

**PhD Qualifying Examination /MA Comprehensive Examination in  
Classical Philosophy**

**Topic for 2012-2013:  
God(s)**

**(Note that the topic involves the nature of God(s), the actions or activities of God(s), and the relation between God(s) and the universe.)**

**Reading List**

**Presocratics**

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Selections from Homer's *Iliad* and Hesiod's *Theogony* in my public folder on UMDrive (entitled "Ancient Quomp Documents"). The address for the folder is <https://umdrive.memphis.edu/troche/public>.

Fragments, Testimony, and Commentary for Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes, Heraclitus, Xenophanes, Empedocles, and Democritus.  
Recommended text: Richard D. McKirahan, *Philosophy Before Socrates*..

**Plato**

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Discussions of the topic are scattered throughout Plato's corpus. It would be useful to consult the Index entry for "god(s) in the recommended text, *Plato, Complete Works*, ed. John M. Cooper, p. 1769. More specifically, good preparation for writing on the topic would probably involve studying the following: *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, *Phaedrus* 245c257b, 273d-274a, 278d; *Republic*, books 2, 3, and 10; *Theatetus* 173c-177a; *Timaeus* 27c-55c, 68d-72d; *Laws*, book 10.

**Aristotle**

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*Metaphysics*, books 9 and 12. (Useful but optional background reading for these books of the *Metaphysics* are *Physics*, 5. 1-2, 7.1, and 8.) *Nicomachean Ethics*, 10. 7-8.  
Recommended texts: *The Complete Works of Aristotle*, Volumes I-II, ed. J. Barnes.

**Hellenistic Philosophers**

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For the Epicureans, read fragments, testimony, and commentary relevant to their cosmology, cosmogony, and theology (most important are chapters 6, 8-9, 11-15, 20-21, 23-25 in the sections on Physics and Ethics in the recommended text). For the Stoics read fragments, testimony, and commentary in the sections on Physics and Ethics in the recommended text; most important are chapters 45-46, 52-55, 60-63, 65-67.  
Recommended text: *The Hellenistic Philosophers*, Volume 1, eds. A.A. Long and D. Sedley.