

Reading List for Teaching an Introductory Course in New Testament
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One approach to compiling a reading list such as this would be to focus on classic texts that have had major influence on the discipline. It would be difficult, however, to represent the current state of the discipline in this way. I have therefore chosen to concentrate on books that provide a broad overview of the background knowledge essential to a study of the New Testament, the methods currently employed by biblical scholars, and some of the issues that are under discussion. It is almost inevitable that a brief list of books essential to any discipline will be somewhat idiosyncratic, but it seems legitimate to suggest materials that are particularly complementary to the textbook from which the instructor is teaching. Since *Encounter with the New Testament* stresses a multiplicity of methods of study and a variety of perspectives on the New Testament, the following list reflects these interests. Since the list is intended to serve non-specialists in the field, I have limited myself to brief, non-technical treatments.

Bultmann, Rudolf, et al., Hans Werner, ed. *Kerygma and Myth: A Theological Debate*. New York: Harper and Row, 1961.

Contains Bultmann's classic statement on demythologizing/existentialist interpretation, "New Testament and Mythology," along with essays by five critics and Bultmann's reply.

Conzelmann, Hans. *History of Primitive Christianity*. Translated by John E. Steely. Nashville: Abingdon, 1973.

A brief account of the early Christian movement down to the end of the first century. Appendices on key figures in the movement and historical sources.

Elliott, John H., *What Is Social-Scientific Criticism? Guides to Biblical Scholarship*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.

A brief treatment of the rise of the use of the social sciences in biblical studies and the work of key figures in this movement.

Gowler, David B. *What Are They Saying about the Parables?* Mahwah: Paulist, 2000.

A survey of different approaches to interpreting the parables of Jesus apart from their contexts in the canonical writings—that is, as saying of the historical Jesus.

Keck, Leander E., *Paul and His Letters*. 2nd ed. Proclamation Commentaries. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985.

A succinct treatment of Paul's theology.

Krentz, Edgar, *The Historical-Critical Method*. Guides to Biblical Scholarship. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1975.

A brief treatment of the history and nature of historical criticism.

Powell, Mark Allan. *Jesus as a Figure in History: How Modern Historians View the Man from Galilee*. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1998.

A critical survey of various scholarly attempts to discover the historical person Jesus behind the New Testament writings.

Powell, Mark Allan. *What Is Narrative Criticism?* Guides to Biblical Scholarship. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990.

A guide to literary, as opposed to historical, criticism of the New Testament. Stresses narrative criticism but also treats reader-response, rhetorical, and structuralist approaches.

Roetzel, Calvin J. *The World That Shaped the New Testament*. Atlanta: John Knox, 1985.

A brief description of the Hellenistic and Jewish environments of early Christianity.

Segovia, Fernando F., and Tolbert, Mary Ann, eds. *Reading from this Place: Social Location and Biblical Interpretation in the United States*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995.

A collection of essays on biblical interpretation stressing the importance of the social location of the interpreter. Includes Asian, African American, and feminist perspectives and reflects an emphasis on human liberation.