Guide and Reading List for Graeco-Roman Word Comprehensive Examination
Religions of Western Antiquity Area
Religion Department, Florida State University

Special Area
The student will be responsible for preparing a bibliography of scholarly literature of 8 items focused on a particular subject; e.g. Eleusinian Mysteries, Euripides' *Bacchae*, Stoicism, Plotinus, Mithraism, Isis, Plato's *Timaeus*, Hellenistic Ruler Cult. The bibliography must be submitted at least three weeks before the exam is taken.

Themes
Students will choose two themes which will require analysis of material from the reading list from more than one period; e.g. criticism of traditional religion; introduction of new religions; life after death; philosophical interpretation of myth; religion and healing; charismatic figures and religious biographies. The student will be responsible for identifying the chief primary and secondary texts from the Reading List which deal with each theme. The themes must be chosen at least three weeks before the exam is taken.

Secondary Literature
This list of secondary literature is meant to include not only information about the Graeco-Roman world, but also to provide a sampling of work of some of the most important scholars in the field representing a variety of methodological approaches.

History
Students should be familiar with the main events, periods, and dynasties in Greek and Roman History to the end of the reign of Theodosius II. Somewhat more detailed knowledge will be expected for specific periods:

- Athens 490-399
- Ptolemaic and Seleucid History
- Roman History from Julius Caesar through the Antonines

  - "Ptolemaic Egypt," 192-234.

Recommended

Surveys of Religion and Philosophy
Ferguson, *Backgrounds*, 148-318 (Religion) and 319-395 (Philosophy).

Recommended
Greek Religion
   N.J. Richardson, "Early Greek Views about Life After Death," 50-66
   J. Gould, ‘‘Making Sense of Greek Religion,’’ 1-33

Religion in Rome and in the Empire

Recommended

Philosophy and Religion
   P. Atherton, "Aristotle," 121-134;
   J.M. Dillon, "Plutarch and Second Century Platonism," 214-229;

(reprinted in *A Guide to Greek Thought: Major Figures and Trends*)
   M. Schofield, "Theology and Divination," 498-510;
   H. Blumenthal, "Plotinus," 693-707;

Recommended

Monographs on Specific Topics
L.T. Johnson, *Among the Gentiles* (Yale, 2011)

Primary Texts
Collections of Sources
Two superb collections contain a number of texts from the reading list as well as a wide selection of frequently cited literary and epigraphical sources:
F.C. Grant, *Hellenistic Religions* (Bobbs-Merrill, 1953);  

For the following, in addition to reading the text in English in order to gain general familiarity with the contents of the works, you will be expected to know basic background information such as can be found in an introduction to a good translation or edition (see list below for some suggestions) or in *The Oxford Classical Dictionary* (4th ed.; 2012).

Because there are multiple translations for many of these works, caution should be observed to be sure the texts are read in an accurate modern version with standard sections and line numbers, a good introduction, and at least some notes. Three comprehensive series of translations by Classical scholars can be recommended: Loeb Classical Library (LCL); Oxford World's Classics (OWC), and Penguin Classics (PC). The most recent editions of each of these translations should be used (especially in the case of the LCL), since both the translations and introductions are almost always a considerable improvement over older versions. More limited in coverage, but generally with more detailed commentaries, are the translations in the Focus Classical Library and the Aris & Phillips series of Bilingual texts.

**Greek**

Homer, *Iliad*, 6, 9, 24; *Odyssey*, 1, 11, 24. Read detailed summary of both poems

Lattimore's translations are inexpensive and easily available, though a number of other fine translations could be recommended. Wyatt's revised LCL translation is both literal and readable.  

Hesiod, *Theogony; Works and Days*  
Trans. with notes: A.N. Athanassakis (Johns Hopkins); R.S. Caldwell (Focus). Comm: M.L. West (Oxford).

Homer, Hymns to Demeter (2) and Dionysus (1 and 7).  
Trans. with notes: A.N. Athanassakis (Johns Hopkins); trans. and comm.: S.C. Shelmerdine (Focus); Foley (Demeter; Princeton – highly recommended); text and comm. N.J. Richardson (Demeter; Oxford); text and trans. West (LCL).

Herodotus, *Histories* 1  


Aeschylus, *Oresteia*  
Sophocles, *Oedipus the King; Antigone*  
Euripides, *Bacchae, Hippolytus, Medea*  
Anaxagoras, *Heraclitus, Xenophanes, Empedocles.*  

S. Esposito (Focus); text and trans. Kovacks (LCL).  

*Anaxagoras, Heraclitus, Xenophanes, Empedocles.*  

Text, trans., and comm. R. Seaford (Aris & Phillips); trans. and comm.: S. Esposito (Focus); G. Kirk (Prentice-Hall); text and comm. E.R. Dodds (Oxford; intro. highly recommended); text and trans. Kovacks (LCL).

*Anaxagoras, Heraclitus, Xenophanes, Empedocles.*  


Plato, *Apology, Phaedo, Euthyphro, Republic* (376e-383c; 506d-521b; 614a-621d); *Phaedrus* (246a-250d), Timaeus (27c-44c); Gorgias (523a-527a); Protagoras (320d-322d); Laws 10.  
Trans. J. M. Cooper (ed.), *Complete Works* (Hackett); trans. and comm.: Gallop (Phaedo; Oxford); *Apology, Euthyphro, Phaedo; OWC*; Irwin (Gorgias; Oxford); Taylor (Protagoras; Oxford); Cornford (Timaeus; Bobbs-Merrill); Allen (Apology; Euthyphro; Yale); trans. Bloom (Republic); Prangle (Laws). Text, trans. and comm.: Rowe (Phaedrus; Aris & Phillips). Text and comm.: Burnet (Apology; Euthyphro; Phaedo); Rowe (Phaedo; Cambridge); Dodds (Gorgias); Adam (Republic).

Epidauran Miracle Inscriptions  
Epicurus, Letter to Herodotus; Letter to Menoeceus
Trans. R.M. Geer (Bobbs-Merrill); text, trans., and comm.: Long and Sedley, The Hellenistic Philosophers (2 vols.; Cambridge)

Cleanthes, Hymn to Zeus
Trans. R.M. Geer (Bobbs-Merrill); text, trans., and comm.: Long and Sedley, The Hellenistic Philosophers (2 vols.; Cambridge)

Plutarch, Life of Alexander; Consolation to his Wife; On Isis and Osiris, 1-2, 12-19, 25-29, 33-36, 53-55, 64-66 (Grant, Hellenistic Religions, 80-95; Meyers, The Ancient Mysteries, 168-172)
Trans. and notes: Waterfield and Stadter (Alexander; OWC); comm.: Hamilton (Alexander; Oxford); trans. and notes Russell (Consolation; OWC); Waterfield and Kidd (Consolation; PC); text and trans. Babbitt (Isis and Osiris; LCL); text, trans., and comm.: Griffiths (Isis and Osiris; Wales).

*Marcus Aurelius, To Himself, 1-4, 10-12.
Trans. with notes: Farquharson and Rutherford (OWC); Staniforth (PC); Grube (Hackett). Trans. and comm.: Farquharson (Oxford).

Celsus, The True Doctrine.
Trans. with notes: Hoffmann (Oxford); Chadwick, Origen: Contra Celsum (Cambridge).

Trans. and comm.: Dillon (Oxford).

Plotinus, Enneads 5.1
Text and trans. Armstrong (Loeb); Trans. with notes: J. Dillon and L. Gerson (Hackett, 2004), 66-86.

*Sallustius, On the Gods and the Universe.
Trans., text, and comm.: Nock (Cambridge; trans. reprinted in Grant)

Lucian, Alexander the False Prophet, Death of Peregrinus.
Trans. Turner, Lucian: Satirical Sketches (Alexander; PC); Text, trans. and comm.: MacLeod (Peregrinus; Aris & Phillips); Lightfoot (Syrian Goddess; Oxford). Text and trans. Harmon (Alexander and Peregrinus; LCL).

Aelius Aristides, Sacred Tales
A.-J. Festugiere, "Popular Piety: Aelius Aristides and Asclepius," in Personal Religion Among the Greeks, (California, 1954), 85-104. See Behr (Brill) for translation of complete work.

Trans. with annotation of selections: Jones and Bowersock (PC). See Jones (LCL) for text and trans. of complete work.

Porphyry, Life of Plotinus, Letter to Marcella
Trans. and comm.: Edwards, Neoplatonic Saints (Life; Liverpool); Text and trans.: Armstrong, Plotinus, vol. 1 (LCL); Text, trans., and notes, Wicker (Scholars Press).

*Iamblichus, Life of Pythagoras.
Trans. with notes: G. Clark (Liverpool); Text, trans., and notes: Dillon and Hershbell (Scholars Press).

*Julian, "To Maximus," (LCL Ep. 8); "To a Priest," (LCL Ep. 19); "To the High Priest Theodore" (LCL Ep. 20); "Rescript on Christian Teachers" (LCL Ep. 36); "To the Community of the Jews" (LCL Ep. 51) Text and trans. Wright (Julian, vol. 3; LCL). Trans. repr. in Ehrman and Jacobs, Christianity in Late Antiquity, 48-53.

Latin
Lucretius, De Rerum Natura 1.1-264; 3.1-92, 977-1023; 5.1161-1240.
Trans. and notes: Latham and Godwin (PC); M.F. Smith (Hackett); text, trans., and comm.: Bailey 3 vols. Oxford).

Catullus 63
Text and trans. P. Green (California) and Cornish and Goold (LCL). Comm.: Quinn (Macmillan).

Cicero, Republic 6.9-29 ("Dream of Scipio")
Trans. and notes: Paul and Rudd (OWC); text, trans., and notes: Powel (Aris & Phillips); text and comm.: Zetzel (Cambridge).

Livy, Ab Urbe Condita, 1.1-16; 29: 11 and 14; 39:8-19.
Trans. with notes: Luce (Bk. 1; OWC); Yardley (Bk. 39; OWC); text, trans., and comm.: Walsh (Bk. 39; Aris & Phillips); text and trans. Moore (Bk. 29; LCL); Comm.: Ogilvie (Bk. 1; Oxford).

Virgil, *Aeneid* 1 and 6 (Read detailed summary of the Poem); 4th *Eclogue.*

Trans. Mandelbaum (*Aeneid*); text and trans. Fairclough and Goold (*Aeneid* and 4 *Eclogue*; LCL); Text and comm.: Austin (*Aeneid* 6; Oxford); Coleman (*Eclogues*; Cambridge); Clausen (*Eclogues*; Oxford). Note also Norden's classic German comm. on *Aeneid* 6.


Trans. with notes: Wellesley (PC); Fyfe and Levene (OWC). Text and comm. M. Stern, *Greek and Latin Authors on Jews and Judaism,* vol. 2 (Bk 5; Magnes); Comm. Chilver and Townend (Bks 4-5; Oxford).

Apuleius, *Metamorphoses*, 1-4, 8, 11.

Trans. with notes: Walsh (OWC); Kenney (PC); text and trans.: Hanson (LCL). Text and comm. Griffiths (Bk. 11; Brill). Intro. by Walsh or Kenney important. Do not use the older PC trans. (Graves) or the older LCL (rev of Adlington).