

## **Bible, Ancient Judaism, and Early Christianity Comprehensive Exam Bibliography**

Instructions: Four (4) books or the equivalent (5 articles/chapters/essays = 1 book) are to be selected by the examiners and examinee(s) together from each of the five categories listed below. To this core of 20 books, examiners and examinees will add 18–20 books (or the equivalent) from any of the categories on the list. This will result in 38–40 books for the RLG 6020 review and examination that year.

### CATEGORIES

#### **Critical Issues in the Hebrew Bible**

- Barton, John. *Oracles of God: Perceptions of Ancient Prophecy in Israel after the Exile*. Rev. ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007 (1986).
- Baden, Joel. *The Composition of the Pentateuch: Renewing the Documentary Hypothesis*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012.
- Carr, David. *Writing on the Tablet of the Heart: Origins of Scripture and Literature*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Davidson, Steed V. "Prophets Postcolonially: Initial Insights for a Postcolonial Reading of Prophetic Literature." *Bible and Critical Theory* 6/2 (2010): 24.1–24.13.
- Dube, Muse. *Postcolonial Feminist Interpretation of the Bible*. St Louis: Chalice Press, 2001.
- Finkelstein, Israel and Neil Asher Silberman. *The Bible Unearthed: Archaeology's New Vision of Ancient Israel and the Origin of its Sacred Texts*. New York: Touchstone, 2001.
- Junior, Nyasha. *An Introduction to Womanist Biblical Interpretation*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2015.
- Levenson, Jon. *Creation and the Persistence of Evil: The Jewish Drama of Divine Omnipotence*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1994.
- Lewis, Theodore J. *The Origin and Character of God: Ancient Israelite Religion Through the Lens of Divinity*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020.
- Marlow, Hilary F. *Biblical Prophets and Contemporary Environmental Ethics*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Meyers, Carol. *Rediscovering Eve: Ancient Israelite Women in Context*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Olyan, Saul. *Disability in the Hebrew Bible: Interpreting Mental and Physical Differences*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- Sanders, Seth L. *From Adapa to Enoch: Scribal Culture and Religious Vision in Judea and Babylon*. Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism 167. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2017.
- Schniedewind, William. *The Finger of the Scribe: How Scribes Learned to Write the Bible*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019.
- Seow, C. L. "Perspectives on a Pluriform Classic." In *Reading Other Peoples' Texts: Social Identity and the Reception of Authoritative Traditions* (eds. Ken Brown, Alison L. Joseph, and Brennan Breed). New York: T&T Clark, 2020. 169-195.
- Stewart, David Tabb. "LGBT/Queer Hermeneutics and the Hebrew Bible." *Currents in Biblical Research* 15 (2017): 289-314.

Warrior, Robert Allan. "Canaanites, Cowboys, and Indians: Deliverance, conquest, and liberation theology today." *Christianity and Crisis* 49/12 (Sept. 11, 1989): 261–65.

Yee, Gale A. "Thinking Intersectionally: Gender, Race, Class, and the Etceteras of Our Discipline." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 139/1 (2020): 7–26.

### **Critical Issues in Ancient Judaism and the Dead Sea Scrolls**

Cohen, Shaye D. *The Beginnings of Jewishness*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000. Read Ch. 4, "From Ethnos to Ethno-Religion"; Ch. 5 "Crossing the Boundary and Becoming a Jew"; and Ch. 6 "Ioudaizen: To 'Judaize'."

Collins, John J. *The Apocalyptic Imagination: An Introduction to Jewish Apocalyptic Literature*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.

Grossman, Mazine L. (2010), 'Rethinking gender in the Community Rule: An experiment in sociology,' in A. D. Roitman, L. H. Schiffman, and S. Tzoref (eds), *The Dead Sea Scroll and Contemporary Culture*. STDJ 93. Leiden: Brill, 2010, pp.497–512

Harkins, Angela K. *Reading with an 'I' to the Heavens: Looking at the Qumran Hodayot through the Lens of Visionary Traditions*. Ekstasis 3. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2012.

Klawans, Jonathan. *Purity, Sacrifice, and the Temple: Symbolism and Supersessionism in the Study of Ancient Judaism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Levenson, Jon. *Inheriting Abraham: The Legacy of the Patriarch in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*. Princeton University Press, 2012.

Mroczek, Eva. *The Literary Imagination in Jewish Antiquity*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Najman, Hindy. *Seconding Sinai: The Development of Mosaic Discourse in Second Temple Judaism*. STDJ 77. Leiden: Brill, 2003.

Newman, Judith. *Before the Bible: The Liturgical Body and the Formation of Scriptures in Early Judaism*. Oxford University Press, 2018.

Newsom, Carol. *The Self as Symbolic Space: Construction Identity and Community at Qumran*. Brill, 2004.

Portier-Young, Althea E. *Apocalypse against Empire: Theology of Resistance in Early Judaism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011.

Schofield, Alison. "Between Center and Periphery: The Yahad in Context." *Dead Sea Discoveries* 16:3 (2009), 330–50.

Ulrich, Eugene. *The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Origins of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

VanderKam, James and Peter Flint. *The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls: Their Significance for Understanding the Bible, Judaism, Jesus and Christianity*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2004.

### **Critical Issues in New Testament**

Allison, Dale. *Constructing Jesus: Memory, Imagination, History*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2010.

Anderson, Janice Capel, and Stephen D. Moore. *Mark & Method: New Approaches in Biblical Studies*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.

- Bailey, Randall C., Tat-siong Benny Liew and Fernando F. Segovia, "Toward Minority Biblical Criticism: Framework, Contours, Dynamics," 3–44. In Randall C. Bailey, Tat-siong Liew, and Fernando Segovia, eds. *They Were All Together in One Place? Toward Minority Biblical Criticism*. Semeia Studies 57. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2009.
- Barclay, John M.G. *Paul and the Gift*. Eerdmans, 2015.
- Blount, Brian et al (ed). *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary*. Fortress, 2007 (prefatory material and chapter on Mark)
- Bowens, Lisa (ed). *African American Readings of Paul: Reception, Resistance, and Transformation*. Eerdmans, 2020.
- Byron, Gay L., and Vanessa Lovelace, eds. *Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse*. Semeia Studies 85. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2016. Introduction (pp 1-20) and choose 2 articles (rec'd = Staci Davis, Wil Gafney, Mitzi Smith).
- Culpepper, Alan R. *Anatomy of the Fourth Gospel: A Study in Literary Design*. Fortress, 1983.
- Dinkler, Michal Beth. *Literary Theory and the New Testament*. The Anchor Yale Bible Reference Library. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2019.
- Eisenbaum, Pamela. *Paul Was Not a Christian*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2009.
- Fredriksen, Paula. *The Pagan's Apostle*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017.
- Goodacre, Mark. *The Case Against Q: Studies in Markan Priority and the Synoptic Problem*. London: T & T Clark, 2002.
- Hays, Richard B. *Echoes of Scripture in the Letters of Paul*. New Haven, Conn.: Yale, 1993.
- Jennings, Willie James. "Renouncing Completeness: The Rich Ruler and the Possibilities of Biblical Scholarship without White Masculine Self-Sufficiency." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 140:4 (2021): 837–842.
- Johnson-DeBaufre, Melanie, and Laura S. Nasrallah. "Beyond the Heroic Paul: Toward a Feminist and Decolonizing Approach to the Letters of Paul." In *The Colonized Apostle: Paul Through Postcolonial Eyes*, edited by Christopher Stanley, 162–74. Paul in Critical Context. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011.
- Kloppenborg, John. *Excavating Q: The History and Setting of the Sayings Gospel*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2000.
- Larsen, Matthew D. C. *Gospels Before the Book*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.
- Marchal, Joseph A. *Appalling Bodies: Queer Figures Before and After Paul's Letters*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019.
- Martin, Clarice J. "A Chamberlain's Journey and the Challenge of Interpretation for Liberation." *Semeia* 47 (1989): 105-135.
- Matthews, Shelly. *Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity*. New York: Oxford UP, 2010.
- Smith, Mitzi J. *Womanist Sass and Talk Back: Social (In)Justice, Intersectionality, and Biblical Interpretation*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2018.
- Wilson, Brittany E. *Unmanly Men: Refigurations of Masculinity in Luke-Acts*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015, Chs. 1, 6, Conclusion.

### **Critical Issues in Early Christianity**

- Castelli, Elizabeth A. *Martyrdom and Memory: Early Christian Culture Making*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2004.
- Clark, Elizabeth A. *The Origenist Controversy: The Cultural Construction of an Early Christian Debate*. Princeton N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1992.
- Cobb, Christy and Eric M. Vanden Eykel. *Sex Violence and Early Christian Texts*. Lanham MD: Lexington Books, 2022. Chs. 3, 9, 11, 13.
- Frankfurter, David. *Christianizing Egypt: Syncretism and Local World in Late Antiquity*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017.
- Glancy, Jennifer A. *Slavery in Early Christianity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Grafton, Anthony, and Megan Williams. *Christianity and the Transformation of the Book: Origen, Eusebius, and the Library of Caesarea*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2008.
- Kloppenborg, John S. *Christ's Associations: Connecting and Belonging in the Ancient City*. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2019.
- Kotroisits, Maia. *The Lives of Objects: Material Culture, Experience, and the Real in the History of Early Christianity*. Chicago: University of Chicago, 2020.
- Knust, Jennifer and Zsuzsanna Varhelyi (eds.), *Ancient Mediterranean Sacrifice: Images, Acts, Meanings* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011). The following essays:
- Stowers, Stanley, "The Religion of Plant and Animal Offerings Versus the Religion of Meanings, Essences, and Textual Mysteries."
- Frankfurter, David, "Egyptian Religion and the Problem of the Category 'Sacrifice.'"
- Nasrallah, Laura, "The Embarrassment of Blood: Early Christians and Others on Sacrifice, War, and Rational Worship."
- Jacobs, Andrew S., "Passing: Jesus' Circumcision and Strategic Self-Sacrifice."
- Nasrallah, Laura, and Elizabeth Schüssler-Fiorenza, eds. *Prejudice and Christian Beginnings: Investigating Race, Gender, and Ethnicity in Early Christianity*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2009.
- Nongbri, Brent: *God's Library: The Archaeology of the Earliest Christian Manuscripts*, Yale University Press, 2018.

## **Foundations**

- Brown, Peter Robert Lamont. *The Body and Society: Men, Women, and Sexual Renunciation in Early Christianity*. Lectures on the History of Religions; New Series, No. 13. New York: Columbia University Press, 1988.
- Bultmann, Rudolf. *History of the Synoptic Tradition*. Multiple reprint editions.
- Carroll, Robert P. *When Prophecy Failed: Reactions and Responses to Failure in the Old Testament Prophetic Traditions*. London: SCM, 1979.
- Felder, Cain Hope, ed. *Stony the Road We Trod: African American Biblical Interpretation*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1991.
- Gottwald, Norman K. *The Tribes of Yahweh*. London: SCM, 1980.

- Gunn, David and D. N. Fewell, *Narrative in the Hebrew Bible*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.
- Kugel, James L. *The Idea of Biblical Poetry: Parallelism and Its History*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998. Ch. 1.
- Meeks, Wayne A. *The First Urban Christians: The Social World of the Apostle Paul*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1983.
- Muilenburg, James. "Form Criticism and Beyond." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 88, no. 1 (Mar. 1969): 1-18.
- Rad, Gerhard von. *Wisdom in Israel*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1972.
- Sanders, E.P. *Jesus and Judaism*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1985.
- Schussler Fiorenza, Elisabeth. *In Memory of Her: A Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Christian Origins*. New York: Crossroad, 1984, part 1 only.
- Smith, Jonathan Z. *Drudgery Divine: On the Comparison of Early Christianities and the Religions of Late Antiquity*. Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion 14. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990.
- Sugirtharajah, R. S. (ed). *Interpreting the Bible in the Third World*. 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2016.
- Trible, Phyllis. *Texts of Terror: Literary-feminist Readings of Biblical Narratives*. Overtures In Biblical Theology 13. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984.
- Weems Renita J. *Battered Love: Marriage Sex and Violence in the Hebrew Prophets*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.
- Wimbush, Vincent. "Interpreters—Enslaving/ Enslaved/Runagate." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 130/1 (2011): 5-24.

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