**MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF ANCIENT CLASSICS**

**GC350 GREEK AND ROMAN CIVILIZATION ESSAY PROJECT**

**ESSAY PREFERENCE FORM**

**All students should read the accompanying instructions before completing this form.**

Download this form and rank in order your top 3 preferred essay choices by writing ‘1’, ‘2’, ‘3’, etc. in the boxes below. You should then submit the form **electronically only** to [classics@mu.ie](mailto:classics@mu.ie) **by 5 pm on Monday 4 February 2019.**

**Essay Topics**

Dr Campbell ‘In keeping with the idiosyncratic climate that prevails there and the fact that their river behaves differently from any other river, almost all Egyptian customs and practices are the opposite of those of everywhere else’ (Herodotus, *Histories*, 2.35). Discuss how this principle works in Herodotus’ account of Egypt in Book Two of the *Histories*.

Dr Davies What can provincial revolts against Rome show us about the problems with Roman imperial rule under the early emperors?

Dr Desmond Discuss the significance of Odysseus in the *Iliad*.

Dr McGroarty The burning of Xerxes’ palace at Persepolis marks a turning point in the story of Alexander the Great. His subsequent march into Afghanistan, and then India, involved a series of incidents, which brought a clear change both in his personality and to his ideology.

Identify and discuss the incidents in this eastern campaign that you think best explain this change in Alexander detailing how this change manifested itself in his subsequent conduct and assessing its impact.

Dr O’Brien ‘In Sappho we hear for the first time in the Western world the direct words of an individual woman’ (Barnstone: 2009, page 249). Discuss the ways Sappho’s ‘direct words’ speak to us about the lives of women in ancient Greece.

Prof. Scourfield Compare and contrast the treatments of the story of Orestes’ and Electra’s revenge for the murder of Agamemnon in the *Electra* plays of Sophocles and Euripides, and show how each treatment relates to that of Aeschylus in the *Libation Bearers*.

***Essay titles are available on the Departmental notice board and webpage. Guidelines and bibliographies for those essays are available only on the Departmental web-page.***

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| **Dr Campbell** | **Dr Davies** | **Dr Desmond** | **Dr McGroarty** | **Dr O’Brien** | **Prof. Scourfield** |
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