

# Choosing a Bible for College Study

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There are many English translations available. For college classes, I recommend **formal correspondence translations**, which strive to stay as close as possible to a word-for-word translation from the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts:

- Revised Standard Version (RSV) and New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). Protestant translations sponsored by the National Council of Churches in the tradition of the KJV.
- New International Version (NIV) and Today's New International Version (TNIV). Protestant Evangelical translations.
- New Jewish Publication Society (NJPS). Jewish translation of the Hebrew Scriptures only.
- The New American Bible (NAB), a Roman Catholic translation, is a mix of formal correspondence and dynamic equivalence.
- [The Common English Bible](#) is a new, fresh translation of the Bible by scholars representing a wide range of Christian groups and denominations. **ISBN-10: 1609260155**. This edition lists on Amazon for \$14.95.

The other translation approach is called “dynamic equivalence,” which strives to translate the **meaning** of the ancient texts. These translations often are easier and more enjoyable to read, but you should be aware that the translators have made many interpretive decisions. Dynamic equivalence translations include the Good News Translation (GNT), the Contemporary English Version (CEV), and the Revised English Bible (REB). The CEV is written at a grade-school level. The REB is a British English translation.

Some students may want to invest in a study Bible. There are many types of study Bibles available. For college classes, I recommend study Bibles that provide historical and cultural background information. *Keep in mind that all study Bibles have a bias. If you use any study Bible, do not confuse the editorial notes and commentary with the text itself.*

- [The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha: New Revised Standard Version](#), edited by Michael Coogan (Oxford University Press, 4th ed., 2010). ISBN-10: 0195289552. ISBN-13: 978-0195289558. \$45.00 list price.
- [The New Interpreter's Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version With the Apocrypha](#), edited by Walter J. Harrelson (Abingdon Press, 2003). ISBN-10: 0687278325. ISBN-13: 978-0687278329. \$48.00 list price.
- [The HarperCollins Study Bible: Fully Revised & Updated](#), edited by Harold W. Attridge (HarperOne, Rev. ed., 2006). ISBN-10: 006078685X. ISBN-13: 978-0060786854. \$44.99 list price.
- [The Catholic Study Bible Second Edition](#), edited by Donald Senior and John Collins (Oxford University Press, 2nd ed., 2011). ISBN-10: 019529775X; ISBN-13: 978-0195297751 \$49.99 list price.

For Rel 225, The Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East, you could purchase a Jewish study Bible:

[The Jewish Study Bible](#), edited by Adele Berlin (Oxford University Press, 2004). ISBN-10: 0195297512. ISBN-13: 978- 0195297515. \$45.00 list price.

The list price is for the hardbound editions. Paperbound editions are also available. An older edition of one of these Bibles would be fine to use. I recommend BetterWorldBooks <http://www.betterworldbooks.com/> and ABEBooks (<http://www.abebooks.com/> ) for used and new books. Amazon and Barnes & Noble both offer good discounts, if you like shopping at either of those stores