Most of the works mentioned here may be found on the Internet

The Thirteen Classics Shi san jing 十三经
Four books
Standard histories
Chronological histories

The Thirteen Classics Shi san jing 十三经
With translations and studies

The comments are based on Indiana Companion pp. 309-316 & notes by Bent NIELSEN; they appear in turn to have drawn heavily on Michael LOEWE Early Chinese Texts.

1. 易经 Yijing [Book of change]. Built around a system of sixty-four hexagrams, each of six lines with unbroken and broken lines presumably used for divination, and with later additions to the text which is ‘a storehouse of image and symbols from which Chinese literati frequently drew.’ The text probably originated in the Western Zhou but some of the additions are as late as the Han dynasty. Stele ed. 175 CE.

WILHELM Richard 1924 I Ging: Das Buch der Wandlungen ( reprint 1994; English transl. 1950)

2. 书经 Shujing [Book of history (or documents)] A collection of historical documents. Traditionally Confucius has been named as the editor. The documents are pronouncements, oaths and speeches. Twenty-eight chapters are considered authentic, i.e. they give the text as it purports to have been at the time it was pronounced, some from the beginning of the Zhou dynasty. These chapters are in the new-text (script). An additional thirty-two chapters in the old-text are forgeries from 200-400 CE. Stele ed. 175 CE.

KARLGREN Bernhard 1950 in BMFEA 22.
LEGGE James The Chinese Classics

3. 诗经 毛诗 Shijing [Book of odes (or songs)]. Anthology of 305 poems. The Hanshu says that they were selected by Confucius who does refer to a corpus of around 300 poems. The contents of the poems are varied, from folksongs to songs at the court, praising heroes and religious liturgy. Some of them may be very old, but some probably no older than c. 500 B.C.E. Stele ed. 175 CE.

KARLGREN Bernhard 1950 The Book of Odes (Stockholm)
LEGGE James The Chinese Classics

4. 周礼 Zhouli [Rites of Zhou]. A description of the Zhou bureaucracy. Probably written during the Warring States period as an idealized description of the government in the early Zhou period. May have fragmentary information about the early Zhou bureaucracy. Stele ed. 836-840 CE.


5. 义礼 Yili [Book of etiquette and ceremonial]. A detailed description of ceremonies claimed to have been carried out during the Spring-and-Autumn period. May have been written during the first half of the Warring-States period. Stele ed. 175 CE.

COUVREUR Seraphin 1913 Li Ki ou Memoires sur les bienseances: Texte chinois avec une double traduction en français et en latin 2 vols. (Ho Kien Fou: Mission Catolique; reprint 1928)
LEGGE James The Texts of Confucianism

6. 礼记 Liji [Book of ceremonial]. Contains information on rituals and the development of Confucian philosophy from late Warring-States to early Former-Han. Stele ed. 836-840 CE.
7. 春秋左传 Chunqiu Zuozhuan [Spring and Autumn with Zuo commentary]. Spring and Autumn is a chronicle for the Lu state from 722 to 480 B.C.E. Tradition has said that the pronouncements are praise-and-blame but this is highly questionable. It appears to be simple chronicle. The Zuozhuan may originally have been a separate historical work which was later added to the Spring and Autumn under the appropriate headings. Written during the Warring States period. Stele ed. 240-248 CE.

8. 春秋公羊传 Chunqiu Gongyangzhuan [Spring and Autumn with Gongyang commentary]. Praise-and-blame interpretation of the Spring-and Autumn which poses questions and then gives answers concerning the political and ethical meaning of the Spring and Autumn entries. Former Han. Stele ed. 836-840 CE.

9. 春秋穀梁传 Chunqiu Guliangzhuan [Spring and Autumn with Guliang commentary]. Praise-and-blame interpretation of the Spring-and Autumn which poses questions and then gives answers concerning the political and ethical meaning of the Spring and Autumn entries. Former Han. Stele ed. 836-840 CE.

10. 论语 Lunyu [Analects]. A collection of sayings attributed to Confucius or his disciples in the form of dialogues and anecdotes. Parts of the text may originate in the decades after the death of Confucius but other parts are almost certainly later additions. Stele ed. 175 CE.

11. 孝经 Xiaojing [Classic of filial piety]. A discussion between Confucius and Zengzi on the Confucian principle for reverence for parents. The text seems to have existed in the third cent. B.C.E. Stele ed. 836-840 CE.

13. 孟子 Mengzi [Book of Mencius]. The discussions of Mencius with feudal rulers and others.

Lau D. C. 1970 Mencius
Legge James The Chinese Classics

Four books

四书 The Four Books were collected and commented by ZHU Xi 朱熹 (1130-1200) and from 1303 to 1905 they formed the foundation of the official examinations.

论语 Lunyu [Analects], see above
孟子 Mengzi [Book of Mencius], see above

Standard histories

1. 史记 / 史記 Shi ji to ca. 87 B.C.E. by SIMA Qian 司马迁 (145- ca. 90 B.C.E.)
2. 汉书/漢書 Han shu or QIAN Han shu 206 B.C.E. - 24 C.E. by BAN Gu 班固 (d. ca. 92 C.E.)
3. 后汉书/後漢書 Hou Han shu 25-220 C.E. by FAN Ye 范晔 (398-447)
4. 三国志/三國志 Sanguozhi 220-280 by CHEN Shou 陈寿 (233-297)
5. 晋书/晉書 Jin shu 265-419 by FANG Xuanling 房玄龄 (578-648)
6. 宋书/書 Song shu 420-479 by SHEN Yue 沈约 (441-513)
7. 南齐书/南齊書 Nan Qi shu by XIAO Zixian 萧子显 (479-550)
8. 梁书/梁書 Liang shu 502-557 by YAO Silian 姚思廉 (d. 637)
9. 陈书/陳書 Chen shu 557-589 by YAO Silian 姚思廉 (d. 637)
10. 魏书/魏書 Wei shu 386-550 by WEI Shou 魏收 (506-572)
11. 北齐书/北齊書 Bei Qi shu 550-577 by LI Boyao 李伯药 (565-648)
12. 北周书/北周書 Bei Zhou shu 557-581 by LINGHU Defen 令狐德芬 (586-666)
13. 隋书/隋書 Sui shu 581-618 by WEI Zheng 魏征 (580-643)
14. 南史 Nan shi 420-589 by LI Yanshou 李延寿 (d. <679)
15. 北史 Bei shi 386-618 by LI Yanshou 李延寿 (d. <679)
16. 旧唐书/舊唐書 Jiu Tang shu 618-906 by LIU Xu 刘煦 (887-946)
17. 新唐书/新唐書 Xin Tang shu 618-906 by OUYANG Xiu 欧阳修 (1007-1072) & Song Qi 宋祁 (998-1061)
18. 五代史 Jiǔ Wudai shi 906-960 by XUE Juzheng 薛居正 (912-960)
19. 五代史 Xin Wudai shi by OUYANG Xiu 欧阳修 (1007-1072)
20. 宋史 Song shi 960-1279 by TUO Tuo 脱脱 (1238-1298)
21. 辽史/遼史 Liaoh si 907-1211 by TUOTuo 脱脱 (1238-1298) & al.
22. 金史 Jin shi 1115-1234 by TUO Tuo 脱脱 (1238-1298) & al.
23. 元史 Yuan shi 1279-1382 by SONG Lian 宋濂 (1310-1381)
24. 明史 Ming shi 1368-1638 by ZHANG Tingyu 张廷玉 (1672-1755)
25. 新元史 Xin Yuan shi 1206-1382 by KE Shaomin 柯劭忞 (1850-1933)

26. 清史 Qing shi 1644-1927. The first version was printed in 1927 with ZHAO Erxun 赵尔巽 as editor but not recognized by the authorities and was called Qing shi gao 清史稿 [Draft history of the Qing dynasty]. An official version was printed in Taiwan in 1961 by the Research Institute of National Defence 国防院. A new edition is in preparation in the People’s Republic and publication is expected to start in 2015

**Chronological histories**

资治通鉴 Zizhi tongjian 403 B.C.E. - 960 C.E. by SIMA Guang 司马光 (1019-1086)

通鉴纲目 Tongjian gangmu 403 B.C.E. - 960 C.E. by ZHU Xi 朱熹

续资治通鉴长编 Xu Zizhi tongjian changbian by LI Tao 李焘 (1115-1184)

续资治通鉴 Xu Zizhi tongjian -1368 by BI Yuan 毕沅 (1730-1797)