

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

Updated: Jan 2026 (GC)

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 Greek 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. **If you can't access any of these works in the Library, please make an Interlibrary Loan request or contact Dr. Canlas.***

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.*

- Lemos, I. and S. Deger-Jalkotzy (eds.). 2006. *Ancient Greece: From the Mycenaean Palaces to the Age of Homer*. Edinburgh Leventis Studies 3. Edinburgh University Press
- Alcock, S.E. and R. Osborne (eds.). 2007. *Classical Archaeology*. Blackwell. (Greek chapters, first half of each section)
- Hurwit, J. 1999. *The Athenian Acropolis: History, Mythology, and Archaeology from the Neolithic Era to the Present*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Neer, R. 2012. *Greek Art and Archaeology* (Thames and Hudson)
- S. Pomeroy et al. 2012. *Ancient Greece: A Political, Social, and Cultural History*. Oxford University Press. (Read if you need the historical background).
- Smith, T. and D. Plantzos (eds). 2012. *A Companion to Greek Art*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Spivey, N. 1996. *Understanding Greek Sculpture*. Cambridge University Press.
- Camp, J. 2001. *The Archaeology of Athens* (Yale).
- Pedley, J. 2005. *Sanctuaries and the Sacred in the Ancient Greek World* (Cambridge).
- Winter, F. 2006. *Studies in Hellenistic Architecture* (Toronto).

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.

- Horden, P. and N. Purcell 2000. *The Corrupting Sea: A Study of Mediterranean History* (Blackwell).
- van Dommelen, P. and A.B. Knapp. 2010. *Material Connections in the Ancient Mediterranean* (Routledge).
- Renfrew, C. and P. Bahn 1996. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods, and Practice* 2nd ed. (Thames and Hudson), esp. pp. 533-539.
- Papadopoulos, J.K. and R. Leventhal (eds.). 2003. *Theory and Practice in Mediterranean Archaeology: Old World and New World Perspectives*. (Cotsen Institute of Archaeology), esp. papers by Lynne Gamble, Claire Lyons, Nicholas Stanley-Price.
- Nevett, L. 2017. *Theoretical Approaches to the Archaeology of Ancient Greece* (Michigan).
- Dyson, S. 2006. *In Pursuit of Ancient Past: A History of Classical Archaeology in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (Yale).
- Johnson, M. 2010. *Archaeological Theory: An Introduction* (Wiley and Blackwell).

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.

Bronze Age and Early Iron Age

Know only for background and be familiar with major sites (e.g. Knossos, Mycenae, Pylos) and material culture (e.g. burials, palaces, pottery styles). Also refer to the Bronze Age and Geometric chapters in Neer's Greek Art and Archaeology.

1. D. Preziosi and L.A. Hitchcock. 1999. *Aegean Art and Architecture* (Oxford).
2. Hitchcock, L.A. 2000. *Minoan Architecture: A Contextual Analysis* (Jonsered).
3. I. Morris. 2010. "The Collapse and Regeneration of Complex Society in Greece, 1500-500 BC," In G.M. Schwartz and J.J. Nichols (eds.) *After Collapse: The Regeneration of Complex Societies* (University of Arizona). 72-84.
4. Osborne, R. 1996. *Greece in the Making 1200-479 BC* (London), chapters 1-5.

Archaic Period

1. Morris, I. 1998. "Archaeology and Archaic Greek History." In N. Fisher and H. van Wees (eds.), *Archaic Greece: New Approaches and New Evidence* (Duckworth), pp. 1-91.
2. Pierattini, A. 2022. *The Origins of Greek Temple Architecture* (Cambridge).
3. Haggis, D. 2015. "The Archaeology of Urbanization: Research Design and the Excavation of an Archaic Greek City on Crete," in D.C. Haggis and C.M. Antonaccio (eds.), *Classical Archaeology in Context. Theory and Practice in Excavation in the Greek World* (De Gruyter), 219-258.

4. Osborne, R. 1998. "Early Greek Colonization? The Nature of Greek Settlement in the West." In N. Fisher and H. van Wees (eds.), *Archaic Greece: New Approaches and New Evidence* (Duckworth). 251-269.
5. De Angelis, F. 2003. "Chapter 7: Society and Politics." *Megara Hyblaia and Selinous: The Development of Two Greek City-States in Archaic Sicily* (Oxford).
6. Antonaccio, C.M. 1995 *An Archaeology of Ancestors: Tomb Cult and Hero Cult in Early Greece* (Rowman and Littlefield).
7. Whitley, J. 2001. "Part II: Archaic Greece, 1000-479 BC." *The Archaeology of Ancient Greece* (Cambridge), pp. 77-268.

Classical Period

1. Rhodes, P.J. 2018. *Periclean Athens* (Bloomsbury).
2. Neer, R. 2004. "The Athenian Treasury at Delphi and the Material of Politics." *Classical Antiquity* 23.1: 63-93.
3. Neer, R. 2010. *The Emergence of the Classical Style in Greek Sculpture* (Chicago).
4. Alcock, S.E., J.F. Cherry, and J.L. Davis. 1994. "Intensive Survey, Agricultural Practice and the Classical Landscape of Greece," in I. Morris (ed.), *Classical Greece: Ancient Histories and Modern Archaeologies*, (Cambridge), pp. 137–70.
5. Whitley, J. 2001. "Part III: Classical Greece." *The Archaeology of Ancient Greece* (Cambridge), pp. 269-419.
6. Scott, M. 2010. *Delphi and Olympia: The Spatial Politics of Panhellenism in the Archaic and Classical Periods* (Cambridge).
7. Spivey, N. 1996. *Understanding Greek Sculpture* (Cambridge), chapters 6, 7, 8.
8. Wilson Jones, M. 2014. *The Origins of Classical Architecture: Temples, Orders, and Gifts to the Gods in Ancient Greece*.

The Hellenistic Period

1. Rotroff, S. 2007. "Chapter 7: Material Culture" in G. Bugh (ed.) *A Cambridge Companion to the Hellenistic World* (Cambridge), pp. 136-157.
2. Pollitt, J.J. 1986. *Art in the Hellenistic Age* (Cambridge).
3. Seaman, K. 2016. "Pergamon and Pergamene Influence" in M. Miles (ed.), *A Companion to Greek Architecture* (Wiley), pp. 406-423
4. Miller, S.G. 2016. "Hellenistic Royal Palaces." in Miles (ed.), *A Companion to Greek Architecture* (Wiley), pp. 288-299.
5. Drougou, S. 2011. "Vergina—The Ancient City of Aegae" in R. Lane Fox (ed.) *Brill's Companion to Ancient Macedon* (Brill), pp. 243-256.
6. Mairs, R. 2014. *The Hellenistic Far East* (Berkeley).
7. J. McKenzie. 2007. "Part Two: Ptolemaic Egypt" in *The Architecture of Alexandria and Egypt, 300 BC – AD 700* (Yale), pp. 36-146.
8. K. Seaman. 2016. "Pergamon and Pergamene Influence" in M. Miles (ed.), *A Companion to Greek Architecture* (Wiley), pp. 406-423.
9. Tsetsikhladze, G.R. (ed.) 1998. *The Greek Colonization of the Black Sea Area: Historical Interpretation of Archaeology* (Franz Steiner Verlag).

Roman Greece

1. Gruen, E. 2004. "Rome and the Greek World." In H. Flower (ed.), *Cambridge Companion to the Roman Republic* (Cambridge). 242-68.
2. Alcock, Susan. 1993. *Graecia Capta: the landscapes of Roman Greece* (Cambridge).
3. Alcock, Susan. 2002. *Archaeologies of the Greek past: Landscape, Monuments and Memories* (Cambridge).
4. Hoff, M.C. 2013. "Greece and the Roman Republic: Athens and Corinth from the Late Third Century to The Augustan Era." In J.D. Evans (ed.), *A Companion to the Archaeology of the Roman Republic* (Wiley-Blackwell), pp. 559-77.
5. Zarmakoupi, M. 2015. "Hellenistic & Roman Delos: the City & its Emporion," *Archaeological Reports* 61: 115-132.

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

1. Gerding, H. 2006. "The Erechtheion and the Panathenaic Procession." *American Journal of Archaeology* 110. 3: 389-401.
2. Neils, J. 2001. *The Parthenon Frieze* (Cambridge).
3. Deacy, S. 2008. "Chapter 7: All about Athena? The Classical Akropolis," *Athena* (Routledge), pp. 105-121.
4. Kousser, R. 2009. "Destruction and Memory on the Athenian Acropolis." *The Art Bulletin* 91(3): 263-82.
5. R. Osborne. 1994. "Democracy and Imperialism in the Panathenaic Procession: The Parthenon frieze in its context." In Coulson et al. (eds.), *The Archaeology of Athens and Attica under the Democracy*. Oxford. 143-50.
6. Pollitt, J.J. 1997. "The Meaning of the Parthenon Frieze." In D. Buitron-Oliver (ed.), *The Interpretation of Architectural Sculpture in Greece and Rome*. Washington. 51-65.
7. van Rookhuijzen, J. 2020. "The Parthenon Treasury on the Acropolis of Athens." *AJA* 124.1: 3-35.
8. Connelly, "Parthenon and Parthenoi: A Mythological Interpretation of the Parthenon Frieze" *AJA* 100 (1996): 53-80.

Cultural interaction/colonization:

1. Dietler, Michael. 2009. "Colonial Encounters in Iberia and the Western Mediterranean: An Explanatory Framework." In M. Dietler and C. López-Ruiz (eds.), *Colonial Encounters in Ancient Iberia: Phoenician, Greek, and Indigenous Relations* (Chicago Press), pp. 3-48.
2. Lyons, C.L. and J.K. Papadopoulos (eds.). 2002. *The Archaeology of Colonialism* (The J. Paul Getty Trust).
3. Dietler, M. 2005. "The Archaeology of Colonization and the Colonization of Archaeology: Theoretical Challenges from an Ancient Mediterranean Colonial

Encounter.” In G. Stein (ed.), *The Archaeology of Colonial Encounters: Comparative Perspectives* (SAR Press), 33-68.

4. Descoedres, J.-P. (ed.). 1990. *Greek Colonists and Native Populations* (Clarendon Press).
5. Gosden, C. 2001. “Postcolonial archaeology: issues of culture, identity, and knowledge,” in I. Hodder, ed., *Archaeological theory today*, 241-261. Polity Press.
6. van Dommelen, P. 1997. “Colonial Constructs: Colonialism and Archaeology in the Mediterranean,” *World Archaeology* 28: 305-323.

The Formation of the Polis, the Ethnos, and other Group Identities

1. Morgan, C. 2004. *Early Greek States Beyond the Polis* (Cambridge).
2. De Polignac, F. 1995. *Cults, Territories and the Origins of the Greek City-State* (Chicago).
3. Hansen, M.H. and T.H. Nielsen. 2005. *An Inventory of Archaic and Classical Poleis* (Oxford), vols. 1 and 2.
 - Read vol. 2 (the inventory proper) not for content but to familiarize yourself with (and be prepared to critique) the organization and the archaeological criteria for which the authors identify certain sites as poleis.
4. Hall, J. 2002. *Hellenicity*. Chicago.
5. Morris, I. 1987. *Burial and Ancient Society: The Rise of the Greek City-State* (Cambridge).
6. Davies, J.K. 1997. “The ‘Origins’ of the Greek Polis: Where should we be looking?” In L. Mitchell and P.J. Rhodes, *The Development of the Polis in Archaic Greece* (Routledge), pp. 13-20.
7. Antonaccio, C. 2003. “Hybridity and the Cultures within Greek Culture” in C. Dougherty and L. Kurke (eds.), *The Cultures Within Ancient Greek Culture*. Cambridge.

Domestic Space

1. Cahill, N. 2002. *Household and City Organization at Olynthus*. Yale.
2. Neveit, L. 1999. *House and Society in the Ancient Greek World*. Cambridge.
3. Zarmakoupi, M. 2020. “Between Public and Private: the Italian Houses of Late Hellenistic/Roman Delos.” In A. Dardenay and N. Laubry (eds.), *Anthropology of Roman Housing*. Brépols, pp. 237-257.
4. Ault, B. 2005. “Housing the Poor and Homeless in Ancient Greece.” In B. Ault and L. Neveit (eds.), *Ancient Greek Houses and Households: Chronological, Regional, and Social Diversity*. University of Pennsylvania Press, pp. 140-159.
5. Tsakirgis, B. 2005. “Living and Working around the Athenian Agora: A Preliminary Case Study of Three Houses.” In B. Ault and L. Neveit (eds.), *Ancient Greek Houses and Households: Chronological, Regional, and Social Diversity*. University of Pennsylvania Press, pp. 67-82.
6. Antonaccio, C.A. 2000. “Architecture and Behavior: Building Gender into Greek Houses.” *The Classical World* 93: 517–533

Death and Burial

1. Morris, I. 1998. “‘Burial and Ancient Society’ after Ten Years,” in *Nécropoles et pouvoir. Idéologies, pratiques et interprétations. Actes du colloque “Théories de la nécropole antique”, Lyon 21 - 25 janvier 1995*. Paris, pp. 21-36.
2. Morris, I. 1987. *Burial and Ancient Society: The Rise of the Greek City-State* (Cambridge).
3. Antonaccio, C.M. 1995 *An Archaeology of Ancestors: Tomb Cult and Hero Cult in Early Greece*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield.
4. Acosta, C. 2025. “A Death out of Place: Identity, Migration, and Burial in Ancient Greece.” In E. Gooch and J. Ruddick (eds.), *Materiality of Ancient Greek Identities, 9th to 2nd centuries BCE*. Bloomsbury, pp. 161-186.
5. Liston, M.A. 2018. *The Agora Bone Well*. ASCSA.
6. Houby-Nielsen, S. “‘Burial language’ in the Archaic and Classical Kerameikos,” *Proceedings of the Danish Institute at Athens* 1 (1995):129-191.
7. Parker Pearson, M. 1999. *The Archaeology of Death and Burial* (Texas A & M).
8. Arnold, B. and N.L. Wicker (eds.). 2001. *Gender and the Archaeology of Death* (AltaMira Press).