The Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) Citation Style

This citation style is the format used for most papers written within the Biblical and Theological Studies department (Intro. To Bible, J courses, etc.). Further information for any other type of sources than those listed here can be found in The SBL Handbook of Style, located in both the University and Seminary Reference sections.

These examples will be listed as follows: general bibliographic format, specific bibliography example, in-text citation format and example.

A Book by a Single Author:

Last name of author, First name. Title in Italic. City of Publication: Publisher, Year.


(Last name Year, Page No.) (Rasmussen 1986, 68)

*For two or three authors:

Last name of author 1, First name, and First name Last name of author 2. (continue as listed above).

Rasmussen, Carl, and Mark Reasoner.

A Journal Article

Last name of author, First name. “Article Title.” Journal Title in Italic vol. #, no. # (Year of Issue): Page numbers of article.


(Last name Year, Page No.) (Holmes 2005, 145)

An Article in an Encyclopedia or a Dictionary

Last name of author, First name. “Article Title.” Pages # - # in vol. # of Title of Ency. Or Dictionary. Edited by Name of Editor. No. of Volumes. City of Publication: Publisher, Year.


(Last name Year, Page No.) (Novakovic 1995, 4)

*If no author is listed, begin entry with the article title. The in-text citation will use the title as well.
Bible Commentaries

Last name of author, First name. *Specific Commentary Title in Italics.* General Commentary Title #. City of Publication: Publisher, Year.


(Last name Year, Page No.) (Eddy 1987, 65)

Internet Sources

Last name of Author (if there is one listed), First name. “Article Title.” No pages. Date you found information on the site (format Day Month Year). Online: http://www.fullwebaddress.


Scripture In-text References


*The translation/version used is listed only at the first reference, and says that all following Biblical citations in the paper will be from that same translation. Normally, the professor decides where he/she wants this written (footnoted, or within the citation itself).

General Reminders:

*Citations should be listed in alphabetical order
*Single-Spaced
*Hanging Indent
*Check the Handbook if you need to!