

CONTENTIOUS ISSUES FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

i - Why Plato Matters Now: Heroism and Celebrity

He would warn us that admiring or emulating the wrong kind of hero gives licence to our worst.

ii - America is the new Rome

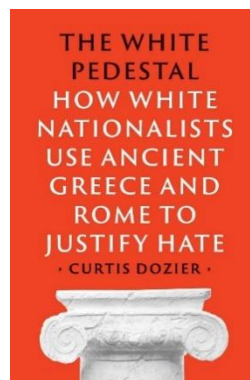
The American empire is arrogant, brutal and yet completely indispensable to Western civilisation. [Discuss!]

iii - Herodotus to POTUS

Never before in contemporary world history has a President of the United States (POTUS) been so publicly maligned, abused and reviled, as Donald Trump through 2025-2026.

iv - Why the right is so obsessed with Rome

From America to Britain, conservatives' focus on the Roman Empire is part of an effort to make violence virtuous



v - The Trumps Before Trump: The Unbalanced Rulers of Ancient Rome

Among competent rulers, Rome also produced celebrity-obsessed narcissists who treated the imperial treasury like a piggy bank and the law like a suggestion.



vi - Agricola, the leader Tacitus has given us: Why his story is more relevant than ever. Just over two thousand years ago, a man named Gnaeus Julius Agricola governed Roman Britain with a rare combination of firmness and justice. He was not

a ruthless general, not a politician thirsty for power, not an opportunist who changed flags with the shifting winds.

vii - What Camus's Sisyphus Revealed About Human Dignity and the Absurd.

The concepts of the absurd and human dignity both reveal something important about the value of human life. Most importantly, according to Camus' Myth of Sisyphus, that life has value.

viii - Thucydides: How Not to Read Thucydides in Contemporary Political Discourse

ix - What Roman Politics Teaches Us About Modern Marketing

Cicero 'Commentariolum Petitionis'

x - Why Should We Imagine Sisyphus Happy? Explaining Camus' Famous Quote.

Many readers find it difficult to imagine Sisyphus happy. This difficulty arises when people fail to treat Camus's account as a myth.

xi - Is Edward Gibbon's 'The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire' Worth Reading Today?

xii - Chris Nolan's "Odyssey"

a - The Internet Is Completely Wrong About Christopher Nolan's 'The Odyssey' Trailer

b - Musk Blasts Nolan's "Odyssey": "Peeing on Homer's Grave"

c - Christopher Nolan's 'Odyssey' Swept Up in Culture Wars

d - Outrage Over Casting of Lupita Nyong'o as Helen of Troy in the "Odyssey"

e - Sunny Hostin sparks backlash after claiming Helen of Troy "can be Black" "If you think Helen of Troy cannot be Black, you don't know history," Hostin said during the discussion, reigniting debate around interpretations of ancient Greek history and mythology

f - Be honest, you don't really care about Homer or classical literature I will believe you actually care about Homer when you fight for a classics department.

g - Bernard T. Joy on X: "You'll never guess who else Christopher Nolan has cast in The Odyssey in a bid to capture the Disney adults 🗨️ I believe he will play Odysseus' dog.

xiii - Black Athena rises from the grave

xiv - Is it temple robbery? That depends on who is doing the taking

xv - Parthenon Frieze/Elgin Marbles

a - Mario Trabucco della Torretta I was cancelled by Greece for telling the truth about the Elgin Marbles My crime is believing the Parthenon friezes are every bit as British as they are Greek

b - When Will the Woke Crowd Leave the Elgin Marbles Alone?

If our age truly believes in intercivilisational dialogue, then it must reject the dark prospect of a cultural apartheid
