GREEK ARCHAEOLOGY READING LIST: COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS
For PhD in Classical Archaeology Stream
University of Western Ontario
Department of Classical Studies

Updated: May 2024 (EMG)

OVERVIEW:
The comprehensive exams in archaeology give students the opportunity to demonstrate a broad working knowledge of the material necessary to operate widely in our field of Classical Archaeology and to teach a range of courses at the undergraduate level easily and competently. To that end, the comprehensive reading list is broad and includes monuments, sites and art from around the ancient Mediterranean and related areas. In addition, the list includes some key debates in Roman archaeology that will demonstrate a student’s ability to think critically about archaeological problems and understand some of the major debates that have taken place (or are still active) in our field. It is expected that at this stage students are able to place the archaeological record into its historical context and can speak competently about the physical remains as well as their importance in the social and political world in which they existed.

General works and broad categories (know content: Monuments, works of art, concepts):
This is background material that you may very well come to the PhD knowing already. Use this list as needed to fill in subjects, time periods, and the major works that should be known to teach and discuss Greek Archaeology as a whole. You do not need to know every example of e.g. frescos, black figure, statuary, etc., but you should be able to have a thorough discussion, citing examples, about the major trends or problems associated with the material.

- Alcock, S.E. and R. Osborne (eds.). 2007. Classical Archaeology. Blackwell. (Greek chapters, first half of each section)
Theory and method reference works:
This list contains reference works for particular aspects of archaeological work, e.g., ceramics analysis, artifact typologies, theories, gender, ethnicity, etc. Don’t feel that you need to read everything on this list, but rather use it for your particular interests and to fill in gaps in knowledge.


CHRONOLOGICAL PERIODS:
You should know generally how Greece and the city of Athens evolved and how trends shift in other important areas of the Greek world. The following lists focus more specifically on issues and debates of particular time periods. Please use the general works listed above in conjunction with these lists to understand more in depth some of the primary issues of each chronological period. In all cases there are plenty more sources that could be listed and you are welcome to consult anything else that will help in your general preparation for this comprehensive exam.

Early/Middle Bronze Age
Late Bronze Age

Early Iron Age

Archaic Period

Classical Period
Late Classical Period

Hellenistic/Roman Greece

SITES/REGIONS outside Greece:
Many of the sections above will have already dealt with these areas. With these lists please gain an understanding of the archaeology of these regions broadly so that you are able to discuss the larger Greek world and the archaeological trends we observe as a cohesive whole.

Southern Italy/Sicily:

Black Sea:
• Colombi, C. 2022. *Comparing Greek colonies: Mobility and settlement consolidation from southern Italy to the Black Sea*. De Gruyter.


**MAJOR TOPICS/DEBATES in Greek Archaeology:**

The following list of debates have been central to Greek Archaeology over the past few decades. These are just a representative sample of primary subjects that should be well understood by a PhD candidate in Greek Archaeology. If you would like to propose to the archaeology committee substituting for another subject, please present that case to the Graduate Chair at the appropriate time before the comprehensive exams.

**The Parthenon: controversies over identification and ownership**


**Cultural interaction/colonization:**