the construction of gender, human sexualities, the relation of lovers to family and society, and the intersection of eroticism with ancient religious sensibilities.

**Instruction:**
Weekly seminars (1.5hrs) x 10

**Required texts:**
3. Lucian of Samosata, *Vera Historia* 
   Or on Project Gutenberg here: http://www.gutenberg.org/files/10430/10430-h/10430-h.htm
4. Two other texts, *Joseph and Aseneth* and *The Acts of Paul and Thecla* will be made available online.

A list of recommended secondary texts can be found at the end of this document.

**Assessment:**
6000 word essay (100%) 

In week 9, students will give a presentation on a tentative essay topic and any progress/research questions in order to get feedback from peers.
Schedule & Reading

Week 1 – 29 September
Read: Introduction in Reardon; David Konstan, “The Invention of Fiction,” in Ancient Fiction and Early Christian Narrative” (on MOLE).

Week 2 – 6 October
Topic: Gods, Mortals, & Fate: Chariton, Chaereas & Callirhoe

Week 3 – 13 October
Topic: Sex & Violence: Achilles Tatius, Leucippe & Clitophon

Week 4 – 20 October
Topic: Foreign Lands & Foreign People: Xenophon of Ephesus, An Ephesian Tale

Week 5 – 27 October
Topic: The Pastoral & Empire: Longus, Daphnis & Chloe

Week 6 – 3 November
Topic: Ethnicity & Identity: Heliodorus, An Ethiopian Story

Week 7 READING WEEK—NO SEMINAR

Week 8 – 17 November
Topic: Science Fiction? Lucian of Samosata, True Histories

WEEK 9 – 24 November
**Presentations on Paper topics**

WEEK 10 – 1 December
Topic: The Latin novel: Apuleius, Metamorphoses or The Golden Ass

WEEK 11 – 8 December
Topic: Jewish narrative fiction: Joseph and Aseneth

WEEK 12 – 15 December
Reading List


Rogers, Brett M. and Benjamin Eldon Stevens (eds.), *Classical Traditions in Science Fiction* (Oxford University Press, 2015).


