

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:

Euripides *III: Four Tragedies*, edited by David Grene and Richmond Lattimore (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1958 and reprints)

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: University of Chicago Press 2011; orig. 1951)

The Odyssey of Homer, transl. by Richmond Lattimore (New York: Harper Collins 2007; orig. 2nd edition 1990)

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

Roman Literature

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

Catullus, *The Complete Poems*, translated by Guy Lee (Oxford World's Classics 1990 and reprints)

Other:

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

Livy, *The Rise History of Rome Books 1-5*, translated by T. J. Luce (Oxford World's Classics 1998/2008) – books 1 and 5 are very interesting

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:

Plato, *Republic*, translated by G.M.A. Grube, revised by C.D.C. Reeve (Hackett Pub. Co., 1992)

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:

Plato, *Protagoras*, translated by C.C.W. Taylor (Oxford University Press, 1996)

Cicero, *On Moral Ends*, edited by Julia Annas, translated by Raphael Woolf (Cambridge University Press 2001)

Classical Art (Greek and Roman)

S. Woodford, *The art of Greece and Rome* (2nd edition; Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2004)

M. Beard and J. Henderson, *Classical Art from Greece to Rome* (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2001)

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

R. Osborne, *Archaic and Classical Greek Art* (Oxford 1998)

Greek History

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

P. Cartledge, *Ancient Greece: A very short introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2011)

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)

J. Hall, *A History of the Archaic Greek World ca.1200-479 BCE* (Blackwell, 2007)

P. Cartledge, *The Greeks. A portrait of self and others* (Oxford University Press, 1993)

R. Osborne, *Greece in the Making 1200-479 BC* (Routledge, 2nd ed. 2009)

- P.J. Rhodes, *A History of the Classical Greek World 478-323 BC* (Oxford University Press, 2nd ed. 2010)
- K. Kinzl (ed.), *A Companion to the Classical Greek World* (Blackwell, 2006)
- S. Hornblower, *The Greek World 479-323 BC*, 3rd edition (Routledge, 3rd ed. 2003)

For more challenging and/or cutting-edge material you might want to dip into:

- C. Constantakopoulou, *The Dance of the Islands. Insularity, networks, the Athenian Empire, and the Aegean World* (Oxford University Press, 2007)
- D.M. Pritchard (ed.), *War, Democracy and Culture in Classical Athens* (Cambridge University Press, 2010)
- T. Harrison, *Writing Ancient Persia* (Bloomsbury, 2011)
- K. Vlassopoulos, *Unthinking the Greek Polis. Ancient Greek history beyond eurocentrism* (Cambridge University Press, 2007)
- P. Low, *Interstate Relations in Ancient Greece: Morality and power* (Cambridge University Press, 2007)

Roman History

- M. Dillon and L. Garland, *Ancient Rome. A Sourcebook* (Routledge 2005)
- P. A. Brunt, *Social Conflicts in the Roman Republic* (Chatto and Windus, 1971)
- M. H. Crawford, *The Roman Republic* (Fontana Press, 2nd ed. 1992)
- C. Steel, *The End of the Roman Republic, 146-44 BC: Conquest and Crisis* (Edinburgh University Press 2013)
- R. Syme, *The Roman Revolution* (Oxford University Press, 1st ed. 1939)
- C. Wells, *The Roman Empire* (Fontana Press, 2nd ed. 1995)
- A. Schiavone, *The End of the Past. Ancient Rome and the Modern West* (Harvard University Press 2000)
- A. Cameron, *The Later Roman Empire, AD 284-430* (Fontana Press, 1993)

Thematic discussions:

- M. I. Finley, *The Ancient Economy* (University of California Press 1973)
- J. F. Gardner, *Women in Roman Law and Society* (Routledge 1987)
- K. Bradley, *Slavery and Society at Rome* (Cambridge University Press 1994).
- M. I. Finley, *Democracy Ancient and Modern* (Rutgers University Press 1985)
- M. Beard, J. North and S. Price, *Religions of Rome* (Cambridge University Press, 1998)