

## **Ancient Metaphysics and Natural Philosophy Reading List**

Major and minor lists will be specified from the following (with supplementation where suitable). A major list will normally cover Plato, Aristotle and either Presocratics or the Hellenistic schools, *or* one of either Plato or Aristotle, together with either Presocratics or the Hellenistic schools. A minor list will normally cover *either* Plato and Aristotle, *or* one of either Plato or Aristotle together with either Presocratics or the Hellenistic schools. These lists contain at least 80% of what is required by a good grounding in the subject; overlap is expected with texts studied in courses in ancient philosophy. The student's final list will be worked out in consultation with faculty in the subject area.

### **Presocratics**

In Kirk, Raven and Schofield (eds.) *The Presocratic Philosophers* (Cambridge, 1983), chapters on:

Heraclitus  
Parmenides  
Anaxagoras  
Empedocles  
Democritus

Furley, 'Anaxagoras in Response to Parmenides' in Anton and Kustas (eds.) *Essays in Ancient Greek Philosophy* vol. 2, also in Furley (ed.), *Cosmic Problems* (Cambridge, 1988)

Sedley, 'Two Conceptions of Vacuum', *Phronesis* 27 (1982), 179-83

Kahn, 'Parmenides and Plato,' in *Presocratic Philosophy*, ed. V. Caston and D. Graham, (Ashgate 2002).

Thematic chapters in *The Cambridge Companion to Early Greek Philosophy*, ed. A.A. Long (Cambridge 1999).

### **Plato**

*Hippias Major*

*Phaedo*

*Symposium* (Diotima's speech)

*Republic* V-VII

*Parmenides* (with Gill commentary, Hackett 1996)

*Sophist*

*Timaeus* (with Cornford commentary, *Plato's Cosmology*, Humanities Press 1952)

*Philebus* (passages relevant to metaphysics)

*Laws* X and XII 966c-68a

[optionally: Plato's 'unwritten doctrines' in Findlay, Plato: *The Written and Unwritten Doctrines* (Humanities Press, 1974), Appendix I]

Kahn, 'On Platonic Chronology' in Annas and Rowe (eds.) *New Perspectives on Plato* (Harvard, 2002)

Cherniss, 'The philosophical economy of the theory of ideas' in Vlastos, (ed.) *Plato*: vol. 1 (Doubleday, 1971)

Irwin, 'The Theory of Forms' in Fine (ed.) *Oxford Readings in Philosophy: Plato*, vol. 1  
 Vlastos, 'Reasons and Causes in the *Phaedo*' in Vlastos, (ed.) *Plato*: vol. 1  
 Sedley, 'Platonic Causes' in *Phronesis* 43 (1998) pp. 114-32  
 Fine, *Plato on Knowledge and Forms* [chapters 10-15]  
 Patterson, *Image and Reality in Plato's Metaphysics* (Hackett, 1985)  
 Nehamas, 'Plato on the imperfection of the sensible world' in Fine (ed.) *Oxford Readings in Philosophy: Plato*, vol. 1  
 Brown, 'Being in the Sophist: A syntactical inquiry' in Fine (ed.) *Oxford Readings in Philosophy: Plato*, vol. 1  
 Robinson, *Plato's Earlier Dialectic* (Cornell, 1941) [excerpts]  
 Owen, 'A proof in the *Peri Ideon*' in *Logic, Science and Dialectic* (Duckworth, 1986)  
 Brown, 'Innovation and Continuity: the battle of gods and giants, *Sophist* 245-249' in Jyl Genztler (ed), *Method in Ancient Philosophy*  
 Johansen, *Plato's Natural Philosophy*, Cambridge 2004

## **Aristotle**

### *Categories*

*On Generation and Corruption* Bk II. ch. 9-10

*Metereology* Bk I ch. 1

*Physics* Books I, II, VIII [optionally III & IV]

*On the Soul*

*On the Heavens* Book I

*Metaphysics* Books I, III, IV, VI-IX, XII

[optionally Theophrastus *Metaphysics* eds. Ross and Fobes (repr. Olms 1967)]

Ackrill, *Aristotle the Philosopher* (Oxford, 1981)

Ross, *Aristotle* (repr. Routledge, 1995)

Bostock, 'Aristotle's Theory of Matter' and 'Aristotle's Theory of Form', in Bostock, *Space, Time, Matter and Form*, (Oxford 2006)

[with Physics III & IV: Coope, *Time For Aristotle*, Morison, *On Location*]

Cooper, 'Hypothetical Necessity' in Gotthelf (ed.) *Aristotle on Nature and Living Things* (Mathesis, 1986), reprinted in Cooper (ed.) *Knowledge, Nature and the Good* (Princeton, 2004)

Judson, 'Aristotelian Teleology' in *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* XXIX, Winter 2005

Kahn, 'The Place of the Prime Mover in Aristotle's Teleology,' in *Aristotle on Nature and Living Things*, ed. Gotthelf, pp. 183-205.

Burnyeat, 'Is an Aristotelian Philosophy of Mind Still Credible?' in Nussbaum and Putnam eds. *Essays on Aristotle's De Anima* (Oxford, 1992)

Caston, 'The Spirit and the Letter: Aristotle on Perception,' in Ricardo Salles (ed.), *Metaphysics, Soul, and Ethics: Themes from the work of Richard Sorabji*, 245-320. (Oxford, 2004).

Owen, 'Logic and Metaphysics in Some Early Works of Aristotle',

- ‘The Platonism of Aristotle’ in *Logic, Science and Dialectic*  
 Code, ‘Owen on the Development of Aristotle’s Metaphysics’ in Wyans (ed.), *Aristotle’s Philosophical Development* (Routledge, 1996)  
 Frede, ‘The Unity of General and Metaphysics’, ‘Substance in Aristotle’s Metaphysics’ in Frede (ed.) *Essays in Ancient Philosophy* (University of Minnesota Press, 1987)  
 Menn, ‘Aristotle and Plato on God as Nous and as the Good’ *Review of Metaphysics* 45 (1992)

### **Hellenistic Philosophy**

- Inwood and Gerson, *Hellenistic Philosophy* (Hackett, 1997), relevant sections  
 Long and Sedley *The Hellenistic Philosophers* (Cambridge 1987), sections 4-25 (Epicureans), 27-30, 43-55 (Stoics)  
 Sextus, *Outlines of Scepticism* (Annas and Barnes, Cambridge 1994), Book III to s. 167  
 Lucretius, *The Nature of Things* Books I and II (tr. Ferguson Smith, Hackett 2001)  
 Konstan, ‘Epicurus on Up and Down: Letter to Herotodus 60’ *Phronesis* 17 269–78 (1972)  
 Bobzien, *Determinism and Freedom in Stoic Philosophy* (Oxford, 1998)  
 O’Keefe, *Epicurus on Freedom* (Cambridge 2005)  
 Brunschwig, ‘Stoic Metaphysics’ in the *Cambridge Companion to the Stoics* (ed. Inwood, Cambridge 2003)  
 Caston, ‘Something and Nothing: The Stoics on Concepts and Universals.’ *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* 17 (1999), 145–213.  
 Barnes, ‘Bits and pieces’ in *Matter and Metaphysics*, ed. J Barnes and M Mignucci (Bibliopolis 1988).  
 Sedley, ‘The Stoic Criterion of Identity’ *Phronesis* 27 (1982)  
 Annas, *Hellenistic Philosophy of Mind* (University of California, 1992), chapters 2, 3, 6,  
 7