

## REVIEWER INSTRUCTIONS

Every review submitted to *RBL* should conform to the following minimum standards.

1. Ideally, the review will be **1,000–1,500** words in length. In some cases a review will require greater detail than 1,500 words allows, and this is acceptable provided that you advise the Managing Editor (rbladministrator@bookreviews.org) of the reasons for submitting a longer review.

**Reviews shorter than 1,000 words will be returned for revision**, and *RBL* does not guarantee publication of any review whose content is deemed inadequate.

2. The review should contain, at the minimum, an informative **summary of a book's contents and argument** (chapter by chapter) as well as scholarly interaction with its **strengths and weaknesses**.

Reviews of **collected essays** should offer a brief (two- to three-sentence) summary of each essay as well as an overall assessment of a book's contribution to the field.

Reviews of **later editions** (e.g., second or third edition) should not only summarize and interact with the book but also identify how this edition differs from a previous edition.

3. Reviewers are free to register disagreement with the views of a work under review, **but not at the expense of providing a substantive summary of the book**. As a rule of thumb, one should devote two-thirds of the review to informing readers of what the book contains before ending with personal assessment.

The review should **not contain personal or ad hominem attacks**. A negative review does not constitute a personal attack, but it does require special care to ensure that the criticism is fair and fact-oriented.

4. **Quotations** from the book under review should be cited by page number. References to other works should include enough information to allow easy location of the work being referenced.
5. The review should adhere to *The SBL Handbook of Style for Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies*. When rendering an ancient language, please use either a Unicode-compliant font or the following: SPTiberian for Hebrew; SPIonic for Greek; and SPAtlantis for transliteration (free downloads for PC or for Macintosh at: [http://www.sbl-site.org/Resources/Resources\\_BiblicalFonts.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/Resources/Resources_BiblicalFonts.aspx)).

6. Please include within the review your **name** as you would like it to appear, your **institutional affiliation** (if any), and your complete **mailing address**.
7. The review must be saved either as a **Microsoft Word document** with a .doc extension or in **Rich Text Format** with an .rtf extension. The site will not accept documents without these extensions or in other formats. If you do not use Microsoft Word, most word processors will allow you to save the document in Rich Text Format (choose Save As and change the file type to Rich Text Format).
8. When the book is mailed, you will receive an email with a web link to a page where you may upload your review. **Reviews should be submitted directly to the website** using this link but may, if necessary, be emailed as an attachment to the Managing Editor (rbladministrator@bookreviews.org).
9. After a review has been uploaded, it is assigned to an *RBL* editorial board member, who reads it to ensure that it meets the standards outlined above. Given the high volume of reviews that *RBL* processes (ca. five hundred per year), please allow **three to four months** for publication.