Ancient Judaism
Comprehensive Exam List

Primary sources:

Presumed background: The Torah (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)

1. Hebrew Bible: Ezra-Nehemiah; Daniel
2. Septuagint: Tobit; Judith; 1 and 2 Maccabees; Sirach (Wisdom of Ben Sira); Wisdom (Wisdom of Solomon)
3. Pseudepigrapha: 1 Enoch 1-36 (Book of the Watchers), 83-90 (Book of Dreams); Jubilees; 4 Ezra; Letter of Aristeas
4. Dead Sea Scrolls¹: Damascus Document (CD); Community Rule (1QS); Pesher of Habakkuk; 4QMMT
5. Philo: On the Creation of the World (selections); On the Embassy to Gaius; Life of Moses; On the Contemplative Life (trans.. Loeb)
6. Josephus: Antiquities of the Jews (choose two books); Jewish War 6-7 (trans. Mason)
7. Mishnah, Tosefta, Yerushalmi, Bavli: choose 1 tractate to read in full in the Mishnah (trans. Danby) and Tosefta; selections from the Yerushalmi (trans. Neusner) and Bavli (trans. Soncino)
8. Midrash: Mekhilta de Rabbi Ishmael Pisha (trans. Lauterbach); Genesis Rabbah 1-11 (trans. Freedman); Lamentations Rabbah (trans. Rabbinowitz)
9. Piyyut: either Yannai’s piyyutim on Genesis (trans. Lieber) or Yom Kippur piyyutim (trans. Swartz and Yahalom)
10. Greek and Latin Authors on Jews and Judaism: Pliny the Elder, Martial, Tacitus, Juvenal (as found in Menahem Stern, Greek and Latin Authors on Jews and Judaism)

Secondary scholarship:

2. Schwartz, Seth. Imperialism and Jewish Society 200 B.C.E. to 640 C.E. Princeton:


