



Reading list incoming students for Chinese (Queen's)

- Gernet, Jacques. *A History of Chinese Civilization*. (Concentrate especially on the imperial period).
- Graham, A. C. 1989. *Disputers of the Tao: Philosophical Argument in Ancient China*. La Salle: Open Court.
- Fingarette, Herbert. 1972. *Confucius: The Secular as Sacred*. Reissued 1998 by Waveland Press.
- Bryan W. van Norden. 2017. *Taking Back Philosophy: A Multicultural Manifesto*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Hsu Cho-yun. 1965. *Ancient China in Transition: An Analysis of Social Mobility, 722-222 B.C.* Stanford: Stanford University.
- Boltz, William H. 1994. *The Origin and Early Development of the Chinese Writing System*. New Haven, CT: American Oriental Society.
- Mitter, Rana. 2008. *Modern China: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University.

At this stage, following your own inclination is the best policy in reading, whether in history, philosophy, literature or current affairs. Keep a notebook of what you read. Do not just read and set aside: think about your reading, and make a few general notes about what intrigued you. Aim to clock up about six books and several times that number in online search terms after you finish your A-level or IB exams. Also keep an eye on the national press, and check journals like The Economist, Newsweek, and BBC Online for their reports on China.

Translations of Chinese literature from the Penguin Classics series are all worth reading, in particular the four-volume 18th century novel by Cao Xueqin (T'sao Hsueh-ch'in) called *Story of a Stone*; it is also found in other translated versions under the name of the *Dream of the Red Chamber* (tr. C.C.Wang), or *A Dream of Red Mansions* (Foreign Languages Press). Another traditional novel, entitled *Monkey* – abridged and translated by Arthur Waley from a long Chinese novel called *Journey to the West* – is very entertaining and will introduce you to Chinese legends and folktales. In addition to these canonical texts from dynastic China, there are many translations of Chinese literature from the modern period, from Lu Xun to Wang Shuo. Read as much as you can.