Common Abbreviations

- a.m. – ante meridiem
- p.m. – post meridiem
- cf. – confer – “bring together”, “compare” – imperative of conferre
- ead. – eadem – “the same (woman)” – used to avoid repeating a female author’s name
- et al. – et alii/alia – “and others” – for people
- etc. – et cetera – “and (the) others/rest” – not for people
- e.g. – exempli gratia – “for example”, “for instance” – introduces an example, as opposed to an explanation
- f. (ff.) – folio/foliis – “and following” – unspecified number of pages following specific page
- ibid. – ibidem – “in the same place” – usually with a page number
- id. – idem – “the same (man)” – used to avoid repeating a male author’s name in citations
- i.e. – id est – “that is”, “in other words” – introduces an explanation (as opposed to an example)
- op. cit. – opera citatio – “in the work cited” – roughly akin to ibid, but more general
- pro tem. – pro tempore – “for the time being”, “temporarily”
- Q.E.D. – quod erat demonstrandum – “that which was to be demonstrated”
- r. – regnavit (rexit) – “he/she reigned/ruled” – used with monarchs to indicate regnal years as opposed to birth and death dates
- R.I.P. – requiesca(n)t in pace – “may he/she/they rest in peace”
- sc. – scilicet – “it is permitted to know” – parenthetic clarification, potentially of an omitted word
- Sic – sic erat scriptum – “thus it was written” – indicates preserved mistake in a quotation
- viz. – videlicet – “namely”, “to wit”, “that is to say” – detailed, potentially complete list