RECOMMENDED READING

If you are going to study Classics or a related subject and want to read some good, interesting things before you start, here are some suggestions. The categories correspond to the two ‘chronological’ Ancient History modules and the four Classical Culture modules that we teach in Newcastle in Stage 1. The list is almost certainly longer than you can manage. Just try some of the things that appeal to you. And of course: this is just a start: there is much more that is really interesting.

Enjoy!

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Greek Literature

From the module reading:

Tragedy:
Euripides, Trojan Women (the central tragedy in the module), Hecuba (and Ion as a different kind of Greek tragedy), in:

Comedy:
Aristophanes, Frogs, in:
   Aristophanes, Frogs and Other Plays, translated by David Barrett (Penguin 2007) (NB: perhaps avoid the introduction: it has some useful material but also much that is problematic)

History:
Books 6 and 7 in:
   Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War, translated by Rex Warner, with intr. and notes by M.I. Finley (Penguin Classics 1972 and reprints)

Other:

Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey – arguably (among) the best pieces of Western Literature. There are many translations around; the ones often used here are:
   The Iliad of Homer, transl. by Richmond Lattimore (Chicago: Univerity of Chicago Press 2011; orig. 1951)

Herodotus, The Histories, tr. by Robin Waterfield, intr. and notes by Carolyn Dewald (Oxford World’s Classi 1998) -- very enjoyable; rightly called the “father of history”.
Roman Literature

**Module reading** (the module introduces Roman literature generally but then concentrates on Catullus):


**Other:**

Virgil, *The Aeneid*, translated by David West (Penguin 1991) – another contender for being among the best pieces of Western Literature


Cicero, *Defence Speeches*, transl. Dominic H. Berry (Oxford World’s Classics 2000) – a good selection of five speeches made in Roman court cases, with good introduction and notes, and an excellent translation giving a real flavour of Cicero’s speeches

Philosophy

**Main recommendations from the module reading:**


Aristotle, *The Nicomachean Ethics*, translated by David Ross, revised with intro. and notes by Lesley Brown (Oxford World’s Classics 2009) [the module reading is books 1-3]

**Other reading from the module material:**


Classical Art (Greek and Roman)


C. Mee, *Greek Archaeology* (Wiley-Blackwell 2011)


Greek History

A cheap, accessible and pithy introduction for complete beginners/those wanting a refresher:


Other books relevant to the course ranked in ascending order of difficulty: a mixture of classic texts, all updated/revised, and more recent studies (pick one or two that take your fancy!):

R. Osborne (ed.), *Classical Greece* (Oxford University Press, 2000)

J.K. Davies, *Democracy and Classical Greece* (Fontana, 2nd ed. 1993)

A. Powell, *Athens and Sparta: constructing Greek political and social history from 478 BC* (Routledge, 2nd ed. 2001)


For more challenging and/or cutting-edge material you might want to dip into:
D.M. Pritchard (ed.), *War, Democracy and Culture in Classical Athens* (Cambridge University Press, 2010)
T. Harrison, *Writing Ancient Persia* (Bloomsbury, 2011)

**Roman History**

P. A. Brunt, *Social Conflicts in the Roman Republic* (Chatto and Windus, 1971)
R. Syme, *The Roman Revolution* (Oxford University Press, 1st ed. 1939)
C. Wells, *The Roman Empire* (Fontana Press, 2nd ed. 1995)
A. Cameron, *The Later Roman Empire, AD 284-430* (Fontana Press, 1993)

**Thematic discussions:**
M. I. Finley, *Democracy Ancient and Modern* (Rutgers University Press 1985)