Rel. 500A: The Citation of Patristic and Medieval Theologians: A Supplement to Turabian
Dr. Ramón Luzárraga

Unfortunately, both Turabian and the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* don’t offer much detail as how to cite patristic and medieval primary sources in theology. For our purposes, as a general rule, the best thing to do is to follow the lead of other theologians, especially those who specialize in patristic and/or medieval theology.

However, it is useful to be versed in some basics considering that it is a near-inevitability that you’ll cite the leading patristic and medieval theologians in your work at some point during your program.

1. In professional articles, medieval theologians are referenced by their names alone, without titles (e.g., St., pope, bishop, etc.) Exception is given to popes insofar as the number (or sometimes title) after their name (e.g., Gregory I or Gregory the Great).

2. As Turabian points out, the works of the scholastics are cited by title. They are abbreviated too. (e.g. Aquinas’ *Summa theologiae* is *ST*, *Summa contra gentiles*, *SCG*, etc.) Again, consult scholars and sources in the field to determine the proper way to abbreviate sources.

3. The typical way medieval sources are cited is the following way. The title is followed by as many section details necessary to enable the reader to quickly track down the source. Do not ever use the page numbers of your edition. There are so many editions of patristic and medieval works that one should follow the subdivisions the authors or their editors used.

   For example: Suppose you want to cite something from the second book, first chapter, fourth paragraph, of St. Augustine’s *De Trinitate*. The citation goes like this. *De Trin*, II, 1, 4. Sometimes, the whole title can be used, depending on for whom you’re writing. Of course, you may ask your professor or publisher if you are not sure.

4. The more complicated the work, the more detailed the subdivisions.

   For example: St. Thomas Aquinas’ *Summas*. Suppose you want to cite something from Part I-II, question 50, article 2, the citation would be ST I-II, 50, 2. That can vary among sources. Sometimes that source will be cited this way ST I-II, q. 50, a. 2. Again, check before you cite.

5. Multiple sources from the same author are cited with title and subdivisions to avoid confusion among sources. If you cite the same source consecutively more than once, the subdivisions alone suffice.

6. Save the bibliographical information for the edition of the patristic or medieval source you are using for the bibliography. They do not belong in the footnotes or the endnotes. Take care to use the proper citation style for multi-volume works when applicable.