

# How to Reference 4 Common Theology Resources

## The Bible

For the most part you need to reference the Bible in its abbreviated form as an in text reference. For example, you have just quoted Genesis 1:3-5, so you would put (Gen 1:3-5) after the quote. You do not need to specify the type or edition of the Bible or include page numbers. The chapter and verse designation is enough information.

If you want to be safe, you can include a footnote at the beginning of your essay to say that all your biblical citations come from a particular Bible, in which case you would use the standard book format, excluding the author's name. i.e. *Title in Italics*, (Publication Place: Company, Date). The same goes for your bibliography entry.

An exception to this: if you are using commentary from your Bible, and not the biblical text itself (for example, some Bibles are study editions, or have other extra introductory bits), then you need to reference this as an edited book entry.

i.e. Last Name, Initial. "Title of Chapter or Article." In *Title of Book in Italics*. Edited by First Name Last Name, pages 1st-last of chap or article. Pub Place: Company, Date. You will have to work out the name of the editor, which can sometimes be quite tricky, and your entries will have to go into the footnotes every time you use this source, as well as going into your bibliography as a separate source.

## Vatican Documents

Just like the Bible references, Vatican Documents have their own funny referencing system. Only the first reference to a document goes in the footnotes, as well as going into the text in ( ).

Please note: Vatican Documents are not referenced by their page numbers, but by their paragraph numbers. They are also referred to by their initials, but these come from their Latin titles, not their English ones.

For example, *Lumen Gentium* is LG, *Gaudium et Spes* is GS. Don't make these up yourself – there is a list of abbreviations which are acceptable.

For your in text referencing, the first reference is the full Latin title plus the paragraph number (*Lumen Gentium* 3). All the rest of your references are the abbreviated versions (LG 4-5).

Please remember that all foreign words, including these document titles, need to be in italics.

These references also come before the punctuation, unlike the footnote markers, which come after it.

## Tutes and Lectures

These need to be referenced as close to an edited book ref as possible.

For example:

- Author = your lecturer or tutor
- Chapter Title = the title of the lecture or tutorial for that particular week
- Book Title = the title of the subject
- Publication details = the place, time and date that the lecture or tute was held on.

### Footnote example:

Lucienne Paul, "Tutorial on Genesis 1," *THEO101 Biblical Studies*, (Sydney: City University, 21st February 2014).

### Bibliography example:

Paul, L. "Tutorial on Genesis 1." *THEO101 Biblical Studies*. Sydney: City University, 21st February 2014.

In the footnote reference, you could include a PowerPoint slide number if you knew which slide the info came from, and if this was applicable. This is not essential, however, unless you are quoting directly from one of the slides.

Be very careful quoting what is said in lectures and tutes. It is much safer to paraphrase, just in case you misquote. Remember that the person who is marking your essay is the person who you are quoting. Getting it wrong in those circumstances is a really, really bad idea.

## Books of Readings

Most books of readings are compilations of chapters and journal articles put together by your lecturer. These need to be referenced as edited books. For example:

Jones, T. "What is History?" In *HIST100 Introduction to Historiography*. Edited by John Smith, 55-71. Sydney: City University, 2010.

## Final Note

The biggest issue with referencing is consistency. The style itself does matter of course, but if you are making the same one mistake (for example, if you get your publication company and place in the opposite order) in every reference, it is better than making lots of smaller, random mistakes. Be consistent!

Source: Breingan, L, *Beginning Theology: An Introduction for Students*, 78-84, Preston, VIC: Mosaic Press, 2013.