

Recommended Reading for Western Civilisation Course

After much deliberation and searching in local libraries, NYCC Catalogue etc I have given up on hoping to provide a detailed bibliography. The books are just not available here. The books I regard are mostly out of print, the bookshops have little stock and on line books are expensive. Also most participants won't buy books - only 2% of university students buy even the set texts on courses.

So I will recommend only one set text for each section which is still 8 books for the whole course. As you can see I have chosen:

Boardman, J., et.al. eds *The Oxford History of Greece and the Hellenistic World*, Oxford University Press, 2001 (£6.00)

It's written by experts and well selected. I asked *Cover to Cover* in the Grocers Arcade in N/A to stock a few. If you can find any of the following then buy them:

Plato's *Republic*, (Penguin do a version)

Aristotle's *Politics* and *Nicomenean Ethics* if you wish to look at primary sources.

On background see:

Kitto, H D F., *The Greeks*, Pelican, 2ne ed., £6.94

Cornford, F M *Before and After Socrates*, Cambridge University Press £5.99

Also

Lloyd-Jones, H., *The Greek World*, Pelican, 1956

Lowes- Dickinson, G. *The Greek View of Life*, Methuen, 1896

Irwin, T., *Classical Thought*, Opus, 1989, £11

I have a very large personal library but I can't see how to make that available. If you knew people at Newby Hall, Kiplin Hall or Castle Howard and could access their Libraries you would be in heaven. I made sure there were good stocks at the local universities such as Teesside, Durham and Newcastle. If you were keen you could use the Visitors room at the *British Library at Boston Spa* where I was once their largest user of inter library loans.

Also why not trawl the local second hand bookshop under classics, philosophy, history, politics and religion where these are often dumped. Second hand booksellers on the net are good but charge a premium. Try Albis or Abe Books. Also try Praxisbooks at Hartlepool or the book store in Barnard Castle. Axe Books for Harrogate are good and are opening a warehouse in the old mill at Aysgarth Falls which will be a bonus.

I hope this helps.

Dr John Gibbins

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