

READING LISTS: PREPARING FOR YOUR DEGREE (2009)

Buying and reading books before beginning a degree will prove immensely valuable. However, you are *not* expected to buy all or even most of the books here! All these books have been recommended by the people who will be teaching you, but you should browse and explore. The references are all linked to 'Amazon', and so you can compare the price and sometimes the content of the books. Choose whatever seems best.

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Degree Programmes

Find your degree title below, and click on module titles to view the books. Click book titles for Amazon, and section titles to return to this menu.

- **BA Abrahamic Religions: Judaism, Christianity & Islam**

- [General Introduction](#), [AR102: Judaism: Beliefs and Practices](#), [AR103: Christianity: Beliefs and Practices](#), [AR104: Islam: Beliefs and Practices](#), [PH101: Philosophy of Religion](#)

- **BA Philosophy**

- [General Philosophy](#), [PL101: Knowledge and Reality](#), [PL102: Introduction to Value](#), [PL103: Greek Philosophy](#), [PL104: Reason and Argument](#), [PL105: Philosophical Texts](#)

- **BA Philosophy, Religion and Ethics**

- [PH100: Introduction to Philosophy](#), [ST102: Introduction to Theology and Religion](#), [PH101: Philosophy of Religion](#), [PS100: Foundations of Christian Ethics](#)

- **BA Philosophy and Theology**

- [General Philosophy](#), [PL102: Introduction to Value](#), [PL101: Knowledge and Reality](#), [OT100: Introduction to Old Testament](#), [NT100: Introduction to New Testament](#), [CH102: Church History](#)

- **BA Psychology + Philosophy**

- [General Psychology](#), [General Philosophy](#), [PY100: Introduction to Psychology](#); [PY101: History and Concepts of Psychology](#), [PY102: Research Methods and Statistics](#), [PH100: Introduction to Philosophy](#), [PL101: Knowledge and Reality](#)

- **BA Psychology + Theology**

- [General Psychology](#), [PY100: Introduction to Psychology](#), [PY101: History and Concepts of Psychology](#), [PY102: Research Methods and Statistics](#), [NT100: Introduction to New Testament](#), [TH100: Introduction to Theology and Religion](#), [TH101: Human Person in Christian Tradition](#)

- **BA Theology**
 - OT100:Introduction to Old Testament, NT100:Introduction to New Testament, CH102:Church History, PS300:Christian Ethics, PH101:Philosophy of Religion
 - **BD (Bachelor of Divinity)**
 - OT100:Introduction to Old Testament, NT100:Introduction to New Testament, CH102:Church History, ST103:Fundamentals of Revelation, SR100:Religion and Religions, either PH101:Philosophy of Religion, or one of: OT101:Biblical Hebrew, NT101:New Testament Greek, LN100:Latin for Beginners, PS300:Christian Ethics
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General Introduction to Abrahamic Religions

- Jacob Neusner, *Religious Foundations of Western Civilization: Judaism, Christianity and Islam* (USA: Abingdon Press, US, 2006)
- F E Peters, *The Children of Abraham: Judaism, Christianity, Islam*, Princeton Classic Editions (Princeton University Press, 2004)
This is a short, challenging-to-read history of the development of these three religions, with chapters dedicated to such topics as Community and Hierarchy, Law, and Theology.

AR102: Judaism: Beliefs and Practices

- C.M. Pilkington, *Teach Yourself Judaism* (London: Hodder, 2003)
This text is clear, accessible and provides a good introduction to the course.
- It is worth becoming familiar with the website <http://www.myjewishlearning.com>.

AR103: Christianity: Beliefs and Practices

- Alister McGrath, *Christianity: An Introduction*, 2nd edition (Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2005)

AR104: Islam: Beliefs and Practices

- Abdullah Saeed, *Islamic Thought: An Introduction* (Routledge, 2006)
This book is a fresh and contemporary introduction to the philosophies and doctrines of Islam. The author traces the development of religious knowledge in Islam, from the pre-modern to the modern period. Exploring the influences of Islamic Art and Culture, and the Islamic texts of the Qur'an, and hadith, as well as Sufism, Islamic laws, and politics,

Islamic Thought is ideal for anyone who wants to understand more about Muslims and the Islamic faith.

- Carl W Ernst, *Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World* (University of North Carolina Press, 2003)
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General Psychology

- Andrew Colman, *What is Psychology?*, 3rd edition (London: Routledge, 1999)
This book is highly recommended. It provides a brief and readable overview of contemporary psychology, and is therefore an excellent text to prepare you for university study.

PY100: Introduction to Psychology

- Eysenck, Michael, editor, *Psychology: An Integrated Approach* (Harlow, UK: Pearson, 1998)
This book is an alternative to the main course text, to be chosen only if you prefer to sacrifice illustration in favour of a more detailed text. Most students will want to buy the Hewstone (2005) text instead.
- Hewstone, Miles, Fincham, Frank D. and Foster, Jonathan, editors, *Psychology* (UK: Blackwell, 2005)
*This is the **main course textbook**, and provides a good foundation for the study of psychology in general. It is beautifully presented and illustrated. Every student should have either a copy of this book, or a copy of the Eysenck (1998) text above. See the [publisher's website](#) for more details.*

PY101: History and Concepts of Psychology

- Ludy T. Benjamin, *A Brief History of Modern Psychology* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2007)
This is one of the two course texts. It is an enjoyable read, being accessible but scholarly. The book will prepare students well for the historical sections of the course.
- Michael Eysenck, *Perspectives on Psychology* (Hove: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 1994)
*This is the **best preparatory text**. It is interesting, accessible, short and inexpensive. The book will both prepare students for the course, and be a good reference along the way.*
- Elizabeth R Valentine, *Conceptual Issues in Psychology*, 2nd edition (London: Routledge, 1992)
This is one of the two course texts. Students often do purchase a copy of this book, but it is not an easy text to read before beginning the course.

PY102: Research Methods & Statistics for Psychology

- S. Alexander Haslam and Craig McGarty, *Research Methods and Statistics in Psychology* (London: Sage, 2003)

This is a critically important course textbook. Normally, all students will have their own copy of this. Given the nature of the course, it is well worth having your own copy.

General Philosophy

- Simon Blackburn, *Think: A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy* (Oxford: Oxford Paperbacks, 2001)
- A.C. Grayling, *Philosophy: A Guide Through The Subject* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998)
- Thomas Nagel, *What does it all mean?* (Oxford: OUP, 2004)
- Perry, John, Bratman, Michael and Fischer, John Martin, editors, *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, 4th edition (Oxford: OUP, 2006)
- John Cottingham, *Western Philosophy: An Anthology*, Blackwell Philosophy Anthologies (Oxford: WileyBlackwell, 1996)

PL101: Knowledge and Reality

- Michael Loux, *Metaphysics: A Contemporary Introduction*, Routledge Contemporary Introductions to Philosophy, 3rd edition (Routledge, 2006)
- Duncan Pritchard, *What is this thing called knowledge?* (Routledge, 2006)

PL102: Introduction to Value

PL103: Greek Philosophy

- Robin Waterfield, *The First Philosophers: The Presocratics and Sophists*, Oxford World's Classics (Oxford Paperbacks, 2009)
- Jonathan Barnes, *Early Greek Philosophy* (Penguin Classics, 2004)

PL104: Reason and Argument

- Stephen Law, *The Philosophy Gym* (Headline Book Publishing, 2004)
This is a general introduction to philosophy, which has some particular value for this course.
- Theodore Schick and Lewis Vaughn, *How to think about weird things* (McGraw Hill, 2007)

PL105: Philosophical Texts

- Cottingham, John, editor, *Rene Descartes: Meditations on First Philosophy: With Selections from the Objections and Replies* (Cambridge: CUP, 1986)
The very best introduction for students is to read Descartes.
- David Hume and T.L. Beauchamp, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Oxford Philosophical Texts (Oxford: OUP, 1999)

PH100: Introduction to Philosophy

- Anthony Kenny, *The Oxford Illustrated History of Western Philosophy*, Oxford Illustrated Histories (Oxford: OUP, 2001)
- Robert C Solomon and Kathleen M Higgins, *A Short History of Philosophy* (Oxford: OUP, 1996)

PH101: Philosophy of Religion

- Peter Vardy and Julie Arliss, *The Thinker's Guide to God* (Aldershot, UK: John Hunt Publishing, 2003)

OT100: Introduction to Old Testament

- Richard Coggins, *Introducing the Old Testament*, 2nd edition (Oxford University Press, 2001)

NT100: Introduction to New Testament

- *New Revised Standard Version Bible (Anglicized)*, popular text edition (OUP, 1995)
- *Revised Standard Version Bible (Anglicized)*, Common edition (Collins, 1984)

- David G Horrell, *An Introduction to the Study of Paul*, second revised edition (T & T Clark Ltd, 2006)
- Graham Stanton, *The Gospels and Jesus*, second revised edition (OUP, 2002)

CH102: Church History

- Richard Harries and Henry Mayr-Harting, *Christianity: Two Thousand Years* (Oxford University Press, 2001).
This is a concise and lively summary of the two thousand years of the history of Christianity, which will provide you with an outline sketch that the lectures will proceed to fill in.

ST102: Introduction to Theology and Religion

PS100: Foundations of Christian Ethics

- Richard Gula, *Reason Informed by Faith: Foundations of Catholic Morality* (Paulist Press International, 2001)

PS300: Christian Ethics

- Hoose, Bernard, editor, *Christian Ethics: An Introduction* (London: Continuum, 1998)
- Richard Gula, *Reason Informed by Faith: Foundations of Catholic Morality* (Paulist Press International, 2001)

OT101: Biblical Hebrew

NT101: New Testament Greek

We shall be starting with the Greek alphabet at the first lecture. No previous knowledge is required. Text books will be available for purchase (about £8) at the first lecture. It would be useful, but not necessary, to know (a) an outline of Greek History down to AD100, and (b) some of the most common Greek myths. Both of these are readily available in the children's section of a public library.

- G Abbot Smith, *A Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament* (T & T Clark Ltd, 19XX)
Later in the term, a dictionary will be required. Do not buy any other dictionary.

LN100: Latin for Beginners

The teaching of Latin will start from scratch. Text books will be provided at the first lecture. Suggestions about a Latin dictionary will be made at that time. It would be useful to know (a) an outline of the history of Rome and its Empire, (b) the common Roman myths and legends. Both of these could be found in the children's section of your local library.

SR100: Religion and Religions

Christian theological reflection on other religions remains an area where there has to be on-going creative exploration. These books represent a range of contemporary Catholic Christian approaches to the reality of religious pluralism. Each author aims to combine the central teaching of Christian faith with an openness to the presence of God in other religious traditions.

- Michael Barnes SJ, *Theology and the Dialogue of Religions* (Cambridge: CUP, 2002)
- Gavin D'Costa, *The Meeting of Religions and the Trinity* (T & T Clark Ltd, 2000)
- Jacques Dupuis SJ, *Christianity and the Religions* (Orbis, 2002)

ST103: Fundamentals of Revelation

- Avery Dulles, *Models of Revelation* (USA: Orbis Books, 1996 reprint)
It would be valuable for you to have read this book, very especially pp. 3-128. Ownership of this significant book, while not essential, would be a plus.

TH100: Introduction to Theology and Religion

TH101: Human Person in Christian Tradition