

## CONTENTIOUS ISSUES FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

### Attachment E

i - On Being a Historian in Dystopian Times – EVERYDAY ORIENTALISM What is the responsibility of the historian, and more broadly of humanities scholars, during times of climate collapse, televised genocides, techno-feudal fascism and imperial meltdown?



ii - Innovative developments or cop out to tech companies?

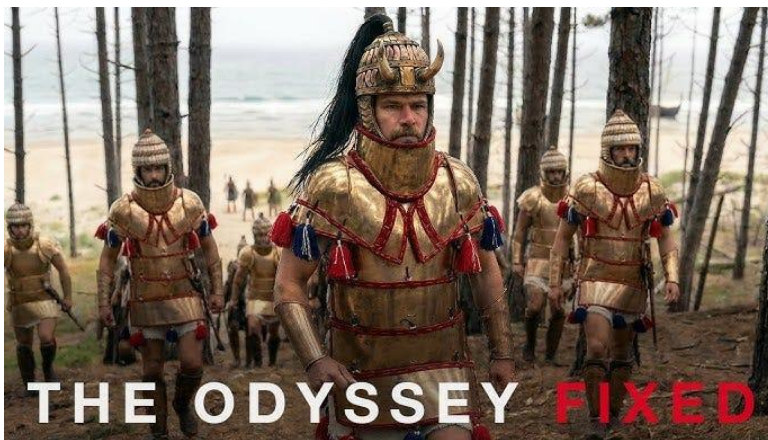
a - I just talked to a Stone Age priestess and it could change everything Cambridge Core Blog

b - Gamifying the Past: Embodied LLMs in DIY Archaeological Video Games | Advances in Archaeological Practice Cambridge Core

iii - Fame, fortune, and fallout: A political thriller from ancient Rome

The life of Gaius Cornelius Gallus (ca. 70–27 BCE) shows what happened to politicians in ancient Rome who fell out of favor with the ruler  
Blog / Micha Teufel

iv - 'Historical Accuracy' and the Stupidity of Algorithms



v - Why Socrates Would Fear Artificial Intelligence

**vi** - Mark Carney invoked Thucydides at Davos – what people get wrong about this ancient Greek writer’s take on power [Again!]

**vii** - The Ancient Greek Democracy Myths Politicians Love **viii** - Greek Mythology and its Magical Adaptations in Manga and Anime

**viii** - Elon Musk says Christopher Nolan has 'lost all integrity' after casting choice

**ix** - Gibbon’s “Rise & Fall of the Roman Empire” and Trump’s National Security Strategy

**x** - Helen of Troy: Why she was likely brown, not black or white

**xi** - 1,700 years ago, the mismanagement of a migrant crisis cost Rome its empire

On Aug. 3, 378, a battle was fought in Adrianople, in what was then Thrace and is now the province of Edirne, in Turkey. It was a battle that Saint Ambrose referred to as “the end of all humanity, the end of the world.” It’s a story shockingly similar to what’s happening in Europe right now – and it should serve as a cautionary tale.

**xii** - Meet the “grossly underappreciated” Roman emperor who became the enemy of the ancient world. Ancient Rome’s reputation for bad emperors partly rests on hostile sources written after the fact – and Domitian may be the clearest case of how politics shaped historical memory

**xiii** - Classicist Harry Tanner links homophobia in ancient texts to moments of socioeconomic upheaval. Today, there is a “well-established” correlation between “poverty and attitudes to same-sex desire,” Tanner said. For every \$2,000 increase in gross domestic product per capita, there is a “point rise in an eight-point scale of tolerance for same-sex desire in countries around the world,” he added.

**xiv** - Machiavelli’s Roman Empire | Issue 172 | Philosophy Now

**xv** - Wikipedia’s War Against Biblical Archaeology | ArmstrongInstitute.org **xvi** - BLONDE GREEK GODS FOR KIDS: PLAYMOBIL’S NAZI AESTHETIC

EXPLAINED A Bavarian toy company called Playmobil is selling blonde haired Greek gods to children through a charity, and nobody seems to find the Nazism origin story strange?

**xvi** - Review: “Breaking the Bonds of Fate – Epicurus and Marx”

**xvii** - The Politics and Ethics of Abortion in Ancient Greece

**xviii** - The ‘Greek Villa’ on Epstein’s Island: Classical Design in a Dark Legacy

The “Greek Villa” ultimately represents more than architectural taste. It reflects the paradox of grand classical imagery placed within one of the most notorious criminal cases of modern times

**xix** - Was Plato a Prophet?

**xx** - Donald J. Cyclops, the same ogre after all these years [?]



**xxi** – Plato and the Metaverse: The Allegory of the Cave 2.0

What happens when Plato's cave meets the metaverse? Do we become trapped by shadows, shaped by avatars and algorithms?

*"Like the prisoners' puppeteers in Plato's cave, modern tech companies act in the same way. They control what we see and help shape our thoughts.*

*Algorithms decide for themselves what they will show us today on the feed. And all the trendy videos we see are not based on luck. They are all the result of math calculations based upon user behavior data such as clicks, views (and the length thereof), and likes."*



Plato's Cave: Metaverse, Javier Blanco, 2023. Source: Javier Blanco

**xxii** – Sex and the Search for Religious Truth Insights from Onos and Paul

**xiii** - What Makes the West Western? Naoise Mac Sweeney's new book tries to convince readers that Western civilisation doesn't exist. A Critical Review

**xix** - 'The ancients would laugh' at what we consider democracy today. Athens: Birth of Democracy uncovers the triumphs and failures of the Western world's first-recorded democracy *Athens: Birth of Democracy*, a documentary from *The Nature of Things*, follows host Anthony Morgan as he investigates the origins of democracy in ancient Athens, how it functioned and what this political experiment may have to teach us today.

**xx** - Erin L. Thompson | The Epstein Marbles

It isn't the worst of Epstein's crimes, by a long shot, though I think it reveals something about the ways that the spheres he moved in, including the art world, operate, as well as the ways that he manipulated them

**xxi** - Despairing at the state of the world? The ancient Greeks and Romans knew the feeling

*"We're enclosed by so many things from which there's no escape: violence, poverty, injustice, loneliness, disgrace. What an age we live in!" Terence, The Brothers 160BC*

**xxii** - If students want to understand politics, they should start with Ancient Rome

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