Scripture Area (updated 20-Mar-2008)

Both Testaments

A one-volume Bible commentary with supporting essays. This is not required reading as a whole. But it is a reference work that all students should be familiar with. Please consult the index and the commentaries on the various biblical books mentioned in the questions below.

Highly acclaimed method-by-method study. Specialists describe and demonstrate the various methods of biblical criticism.

Various Roman Catholic perspectives; note esp. the articles by I. de la Potterie; R.A. Kereszty; P. Roose; and D. Farkasfalvy.

A clear statement of the Roman Catholic Church’s commitment to the scholarly study of scripture in the service of the Church’s teaching and pastoral ministries.


Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures

An illustration of narrative-critical approaches to the study of the Hebrew Bible.

An overview of the prophetic writings, including their historical context, literary development, and social location.

An evaluation by one of the most important archaeologists in the U.S. of the at times uneasy relationship between archaeology and biblical studies and the proposal of a new paradigm for that relationship.
Introduction to the books of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and an assessment of current scholarship.

A collection of ancient near eastern documents (material from the Nuzi archives, the stories of Gilgamesh, the Enuma Elish stories, the stories of Adapa, the Law Code of Hammurabi, to name a few) that shed light on some of the Old Testament texts. More accessible than the venerable “A.N.E.T.” (*Ancient Near Eastern Texts*).

A comprehensive account of the critical issues involved in reconstructing Israel’s history.


**NEW TESTAMENT**

The standard reconstruction of the development of the Johannine community and literature.

Like the *New Jerome Biblical Commentary* (see above), not to be read cover-to-cover. But this is an invaluable resource for studies in all aspects of New Testament criticism.

Dunn, James D. G. “Prologue” (pp. 1-26); “Adam” (pp. 79-101); “Israel” (pp. 500-532); “Ethics in practice” (pp. 670-712); and “Prolegomena to a Theology of Paul” (pp. 713-37); in Dunn, *The Theology of Paul the Apostle*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans; Cambridge, U.K.: Eerdmans, 1998.
The books as a whole is a magisterial summary of Paul’s thought, with rich bibliography. The five sections listed here chiefly concern Paul’s letter to the Romans.

A comprehensive survey of the hellenistic era, designed to provide a working context for New Testament studies. To be read with an eye for the principle themes and movements, rather than as a textbook whose facts are to be learned.

A detailed analysis of the formation of New Testament writings with a section on each book; concluding sections on the canon and text criticism. To be read selectively, in response to the M.A. questions.

A pioneering exploration of the social setting of Paul’s life and letters, and its importance for exegesis.
HISTORICAL AREA (updated 26-Oct-2009)

PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIAL

Marquette History of Theology. Most recent edition made available electronically to Marquette students by contacting the Theology Office. Ca. 1,000 pp. Table of Contents available for viewing by prospective students online at http://www.marquette.edu/theology/theologygraduateformsanddocuments.shtml.


Church History

The student is advised to study at least one general history of the church.

Recommended:


History of Doctrine and Theology

What is required for the M.A. comprehensive examination is familiarity with major developments and leading theological authors from the close of the New Testament period to the beginning of the nineteenth century (i.e., through the Enlightenment). This will require familiarity with and use of some recent works of reference as well as narrative presentations. Both encyclopedia articles and narrative histories will serve as necessary companions to the selected primary sources in the Marquette History of Theology.

Recommended:

Cunliffe-Jones, Hubert and Drewery, Benjamin, eds. A History of Christian Doctrine. 1978, Edinburgh: Clark, pb. 1997x, 601 pp. A collective work attempting to cover the history of doctrine and theology. Not all essays in Cunliffe-Jones are required reading, but one should be familiar with the matter of the first 310 pages (by G.W.H. Lampe on patristic, Kallistos Ware on Byzantine, David Knowles on medieval, and E. Gordon Rupp on late medieval theology). Include also Ware’s “A Note on Theology in the Christian East: The Eighteenth to Twentieth Centuries,” pp. 453-57.


For the Enlightenment:
SYSTEMATICS/THEOLOGICAL ETHICS (updated May-2018)

SYSTEMATICS

The purpose of this portion of the M.A. Examination is to insure that students are familiar with central issues and essential terminology in contemporary Systematic Theology. At the very least, the M.A. student should be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of the nature of theology, revelation, and Christology in Christian theology, and should be able to discuss some examples of serious theological literature and topics. The scope of contemporary theological discussion and the number of potential current and historical theological conversation partners is vast. The bibliography and the groupings below represent an admittedly limited and pragmatic selection. The aim of this bibliography is to provide an ecumenically sensitive reading list for the examination that is manageable both for students who have completed M.A. course work at Marquette and for students coming to the Ph.D. Program with M.A. or M.Div. degrees from other institutions. The examination questions are based on this list of readings, but the student can draw from other texts by these chosen theologians.

General Resources


Group I


Group II


**Group III**


**Group IV**


**THEOLOGICAL ETHICS**

1. **History of Theological Ethics**


2. **Scripture and Ethics**


3. **Natural Law**

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* I-II, qq. 90, 91, 94. Available at newadvent.org/summa, or any translation of the student’s choice may be used.


4. **Catholic Social Teaching**

Pope Leo XIII, *Rerum Novarum* (The Condition of Labor) 1891*

Pope Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio* (On the Development of Peoples) 1967*

Pope John Paul II, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* (On Social Concern) 1987*

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’* (On Care for Our Common Home) 2015*


5. Feminist, Womanist and Latina Ethics


6. Liberationist Ethics


7. Sexuality

Pope Paul VI, Humanae Vitae (On Human Life), 1968.*


8. Peace


*Papal encyclicals can be found on the Vatican website, Vatican.va. The English translations are assigned. gene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2008).