Basic Bibliography

compiled by Eli Reich (with additions by faculty)

The following books are *representative* of current academic scholarship in the various fields taught at the School of Jewish Theology. A bibliography of this kind is unavoidably subjective (i.e., reflecting the judgment of the compiler) and to some extent arbitrary. The two lists offered here are meant to be *suggestive* of the *kind of scholarship* that a graduate at the B.A and M.A level should be familiar with. The purpose of the list is to point the student beginning his or her studies in the field of Jewish Theology to books that share certain academic perspectives, a set of assumptions and methods.

In other words, the list is far from complete and doesn’t strive to be exhaustive. Therefore please approach this as an open-ended list, a work-in-progress. Hopefully other faculty members will enrich the list with their suggestions. Some books are also available in Hebrew (H) or German (G). All of the books are in print, and most are available at a reasonable price.

Books recommended by other faculty members:

**General** & **Basic Introductions**

Andreas Nachama, Walter Homolka**,** Hartmut Bomhoff, *Basiswissen Judentum* (2015)

Stemberger, Günter, *Einleitung in Talmud und Midrasch*(2011)

**B.A. Level**

**General & Basic Introductions**

Baskin, Judith, ed. *The Cambridge Guide to Jewish History, Religion, and Culture (*2010)

**Bible**

Levenson, Jon, *Sinai & Zion: An Entry Into The Jewish Bible* (1985)

Grossman, Avraham, *Rashi* (2012) (H)

**Halakhah**

Ellenson, David and Gordis, Daniel, *Pledges of Jewish Allegiance: Conversion, Law, and Policymaking in Nineteenth- And Twentieth-Century Orthodox Responsa* (2012) (H)

**Rabbinic Literature**

Boyarin, Daniel, *Intertextuality and the Reading of Midrash*(1994) (H)

**Jewish Philosophy&Mysticism**

Scholem, Gershom, *The Messianic Idea in Judaism: And Other Essays on Jewish Spirituality* (1995) (chapters: 1, 4, 8, 12) (H)

Scholem, Gershom, *On the Kabbalah and its Symbolism* (1996) (chapters: 2, 4) (H)

Halbertal, Moshe*, Maimonides: Life and Thought* (2013) (H)

Dan, Joseph, *Kabbalah: A Very Short Introduction* (2007) (G)

Gillman, Neil, *Sacred Fragments - Recovering Theology for the Modern Jew* (1990)

**Jewish History**

Brenner, Michael, *A Short History of the Jews* (2010) (G)

Eisen, Arnold, *Rethinking Modern Judaism*

**Liturgy**

Hoffman, Lawrence, *Beyond the Text: A Holistic Approach to Liturgy*(1987)

**M.A Level**

**Bible**

Kugel, James, *How To Read the Bible: A Guide to Scripture, Then and Now* (2008)

**Halakhah**

Elon, Menachem, *Jewish Law: History, Sources, Principles* (1994) (H)

Katz, Jacob, *The Shabbes Goy*(1992) (H)

**Rabbinic Literature**

Boyarin, Daniel, *Carnal Isræl: Reading Sex in Talmudic Culture*(1995) (H)

**Jewish Philosophy&Religion&Mysticism**

Etkes, Immanuel, *The Besht: Magician, Mystic, and Leader* (2012) (H)

Green, Arthur, *Radical Judaism: Rethinking God and Tradition* (2010) (H)

Hartman, David, *A Living Covenant: Innovative Spirit in Traditional Judaism* (1998) (H)

Idel, Moshe, *Kabbalah: New Perspectives*(1990) (H)

Scholem, Gershom, *On the Mystical Shape of the Godhead: Basic Concepts in the Kabbalah* (1997) (H)

**Jewish History**

Biale, David, *Cultures of the Jews: A New History* (2002)

Feiner, Shmuel, *The Jewish Enlightenment* (2011) (H)

Zerubavel, Yael, *Recovered Roots: Collective Memory and the Making of Israeli National Tradition* (1997)

Schwartz, Seth, *Imperialism and Jewish Society: 200 B.C.E. to 640 C.E* (2004)

**Liturgy**

Langer, Ruth*, To Worship God Properly: Tensions Between Liturgical Custom and Halakhah in Judaism*(1998)