

# THE ANCIENT WORLD: ROME

## Suggested Topics for Paper #3

**DUE** Thursday, May 5

**1. In what way(s) can an appreciation of the role(s) of the women of the Imperial family add to our understanding of the historiography of the Imperial period?**

- Starting with Suetonius and Tacitus, look, for example, at the descriptions of the behavior of Julia, Livia, Messalina, Agrippina, Octavia, Poppaea, etc.

**2. Why are the sources for Nero so negative about his reign?**

- In other words, how did Nero come to be seen as the archetypal 'bad' emperor?

**3. What can we learn about the life of a Roman provincial in the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. AD from Apuleius' novel?**

- A good essay on this topic will of course address the methodological issue of using a novel for historical purposes. It would furthermore be a good idea to focus on one (or two?) specific aspects of provincial life, e.g. social status/stratification, roles/views of women, the presence of the Roman state, economic activity, etc.

**4. A topic of your choice, to be approved by Prof. Broadhead or Prof. Ostrow by Monday, May 2.**

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Please note:

The revision of your Paper #1 or Paper #2 is due **Tuesday, April 26.**