Overview

This list provides some suggestions for reading before you come up to Oxford. You do not need to read any of these items (yet!), but you might enjoy looking at a few things as you get ready to begin your course. As you will see, the list is in two parts.

Part 1 is a very short list with recent books on social anthropology, human evolution and archaeology. These are very useful preparatory readings that discuss many of the fundamental themes you will encounter in your first year.

Part 2 is longer. It includes standard books and specialised studies that you will encounter during your degree, as well as non-academic works and films. Your goal should be to enjoy dipping in and out of a variety of things – these are just suggestions. Remember, if a book or film or poem is to do with people, it is relevant to the degree. Have fun!

Part 1

a) Social anthropology


b) Human evolution


c) Archaeology


Part 2

a) General books


**b) Specialised studies**


**c) Fiction**

There are many fictional and semi-fictional works that can be considered in terms of anthropological and archaeological themes.


d) (Auto)biography


e) Film, television and radio


Archaeology has traditionally had a strong media presence including e.g. *Time Team*. Anthropology, after an absence of about three decades, has found its way back onto the screen and is worth watching, though the quality varies. Even when not done so well, these films offer a chance to look at ourselves (the audience) and consider how we see different people (the others). Some recent series on TV include: *Tribe; Tribal Wives; Last Man Standing; The Return of the Tribe*.

Finally, BBC Radio Four’s *A History of the World in 100 Objects* (first aired in 2010) is available online ([http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/ahow](http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/ahow)) and is well worth browsing. Featuring objects from the British Museum’s collections, the series provides an excellent introduction to material culture studies and the nature of archaeological inference.