

For Further Reading: Recommended Texts & Translations

Ancient Stoics

- Epictetus. *Discourses, Fragments, Handbook*. Translated by Robin Hard. Oxford World's Classics, 2014.
 - Start with the *Handbook* (which is at the end, pages 287–304), then just flip around in the *Discourses* to whatever topics or questions catch your eye. This is not at all the sort of book that you need to read from cover to cover!
- Marcus Aurelius. *Meditations*. Translated by Gregory Hays. Modern Library Classics, 2002.

Modern Stoics

- James Stockdale, *Courage Under Fire*. Available from <http://media.hoover.org/sites/default/files/documents/StockdaleCourage.pdf>
- James Stockdale, “The Stoic Warrior’s Triad.” Available from <https://www.usna.edu/Ethics/files/documents/stoicism1.pdf>
- James Stockdale, “Master of My Fate.” Available from <https://www.usna.edu/Ethics/files/documents/Stoicism2.pdf>
 - The last two essays, taken together, cover much of the same ground as the first short book, but with some different emphasis. Note that Stockdale refers to Epictetus’ short work by its Greek title, the *Enchiridion*; this is the same work that Robin Hard’s translation (listed above) calls the *Handbook*.

Ancient Platonism

- Plato, *Gorgias*. Translated by Donald J. Zeyl. Hackett, 1987.
- Plato, *Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo*. Translated by G.M.A. Grube, revised by John M. Cooper. Second edition. Hackett, 2002.
 - For ethics, take a look at the *Crito*, which asks the question, “Do we have a duty to obey unjust laws, and to accept unjust punishments?” Socrates is in prison, condemned to die, and his friends want to break him out. Should he go with them, or stay in jail?
 - The *Phaedo* considers the relationship between the soul and the body, and argues that death is nothing to be afraid of. It’s a bold claim, given that Socrates says this on the very day that he is going to be executed!

For Plato, all of these same translations (plus many more) are also found in Plato, *Complete Works*, edited by John M. Cooper. If you prefer to get many years worth of thought-provoking reading in one big, heavy hardcover book, this is the one to buy!