

DRAFT

List of reading and resources for the Core Modules 2017/18 Academic Year

The following is a list of recommended reading for the 2017/18 academic year CCRS core modules (organised by topic, not module) with some personal comments by the tutors of the course in red.

Your tutor will provide further reading and advice – please be in touch with me if I can be of any help. Happy reading!

Books in blue indicate ones not yet in the CCRS library.

General (resources for the whole of the CCRS)

- **Bible** (CCRS library has multiple copies of New Jerusalem Bible and a couple of other translations)
- **Catechism of the Catholic Church** (widely available as paperback or online at www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM) - a must-have (and ‘must-read’!!!)
- **Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church** (CTS Books, 2014)
- **The Catholic Source Book** (Peter Klein (ed.), Our Sunday Visitor, 4th ed., Dec. 2006) – a very readable, authentic and very useful guide to ‘all things Catholic’- does for the Catholic Church what the SPCK Bible Guide (see below) does for the Scriptures
- **Introduction to Christianity**, (Joseph Ratzinger, Communio Books, second edition, October 2004) – still the indispensable, engaging and most readable book of its kind; I have certainly never come across a more clear, concise, and complete introduction to the Christian faith as expressed in the creed – one of my personal all-time favourite books
- **An Introduction to Christian Theology** (Anthony Towey, Bloomsbury T & T Clark, 1st ed., June 2013) – a very readable textbook-style introduction to theology from a broadly Catholic perspective, written with a ‘CCRS-audience’ in mind
- **Catholic Answers** (www.catholic.com) – a most useful website – though not ‘official’ - of Catholic Apologetics with discussion forums and answers to all sorts of questions
- **Contemporary Catholic Theology: a Reader** (Michael A. Hayes & Liam Gearon, Gracewing, 1998)
- **Vatican Council II, More Post Conciliar Documents** (Austin Flannery, O.P., Costello Publishing Company, 1st ed., 1982)
- **The Catholic Catechism** (John A. Haron, S.J.)
- **Catholic Christianity** (Peter J. Kreeft, Ignatius Press, 2001)
- **Reflections on the Christian Life: How our Story is God’s Story** (Anthony Esolen, Sophia Institute Press, 2012)

- **Prayer in the Catholic Tradition: a handbook of practical approaches** (Robert J. Wicks, Franciscan Media, 2016)
- **A Concise Companion and Commentary for The Catechism of the Catholic Church** (James Tolhurst, Gracewing, 2012)
- **The Christian Faith in the Doctrinal Documents of the Catholic Church** (J. Neuner & J. Dupuis)
- **The New Creation** (Herbert McCabe, Continuum, 2010)
- **The Teaching of the Catholic Church** (Herbert McCabe)

Scripture (resources for both the OT and NT topics)

General:

- **Paragraphs 26-141 of the CCC** (see above) – a ‘must-read’ for both modules
- **The SPCK Bible Guide** (Henry Wansbrough OSB, SPCK Publishing, 1st ed. February 2013) – an up-to-date, excellent, comprehensive and brief overview of the whole of Sacred Scripture, with introductions and short commentary on all books of the Bible from an outstanding Catholic Biblical scholar
- **And God Said What?: An Introduction to Biblical Literary Forms** (Margaret Ralph, Paulist Press, Revised edition, January 2003) - introduces readers to the importance of understanding the various literary forms that appear in Scripture: myth, legend, debate, fiction, Gospel, parable, allegory, letter and apocalypse – a most useful tool
- **You Can Understand The Bible: A Practical And Illuminating Guide To Each Book In The Bible** (Peter Kreeft, Ignatius Press, June 2005) – does what it says on the tin: a clear, accessible and best-selling large-scale ‘road map’ of the Bible, focusing on the core message of each book, both insightful and frequently witty
- **Dictionary of the Bible** (John L. McKenzie SJ, Simon & Schuster 1st Touchstone Edition, December 1999) – out of print now (though still available ‘used’ online...) but arguably one of the best single-volume Catholic dictionaries of the Bible, written by a respected Catholic Biblical scholar; I use this (and the next item) frequently
- **Dictionary of Biblical Theology** (Xavier Léon-Dufour, Word Among Us Press, April 1995) *note, two different editions are in the library – does for Biblical Theology what McKenzie does for Bible Dictionaries (see above): excellent and authoritative short articles on themes of Biblical theology from a French Catholic master ... and still in print!
- **The New Jerome Biblical Commentary** (Raymond E. Brown, Geoffrey Chapman, new edition of the 2nd (revised) edition of September 1995) – a classic one-volume Catholic commentary on the Scriptures
- **The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation** (Jeff Cavins, Tim Gray & Sarah Christmyer, Ascension Press, November 2010)

- **Take & Read** (Ian Boxall, Alive Publishing, 2012), The Apocalypse, The Letter to the Romans, The Gospels
- **What did the Biblical Writers Know and When Did they Know it?** (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2001)
- **Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments** (Brevard S. Childs, Fortress Press, 1993)
- **The Future of Catholic Biblical Scholarship** (Luke Timothy Johnson & William S. Kurz, S.J., Eerdmans, 2002)

Old Testament:

- **How to read the Old Testament** (Etienne Charpentier, SCM Press, September 1982) – a classic: readable, short and trustworthy; a great introduction
- **The Consuming Fire: A Christian Guide to the Old Testament** (Michael W. Duggan, Our Sunday Visitor, Revised ed. August 2010)- an excellent overview of the Old Testament, emphasizing particularly the theological message of each book and providing a forward look to the New Testament at the end of each section
- **Reading the Old Testament – An Introduction** (Lawrence Boadt, Paulist Press, January 1984) – not the most recent introduction around, but still a highly readable – scholarly – introduction, written by an American Paulist Father and Professor emeritus of Scripture Studies This work is a clear and carefully organised introduction of the Old Testament. It is designed to guide the student of the Bible through the text and its problems, enrich the understanding of the individual biblical books, and explore the way the Bible came to be written. It is illuminating about the way Israel’s religious experience was translated into written records.
- **Alive and Active – The Old Testament beyond 2000** (Adrian Graffy, Columba Press, January 1998) – out of print (but available ‘used’ online), this is an introduction to the Old Testament with a view to contemporary life
- **Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture** (Brevard S. Childs, Augsburg Fortress, December 2010) - one of the most influential general introductions to the Old Testament; not exactly bedtime-reading, though...
- **A History of Israel** (John Bright, SCM Press, 1980) - The history of Israel is the history of a people which came into being at a certain point in time as a league of tribes united in covenant with God, which subsequently existed as a nation, then as two nations and finally as a areligious community. However, Israel’s history is a subject inseparable from the history of Israel’s religion.
- **The Message of the Prophets** (Gerhard von Rad, Oliver & Boyd Ltd., 1967) - A concise presentation of the quintessence of the prophetic message. The message of each prophet is examined individually, against the background of his time and with the regard to his significance for ours.

- **Israel's Prophets – An Introduction for Christians and Jews** (David J. Zucker, Paulist Press, 1994) - Rabbi Zucker places the biblical prophets within their own historical contexts so that the words, message, literary style and even personal witness of these powerful individuals, “filled with God’s Spirit” reveal their different and unique understanding of events of their own time.
- **Wisdom in Israel** (Gerhard von Rad, SCM Press Ltd, 1993) - Certain fundamental questions are addressed in this work. The understanding of Israel’s literature is dependent on how successful we are in making contemporary the specific questions which it formulates and in subsequently completing its lines of thought; for Israel had to undergo the adventure of liberating her reason in quite a unique way.
- **Old Testament Wisdom, An Introduction** (James L. Crenshaw, Westminster John Knox Press, 1998) - This work sets out by examining the world of wisdom, its language and literary forms. It takes up the central themes, how they arose and assumed increasing significance, especially the notion of personified wisdom.

New Testament:

- **The New Testament and the People of God** (N.T. Wright, ‘Christian Origins and the Question of God’, volume 1, Fortress Press September 1992) – the first part of Wright’s multi-volume project on the theological and historical questions surrounding the origins of Christianity, a great introduction to the literary, historical and theological readings of the New Testament from the former (Anglican) Bishop of Durham
- **How to read the New Testament** (Etienne Charpentier, SCM Press, October 1982) – the companion volume to Charpentier’s classic Old Testament introduction
- **The Writings of the New Testament** (Luke Timothy Johnson, Augsburg Fortress, 3rd edition, March 2010) – probably the best up-to-date, single-volume introduction to the New Testament and its writings around, from a much-respected Catholic scholar
- **The New Testament: A Very Short Introduction** (Luke Timothy Johnson, OUP, April 2010) – a concise, slightly more general (and really short!!) introduction from the same author
- **Trustworthy and True – The Gospels beyond 2000** (Adrian Graffy, Columba Press, January 2001) – the companion volume to his ‘Alive and Active – The Old Testament beyond 2000’, and as readable as that
- **Commentaries:** if all this has caught your interest and there is time to ‘dig deep’, the ‘**Sacra Pagina Series**’ of New Testament commentaries or volumes from the (as yet incomplete) new series of the (American) ‘**Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture**’ see their website on www.catholiccommentaryonsacredscripture.com) provide reliable and excellent Catholic scholarship
- **Synopsis of the Four Gospels** (Kurt Aland, Revised Ed., United Bible Societies, 1985)

- **The New Testament as Canon: An Introduction** (Brevard S. Childs, Trinity Press International, 1994)

Christology

- **Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration; Jesus of Nazareth: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection; Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives** (Joseph Ratzinger, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2008-2012) – *certainly among the best books on Jesus around: learned, spiritual, highly readable: if you read no other book on Jesus, ever, make sure you read Benedict XVI ‘trilogy’; surely a ‘must-read’*
- **The New Testament and the People of God, Jesus and the Victory of God and The Resurrection of the Son of God** (N.T. Wright, ‘Christian Origins and the Question of God’, volumes 1, 2 and 3, Fortress Press August 1997 & March 2003) – *a brilliant, in-depth study of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Christ spelling out in admirable detail the historical background required to truly understand Christ; great, fascinating and readable (though these are hefty times...)*
- **New Testament Christology** (Frank Matera, Westminster John Knox Press, February 1999) – *a comprehensive, scholarly guide to understanding the Christ of the New Testament and the biblical foundations and framework for a Christology rooted in Scripture, from a respected (American) Catholic Biblical Scholar*

Ecclesiology:

See Fr Gareth Leyshon’s website for a full list - <http://www.drgareth.info/CCRS/index.html>

- **Church Ecumenism & Politics** (Joseph Ratzinger, St Paul Publications, 1988)
- **Mystery of the Church** (Paul Haffner, Revised Ed., Gracewing, 2010)

Sacraments:

- **Communion of Saints: The Unity of Divine Love in the Mystical Body of Christ** (Stephen Walford, Angelico Press, 2015)
- **Take the Plunge: Living Baptism and Confirmation** (Timothy Radcliffe, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2012)
- **The Sacramental Mystery** (Paul Haffner, Revised Ed., Gracewing, 2008)
- **The Spirit of the Liturgy** (Joseph Ratzinger, Ignatius Press, 2000)
- **A Guide to the Eucharist, The Paschal Sacrament** (Francis Selman, Family Publications, 2006)
- **The Beauty of the Word: A Running Commentary on the Roman Missal** (Anthony Esolen, Magnificat, 2012)

- **Christ, The Christian and The Church** (E. L. Mascall, Longmans, Green and Co., 1946)
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Christian Morality:

- **An Introduction to Moral Theology** (William E. May, 2nd Ed., Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, June 2003)