

Revised June 2018

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

Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity* (3d ed.; Eerdmans, 2003), 5-147.

Concise Surveys of Ancient Greece and Rome; e.g. Thomas R. Martin, *Ancient Greece* (2d ed.; Yale, 2013), 94-173; *Ancient Rome* (Yale, 2013); Peter Green, *The Hellenistic Age: A Short History* (New York: Modern Library, 2007)

Graham Shipley, *The Greek World after Alexander: 323-30 BC*. Routledge, 2000.

"Alexander and His Successors," 33-58.

"Ptolemaic Egypt," 192-234.

"The Seleukid Kingdom and Pergamum," 271-325.

Recommended

F.W. Walbank, "Monarchies and Monarchic Ideas," *CAH* (1984) 7/1, 62-100.

Peter Green, "The New Urban Culture: Alexandria, Antioch, Pergamum," in *Alexander to Actium: The Historical Evolution of the Hellenistic Age* (California, 1990), 155-170.

Surveys of Religion and Philosophy

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

H.-J. Klauck, *The Religious Context of Early Christianity* (T&T Clark, 2000)

Recommended

Shipley, *The Greek World after Alexander*, "Religion and Philosophy," 153-191.

J.H.W.G. Liebeschuetz, "Religion," *CAH* 11 (2000), 984-1008.

Garth Fowden, "Polytheist Religion and Philosophy," *CAH* 13 (1998), 538-560.

Greek Religion

Jon Mikalson, *Ancient Greek Religion* (2d ed.; Blackwell, 2009)

Walter Burkert, *Greek Religion* (Harvard, 1985), 1-9, 55-84, 276-337.

Easterling and Muir, *Greek Religion and Society* (Cambridge, 1985).

N.J. Richardson, "Early Greek Views about Life After Death," 50-66

J. Gould, "Making Sense of Greek Religion," 1-33

S. Price, "Delphi and Divination," 128-154.

J.V. Muir, "Religion and the New Education: The Challenge of the Sophists," 191-218.

Helene Foley, *The Homeric Hymn to Demeter* (Princeton, 1993), 65-97.

Religion in Rome and in the Empire

M. Beard, J. North, and S. Price, *Religions of Rome* (Cambridge, 1998), 1:87-98, 114-166, 206-212, 276-312, 348-363; 2:305-319

*James B. Rives, *Religion in the Roman Empire* (Blackwell, 2007), 1-53, 132-210.

R. Turcan, *Cults of the Roman Empire* (Blackwell, 1996), 1-129, 195-247, *266-341.

Recommended

Ramsay Macmullen, *Paganism in the Roman Empire* (Yale, 1981), 94-130.

Philosophy and Religion

A.H. Armstrong, *Classical Mediterranean Spirituality* (Crossroad, 1986)

J.G. Griffiths, "The Great Egyptian Cults of Oecumenical Spiritual Significance," 39-65;

A.H. Armstrong, "The Ancient and Continuing Pieties of the Greek World," 66-101;

P. Atherton, "Aristotle," 121-134;

A.A. Long, "Epicureans and Stoics," 135-153;

J.M. Dillon, "Plutarch and Second Century Platonism," 214-229;

P. Hadot and H.D. Saffrey, "Neoplatonist Spirituality," 230-268.

Jacques Brunschwig and G.E.R. Lloyd, *Greek Thought: A Guide to Classical Knowledge* (Harvard, 2000) (reprinted in *A Guide to Greek Thought: Major Figures and Trends*)

M. Schofield, "Theology and Divination," 498-510;

H. Blumenthal, "Plotinus," 693-707;

M. Edwards, *Neoplatonic Saints* (Liverpool, 2000), vii-lx (survey of Platonism)

*Georg Luck, "Theurgy and Forms of Worship in Neoplatonism," in *Religion, Science, and Magic*, ed. J. Neusener, E.S. Frerichs, P.V.M. Flesher (Oxford, 1989), 185-225.

Recommended

D.J. O'Meara, *Plotinus: An Introduction to the Enneads* (Oxford, 1993)

Monographs on Specific Topics

Robert L. Wilken, *The Christians as the Romans Saw Them* (Yale, 1986; 2d ed. 2003), 94-196.

A.D. Nock, *Conversion* (Oxford, 1933).

E.R. Dodds, *Pagan and Christian in an Age of Anxiety* (Cambridge, 1965)

Ross Kraemer, *Her Share of the Blessings* (Oxford, 1992), 22-92; *Unreliable Witnesses* (Oxford, 2010).

*S.R.F. Price, *Rituals and Power: The Roman Imperial Cult in Asia Minor* (Cambridge, 1984), 1-62, 191-248.

M. Lefkowitz, *Euripides and the Gods*, (Oxford, 2015).

J.Z. Smith, *Drudgery Divine* (Chicago, 1990).

L.T. Johnson, *Among the Gentiles* (Yale, 201)

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);
M.W. Meyer, *The Ancient Mysteries: A Sourcebook* (Harper & Row, 1987)

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.
Comm.: Kirk et al. (*Iliad*; 6 vols. Cambridge); Heubeck et al. (*Odyssey*; 3 vols. Oxford).

Hesiod, *Theogony*; *Works and Days*

Trans. with notes: A.N. Athanassakis (Johns Hopkins); R.S. Caldwell (Focus). Comm: M.L. West (Oxford).

Homeric 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

Trans. A. de Sélincourt – rev. with intro. and notes by J. Marincola. R.B. Strassler, *The Landmark Herodotus* (Anchor Books, 2007).

Thucydides, *Peeloponnesian War*, 1.1-23; 2.35-54; 6.1-32.

Aeschylus, *Oresteia*

Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*; *Antigone*

Euripides, *Bacchae*, *Hippolytus*, *Medea*

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).

Aristophanes, *Clouds*.

Anaxagoras, Heraclitus, Xenophanes, Empedocles.

Trans. J. Barnes, *Early Greek Philosophy* (Penguin). text, trans., and comm.; Waterfield, *The First Philosophers* (OWC); Kirk, Raven, and Schofield, *The Presocratic Philosophers* (2d ed.; Cambridge). New multi-volume Loeb edition of Presocratic Philosophers.

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

Lynn R. LiDonnici, *The Epidauran Miracle Inscriptions: Text, Translation and Commentary* (Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1995), 84-129.

- 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. Grant; text, trans, and comm.: Long and Sedley.; text, trans., and comm.: Thom (Mohr Siebeck).
- 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).
- Alcinous, Handbook of Platonism, 1-3, 9-10, 12-16, 25-29.
 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.
- Philostratus, *Life of Apollonius of Tyana*. Selections in D. R. Carrlidge and D.L. Dungan, *Docments for the Study of the Gospels* (rev. ed.; Fortress, 1994)
 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 Gould (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.
- Tacitus, *Histories* 4.81-5:13.
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).