

Introduction to the New Testament: Annotated Bibliography

These were the books used to design the class and are recommended for further study for each of the units.

Unit 1: Jesus in New Testament

The Gnostic Gospels, Bentley Layton, editor. An invaluable translation of all the gnostic scriptures found at Nag Hammadi.

The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings by Bart Ehrman. Excellent introduction the New Testament.

An Introduction to the New Testament by Raymond Brown. An excellent introduction to the New Testament by one of the most influential Catholic scholars of the 20th century.

The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures by Michael Coogan. The best introduction to the Old Testament.

A Marginal Jew: Rethinking the Historical Jesus by John Meier. Five volumes on the historical Jesus. A comprehensive and fascinating read.

Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth by Reza Aslan. The best one volume book on the historical Jesus written by a non-biblical scholar.

Jesus: Apocalyptic Prophet of the New Millennium by Bart Ehrman. The best one volume book on the historical Jesus by a New Testament Scholar.

The Gnostic Gospels by Elaine Pagels. A great introduction to Gnosticism.

Binding the Strong Man by Ched Myers. A Political Reading of Mark's Story of Jesus. A bit technical in its presentation but well worth a read. Myers views will profoundly influence how you read the Gospel of Mark and understand Jesus.

How to Read the Bible and Still be a Christian: Is God Violent? An Exploration from Genesis to Revelation by John Dominic Crossan.

The Orthodox Corruption of Scripture: The Effect of Early Christological Controversies on the Text of the New Testament by Bart Ehrman. Excellent read.

Scripture, The Soul of Theology by Father Joseph A. Fitzmyer.

The Interpretation of Scripture: In Defense of the Historical-Critical Method by Father Joseph A. Fitzmyer.

The Other Gospels: Accounts of Jesus from Outside the New Testament by Bart Ehrman.

When God Spoke Greek: The Septuagint and the Making of the Christian Bible by Timothy Michael Law. Fascinating read!

Unit 2: The World and Daily Life of Jesus

Judaism Practice and Belief by E.P. Sanders. A great introduction to understanding first century Judaism.

Pagans and Christians by Robin Lane Fox. An excellent book discussing the relationship between pagans and Christians during the first centuries of Christianity.

Responses to 101 Questions on the Dead Sea Scroll by Joseph Fitzmyer. The best and easiest book to learn about the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently by Amy Jill-Levine.

The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus by Amy Jill-Levine.

The Archeology of the Holy Land: From the Destruction of Solomon's Temple to the Muslim Conquest by Jodi Magness.

Unit 3: The Birth and Message of Jesus

The Birth of the Messiah by Raymond Brown. The best, and most exhaustive, study on the Infancy Narratives of Jesus.

Jesus and the Spiral of Violence by Richard Horsley. Portrays Jesus principally as an advocate of a non-violent social revolution. Seminal read.

Jesus and the Victory of God by N.T. Wright. A great examination of the Jesus of history by a traditional British Scholar.

The One Who is to Come by Father Joseph A. Fitzmyer. Argues persuasively that messianism in Judaism did not develop until the second century B.C.E.

An Introduction to New Testament Christologies by Raymond Brown. Argues for a backwards christology.

Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary: Unveiling the Mother of the Messiah by Brant James Pitre. An interesting read from a conservative Catholic scholar.

Did Jesus Exist? The Historical Argument for Jesus of Nazareth by Bart Ehrman.

Unit 4: The Sayings and Miracles of Jesus

The Historical Figure of Jesus by E.P. Sanders. Evaluates the New Testament stories of Jesus' miracles.

A Marginal Jew: Rethinking the Historical Jesus by John Meier. Five volumes on the historical Jesus. A comprehensive and fascinating read that deals with sayings and miracles of Jesus.

Divorce in the New Testament by Raymond F. Collins. Examines Jesus' sayings on divorce from an historical context. Excellent.

Unit 5: The Death and Resurrection of Jesus

The Death of Jesus by Raymond Brown. Excellent and comprehensive discussion on the passion narratives in the four gospels.

The Virginal Conception and Bodily Resurrection of Jesus by Raymond Brown. Excellent, but short, introduction on the birth and resurrection of Jesus.

Resurrection Reconsidered: Thomas and John in Controversy by Gregory Riley. A fascinating read detailing Thomas' role in the Gospel of John. Must read.

The Resurrection of the Body in Western Christianity, 200-1336 c.e. by Caroline Walker Bynum. Excellent read on the developing notions of resurrection down through the medieval period.

Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist: Unlocking the Secrets of the Last Supper by Brant Pitre.

How on Earth Did Jesus Become a God: Historical Questions about Earliest Devotion to Jesus by Larry W. Hurtado

Resurrecting Easter: How the West Lost and the East Kept the Original Easter Vision by John Dominic Crossan.

Unit 6: The Apocalypse of Jesus

Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation by Bruce Manning Metzger. The only book you really need to understand the book of Revelation by an eminent New Testament scholar.

Revelations: Visions, Prophecy, and Politics in the Book of Revelation by Elaine Pagels. Excellent introduction to the Book of Revelation if you can't find Metzger's book!

Antichrist: Two Thousand Years of Human Fascination with Evil by Bernard McGinn. Excellent discussion the evolution of of our understanding of the Antichrist over the centuries.

Revelation for Normal People: A Guide to the Strangest and Most Dangerous Book in the Bible by Robyn J. Whitaker.

On the Genre and Message of Revelation: Star Visions and Sky Journeys by Bruce J. Marina

Unit 7: Jesus and the Apostles

The Community of the Beloved Disciple by Raymond Brown. An excellent introduction to the community behind the fourth gospel.

The Theology of Paul the Apostle by James Dunn. A clear overview of the theological views of Paul.

Pauline Theology by Joseph Fitzmyer. An excellent overview of Paul's teaching by an eminent catholic biblical scholar.

The First Urban Christians by Wayne Meeks. A look at the Pauline epistles from a socio-historical perspective.

Paul Among the People by Sarah Ruden. Looks at Paul's ethical teachings through the lens of the ancient world. Highly recommended!

After the New Testament: A Reader of Early Christianity by Bart Ehrman. A collection of christian writings from the second and third century.

The Rise of Christianity by Rodney Stark. A fascinating read about the development of Christianity over the first four centuries of the church.

Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality: Gay People in Western Europe from the Beginning of the Christian Era to the Fourteenth Century. A must read for those interested in this controversial social issue.

The Birth of Christianity: Discovering What Happened in the Years after the Execution of Jesus by John Dominic Crossan. A controversial book and author who really pushes the margins of the Christian message.

Introduction to New Testament Christology by Raymond Brown. Brown argues for a reverse Christology: from an adoptionist view to a pre-incarnation understanding of Christ.

The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Views Paul's writings in three different categories: radical, conservative, and reactionary.

Romans for Normal People: A Guide to the Most Misused, Problematic and Proof-texted Letter in the Bible by J.R. Daniel Kirk

The Churches the Apostles Left Behind by Raymond Brown.

Paul and Faithfulness of God by N.T. Wright. An exhaustive study on the life and theology of Paul.

Paul was not a Christian: The Original Message of a Misunderstood Apostle by Pamela Eisenbaum.

Paul and the Thessalonians: The Philosophic Tradition of Pastoral Care by Abraham J. Malherbe.

Paul: The Pagan's Apostle by Paula Fredrickson.

The Mystery of Acts: Unraveling its Story by Richard Pervo.

Study Bibles and Other Writings of the Early Church

The Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) Study Bible. Excellent resource.

The Catholic Study Bible, Donald Senior, editor. Great resource.

The New Greek/English Interlinear New Testament (NRSV) by Tyndall. Excellent resource for understanding the New Testament.

The New Testament: A Translation by David Bentley Hart. A literal translation of the New Testament.

The Jewish Annotated New Testament by Amy Jill-Levine. The NRSV with commentary by a variety of Jewish scholars. Excellent.

The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary by Robert Alter. An excellent Translation of the Old Testament.

The Gospel Parallels: A Comparison of the Synoptic Gospels by Burton H. Throckmorton.

After the New Testament: A Reader in Early Christianity by Bart Ehrman.

The New Testament and Other Early Christian Writings by Bart Ehrman.