**CL3351 Alexander the Great**

**Summer Reading List and Tips**

**Primary sources**

For this course, I expect you to familiarize yourselves with **two** primary accounts of Alexander’s reign: you must **all** read **Arrian’s, *Anabasis***(also trans. as *Campaigns of Alexander-* available in various good and affordable translations including Penguin, Oxford World Classics and on Perseus if you can’t afford any of the above), and **one** of the following:

* Diodorus Siculus, *Library of History* Book 17 (available in the Loeb translation: Founder’s 888 LOE/A
* Plutarch’s *Life of Alexander* (again various good translations including Penguin and Oxford World Classics)
* Quintus Curtius Rufus, *History of Alexander the Great* (Penguin translation)
* Justin, *Epitome of the Philippic History of Pompeius Trogus* Books 11-12.

**Since the course will be taught in a single term, you are well advised to read as much of the primary sources as you can.**

**Secondary sources**

A key modern we will be using throughout the course is **A.B. Bosworth, *Conquest and Empire: The Reign of Alexander the Great,* Cambridge 1993** (it is available online through the library catalogue but I suggest that you purchase your own copy: you can source it first (ca. £20) or second-hand (as cheap as £3) online or in good bookshops. I suggest that you start reading the first part (focused on the narrative of Alexander’s reign) alongside the primary sources.

Plenty of modern **biographies** of Alexander are also available, which you may find useful as introductions to the man and his historical exploit. I would single out the ones by Paul Cartledge (*The Hunt for a New Past*), Robin Lane-Fox (*Alexander the Great*) and Ian Worthington (*Alexander the Great: Man and God*). You don’t *have* to read any of those ahead of the course but I am giving you a few suggestions in case you ‘re…

Another volume we will be using for the course, which you may want to invest in is I. Worthington, *Alexander: A Reader*, London: Routledge 2012 (2nd edition)- available through the library catalogue.

**Greek History Revision**

Those of you who have already taken Greek History in their first and/or second years should revise the period from the middle of the fourth century covering Philip and Alexander. Pick any of the general Greek History books you 've used so far. S. Hornblower's *History of the Greek World*, or P.J. Rhodes, *A History of the Classical Greek World* will already be familiar to most of you.

If they aren't (because you haven't done much Greek history in the past two years), I strongly recommend that you get hold of a copy of either work and go through the history of the Greek fourth century so that you can more easily find your bearings when we start our journey with Alexander. Let me reiterate that the chapters on Philip and Alexander are essential reading but you may want to read further on either side of the chronological range that they cover (pre-mid-4th c. or post-323).

If you have any questions about the course, please don't hesitate to contact me through my college email.

**I am looking forward to meeting you all in late September! I hope you find some time to relax and recharge your batteries over the summer.**

**Dr Christos Kremmydas**

[christos.kremmydas@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:christos.kremmydas@rhul.ac.uk)