**GREECE AND PERSIA SUGGESTED (AND ADVANCED) READING LIST**

Here are some suggestions for readings on the Greeks and Persians and their wars. I've divided it up by several themes and to an extent by different levels of interest. I hope there's something here that will interest you. Particularly in some of the "deep diving" sections I'll be listing works you will probably need to find in a library. Many of them you can still find available for sale but they can be quite expensive.

**1. ANCIENT HISTORIANS**

The ancient Greek historians (and some Roman authors a bit later drawing on earlier Greek writing) are our main contemporary (or nearly so) narrative sources for the events covered by the course. Four of these are the core texts and although they are available in a variety of translations, I prefer the Landmark editions. The translations are very readable, they are chock-full of excellent maps, and they include a number (at least half a dozen and sometimes over a dozen) excellent essays by respected scholars focusing on some particular aspect of the subject. In chronological order they are:

Herodotus; Robert B. Strassler ed. **The Landmark Herodotus** (New York: Anchor Books, 2007). *(Covers the rise of Persian and the first Greek-Persian wars, from about 645 BCE through 479 BCE.)*

Thucydidies; Robert B. Strassler, ed. **The Landmark Thucydides: A Comprehensive Guide to the**

**Peloponnesian War** (New York: Free Press, 1996). *(Covers the period of the Peloponnesian Wars, from 435 BCE through 411 BCE.)*

Xenophon; Robert B. Strassler, ed. **The Landmark Xenophon's *Hellenika*** (New York: Anchor Books, 2009). *(Deliberately picks up where Thucydides left of, covering 411 BCE through 362 BCE, not long before the author's death.)*

Arrian; James Romm, ed. **The Landmark Arrian: The Campaigns of Alexander** (New York: Anchor Books, 2010). *(Covers the final war between Persia and Greece/Macedonia, from 335 BCE through Alexander's death in 323 BCE.)*

**Diving Deeper into the Ancient Historians:** *The following are the ancient historians most widely read and consulted (other than those above) on the events covered by the course. I include Ctesius with some reservations, for reason's we'll talk about in class.*

Ctesias; Lloyd Llewelly-Jones and James Robson trans. **Ctesias' History of Persia: Tales of the Orient.** (London: Routledge, 2010.)

Quintus Curtius Rufus; John Yardley trans. **The History of Alexander.** (London: Penguin Books, 1984.)

Diodorus Siculus; C. Bradford Wells, Charles L. Sherman, C. H. Oldfather trans. **Library of History, Books XIV to XVII.** (Cambridge: Loeb Classical Library, Harvard College, 1952, 1954, 1963.)

Justin; John Selby Watson trans. **Justin's Epitome of the Philippic Histories extracted from Gnaeus Pompeius Trogus**. {Bohn Library, 1854.) (Modern reprint by Sophron Editor, 2017.)

Plutarch; John Dryden trans. **The Life of Alexander the Great.** (New York: Modern Library, 2004.)

Strabo; H. C. Hamilton and W. Falconer trans. **The Geography of Strabo**. (London: George Bell and Sons, 1903.) (Facsimile reproduction, Nabu Press, 2010.)

Xenophon; Rex Warner trans. **The Persian Expedition.** (Harmondsworth, Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1949.)

Xenophon; Wayne Ambler trans. **The Education of Cyrus.** (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2001.)

**2. GREECE**

There's so much available on Ancient Greece, it's hardly necessary to do more than point at a library. So instead, what I'll do is jump directly to a very brief look at the **Diving Deeper** options for readings.

Brunschwig, Jacques & Geoffrey E. R. Lloyd, eds; Catherine Porter trans. **The Greek Pursuit of Knowledge.** (Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2003.)

Buckley, Terry. **Aspects of Greek History, 750-323 BC, A Source-Based Approach**. (London, Routledge, 1996.)

Carney, Elizabeth Donnelly. **Women and Monarchy in Macedonia.** (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2000.)

**3. PERSIA**

This is a part of the course's subject matter generally less-covered than the Greeks, and we'll spend a good deal of time trying to remedy that. Here is a good starting point for some further reading:

Allen, Lindsay. **The Persian Empire.** (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.)

Curtis, John E. and Nigel Tallis eds. **Forgotten Empire: The World of Ancient Persia**. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005.)

Waters, Matt. **Ancient Persia: A Concise History of the Achaemenid Empire, 550-330 BCE.** (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.) *(Waters' book is a very good start. It is a brief history, but thorough, and it is well-informed by the modern scholarship on Persia.)*

**Diving Deeper into Ancient Persia:** *This goes very deep in places, but again because it's a subject that is generally not well covered.*

Briant, Pierre; Peter T. Daniels trans. **From Cyrus to Alexander: A History of the Persian Empire.** (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2002.)

Brosius, Maria. **Women in Ancient Persia (559-331 BC).** (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996.)

Campbell, Joseph. "Chapter 5. The Persian Period: 539-331 B.C." in **The Masks of God: Occidental Mythology**. (New York: Penguin Books, 1964.)

Dandamaev, Mohammad A. and Vladimir G. Lukonin; Philip L. Kohl and D. J. Dadson trans. **The Culture and Social Institutions of Ancient Iran**. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989.)

Dandamaev, Mohammad A., Victoria A. Powell trans. **Slavery in Babylonia.** (Northern Illinois University Press, 1984.)

**4. WARFARE BETWEEN THE GREEKS AND PERSIANS**

The wars between the Greeks and Persians are, after all, what sparked Herodotus's project which resulted in our modern concept of History. Here are some good starting points.

Farrokh, Dr. Kaveh. **Shadows in the Desert: Ancient Persia at War.** (London: Osprey Publishing, 2007.

Green, Peter. **Alexander of Macedon, 356-323 B.C.: A Historical Biography.** (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991.)

Holland, Tom. **Persian Fire: The First World Empire and the Battle for the West.** (New York: Anchor Books, 2005.)

Warry, John. **Warfare in the Classical World.** (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980.)

**Diving Deeper into Ancient Warfare:** *These are generally more technical in nature and, except for the Osprey books, can be hard to find outside of a library.*

Head, Duncan. **The Achaemenid Persian Army.** (Reddish, Stockport: Montvert Publications, 1992.)

Head, Duncan. **Armies of the Macedonian and Punic Wars: 359 BC to 146 BC.** (Wargames Research Group, 1982.)

Pritchett, W. Kendrick. **The Greek State at War.** (5 volumes) (Berkeley, University of California Press, 1971.

Sekunda, Nicholas Victor. T**he Ancient Greeks.** (London: Osprey Publishing, 1986.)

Sekunda, Nicholas. T**he Army of Alexander the Great.** (London: Osprey Publishing, 1992.)

Sekunda, Nick. **The Persian Army 560-330 BC.** (London: Osprey Publishing, 1992.)