

Associated Canadian Theological Schools

BIE 640A: The Septuagint in Early Jewish and Christian Traditions

Robert J. V. Hiebert, PhD
Professor of Old Testament
Spring - 2010
3 credit hours

Prerequisites: Research Strategies (RES 500); 2
Greek courses (BIL 500, 501 or equivalents);
some knowledge of Hebrew is desirable but not
required.

E-mail: robh@twu.ca
Phone: 604-888-7511, ext. 3842
Class Dates: Thursdays
Class time: 8:30 – 9:50 a.m.
11:00 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

I. Course Description

This course will focus on the reception history of the Septuagint in both Jewish and Christian canonical contexts, and in the works of early Jewish and Christian translators, revisors, and authors. The evidence for the transmission and interpretation of the Scriptures will be explored against the backdrop of this history, and selected texts will be studied.

II. Objectives

By the end of this course, each student should have gained a greater understanding of:

- 1) the textual history of the Greek Jewish Scriptures;
- 2) the relationship between Greek and Hebrew versions of the Old Testament;
- 3) the significance of these versions for the Jewish and Christian faith traditions and the relationships between them;
- 4) the nature of the developments that took place within these textual traditions;
- 5) the history of the interpretation of the Greek Jewish Scriptures;
- 6) the significance of these versions for our understanding of current versions of the Bible.

III. Course Textbooks

Fernández Marcos, Natalio. *The Septuagint in Context: An Introduction to the Greek Versions of the Bible*. Translated by Wilfred G. E. Watson. Leiden: Brill, 2000. [NFM]

Frederick Field's Prolegomena to Origenis Hexaplorum Quae Supersunt sive Veterum Interpretum Graecorum in Totum Vetus Testamentum Fragmenta. Translated and annotated by Gérard J. Norton, with collaboration of Carmen Hardin. Cahiers de la Revue Biblique 62. Paris: J. Gabalda et Cie Éditeurs, 2005. [FN]

NB: Students are expected to read at least 1000 pages for this course (including the textbooks).

IV. Course Assignments

Typically, a student is expected to spend approximately 40 hours to complete the work necessary to earn 1 semester hour of credit, hence 120 hours for a 3 credit course. This includes time spent in class, so unexcused absences will result in grade reductions. If a student is absent from more than two classes for any reason, s/he will either be required to do make-up work to avoid further

grade reductions or will have to retake the course to receive credit for it, depending on the number of absences. For full credit, assignments must be completed on time. Grades for late written work will be reduced 5% per day (weekends = 1 day) to a maximum reduction of 35%. All assignments must be completed in order to receive credit for this course. Those that have not come in by April 9, 2010 will not be accepted.

Several kinds of assignments have been created to help the student work through the required material in a meaningful way and to understand the basic issues involved in the study of this part of the Bible.

1) Readings:

Students will be expected to read the texts by Fernández Marcos and Field/Norton, as well as 500 pages of additional materials including those consulted as part of research for the following assignments. A 500 word reading report along with the signed reading statement is due on April 8. This will be worth 10% of the total grade.

2) Class Presentations and Papers:

Among those who have played a part in the reception history of the Septuagint are Demetrius the Chronographer, Eupolemus, Artapanus, Philo of Alexandria, Josephus, the New Testament authors, Clement of Rome, Aquila, Symmachus, Theodotion, Irenaeus of Lyons, Origen, Gregory Thaumaturgos, Lucian of Antioch, Eusebius Pamphilius of Caesarea, Athanasius of Alexandria, Basil of Caesarea (Basil the Great), Gregory of Nazianzus, Gregory of Nyssa, John Chrysostom, Theodore of Mopsuestia, Cyril of Alexandria, and Theodoret of Cyrus/Cyrrhus. Some of these individuals and their writings will be dealt with in textbook readings and in lectures by the professor, and some will be the focus of class presentations by students. Each student will prepare a 3000 word paper on one of the individuals selected from the preceding list. These papers will provide some background information on the individuals selected but will focus mostly on the way they make use of, and interpret, the Greek biblical text. Students will present these papers in class, providing copies for the others in the seminar. These assignments will be worth 40% of the total grade.

3) Research Paper:

Students will write a 4000 word paper on an aspect of the reception history of the Greek Bible within either the Jewish or Christian traditions. Potential subject areas for this paper include the distinction between the production and the reception history of the Septuagint, the reception history of a specific passage in the Septuagint, a study of one of the non-Septuagintal translations or one of the recensions of the Septuagint, or an analysis of the use and interpretation of the Greek Jewish Scriptures by one of the early Jewish or Christian interpreters. Students should clear the topics on which they would like to write with the professor before embarking on their research. This paper will be worth 40% of the total grade and is due on April 8.

4) Class Preparedness and Participation:

Students will be evaluated by the professor with respect to their preparedness for, and involvement in, classroom discussions. This will involve 10% of the overall grade.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Assessment	Grade Point
A+	Superior	4.30
A	Excellent	4.00
A-	Very Good	3.70
B+	Proficient	3.30
B	Good	3.00
B-	Average	2.70
C+	Adequate	2.30
C	Acceptable	2.00
C-	Needs Work	1.70
F	Below Standard	0.00

Grade Allocations

1. Text readings and reading report	10%
2. Class presentation	40%
3. Research paper	40%
4. Class preparedness and participation	10%

V. Submission of Assignments

Students may feel free to submit assignments in electronic form.

VI. Course Outline

- Jan. 14 Introduction: Linguistic and Cultural Context of the Septuagint
Read NFM, ch. 1-2
- 21 Septuagint Origins: Early Traditions and Recent Theories
Read NFM, ch. 3-4
- 28 Septuagint Origins: the Hebrew Text; Double Texts; Targumism
Read NFM, ch. 5-6
- Feb. 4 The Septuagint in Jewish Tradition: Aquila; Symmachus
Read NFM, ch. 7-8; FN, ch. 2-3
- 11 The Septuagint in Jewish Tradition: Theodotion and *καίγε*
Read NFM, ch. 9; FN, ch. 4
- 18 The Septuagint in Jewish Tradition: Other Ancient Versions
Read NFM, ch. 10-11; FN, ch. 5, 8
- 25 NO CLASS (Reading Week & Modular Courses)
- March 4 The Septuagint in Christian Tradition: Origen's Hexapla
Read NFM, ch. 12-13; FN, Prefaces, ch. 1, 6-7, 10-11
- 11 The Septuagint in Christian Tradition: Lucian; Hesychius
Read NFM, ch. 14-15, FN, ch. 9
- 18 The Septuagint in Christian Tradition: Other Revisions; Quotations
Read NFM, ch. 16-17

- March 25 The Septuagint in Christian Tradition: Interpretative Genres
Read NFM, ch. 18-19
- April 1 The Septuagint and Christian Origins: Hellenism; the New Testament
Read NFM, ch. 20-21
- 8 The Septuagint and Christian Origins: Church Fathers
Read NFM, ch. 22

VII. Select Bibliography

- A Dictionary of Christian Biography*. 4 vols. Edited by William Smith and Henry Wace. London: John Murray, 1877-87.
- Aejmelaeus, Anneli. *On the Trail of the Septuagint Translators: Collected Essays*. Kampen: Kok Pharos, 1993.
- A New English Translation of the Septuagint*. Edited by Albert Pietersma and Benjamin Wright. New York / Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007. [NETS]
- Brock, Sebastian P., Charles T. Fritsch and Sidney Jellicoe. *A Classified Bibliography of the Septuagint*. ALGHJ 6. Leiden: Brill, 1973.
- Bulletin of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies*. 1968–.
- Conybeare, Frederick C. and St. George Stock. *A Grammar of Septuagint Greek*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980.
- Danker, Frederick W., rev. and ed. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.
- Dogniez, Cécile. *Bibliography of the Septuagint = Bibliographie de la Septante: (1970-1993)*. Leiden: Brill, 1995.
- Hatch, Edwin and Henry A. Redpath. *A Concordance to the Septuagint and the Other Greek Versions of the Old Testament*. 3 vols. Oxford: Clarendon, 1897-1906. One-volume reprint including Takamitsu Muraoka's *Hebrew/Aramaic Index to the Septuagint*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.
- Hengel, Martin. *The Septuagint as Christian Scripture: Its Prehistory and the Problem of Its Canon*. Roland Deines, ed. Mark E. Biddle, trans. London / New York: T & T Clark International, 2004.
- Hiebert, Robert J. V. *The "Syrohexaplaric" Psalter*. SBLSCS 27. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1989.
- Hiebert, Robert J. V., Claude E. Cox and Peter J. Gentry, eds. *The Old Greek Psalter*. Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series 332. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2001.
- Holladay, Carl R. *Fragments from Hellenistic Jewish Authors*. 2 vols. SBL Texts and Translations Pseudepigrapha Series. Chico: Scholars Press, 1983 [vol. 1]. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1989 [vol. 2].
- Jellicoe, Sidney. *The Septuagint and Modern Study*. Ann Arbor: Eisenbrauns, 1978; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1968.
- , ed. *Studies in the Septuagint: Origins, Recensions, and Interpretations*. Library of Biblical Studies. New York: Ktav, 1974.
- Kraus, Wolfgang and R. Glenn Wooden, eds. *Septuagint Research: Issues and Challenges in the Study of the Greek Jewish Scriptures*. SBLSCS 53. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2006.

- Lampe, G. W. H. *A Patristic Greek Lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1961-68.
- Lee, J. A. L. *A Lexical Study of the Septuagint Version of the Pentateuch*. Society of Biblical Literature Septuagint and Cognate Studies 14. Chico: Scholars Press, 1983.
- Liddell, Henry G., Robert Scott, and Henry S. Jones. *A Greek-English Lexicon*. 9th ed. with Supplement. Oxford: Clarendon, 1996.
- Louw, Johannes P. and Eugene A. Nida, eds. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains*. 2nd ed. New York: United Bible Societies, 1988, 1989.
- Lust, J., E. Eynikel and K. Hauspie. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint*, rev. ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2003.
- McLay, R. Timothy. *The Use of the Septuagint in New Testament Research*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Moulton, J. H. and G. Milligan. *The Vocabulary of the Greek Testament: Illustrated from the Papyri and Other Non-Literary Sources*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985.
- Müller, Mogens. *The First Bible of the Church: A Plea for the Septuagint*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1996.
- Muraoka, T. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint*. Louvain: Peeters, 2009.
- Peters, Melvin K. H. *XIII Congress of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies, Ljubljana, 2007*. SBLSCS 55. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2008.
- Schürer, Emil. *The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ (175 B.C. – A.D. 135)*. 3 vols. in 4. Rev. ed. F. Millar, G. Vermes and M. Goodman. Edinburgh: Clark, 1973-87.
- Septuaginta, id est Vetus Testamentum graece iuxta SEPTUAGINT interpretes*. Edited by Alfred Rahlfs. 2 vols. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1935.
- Septuaginta: Vetus Testamentum Graecum auctoritate Academiae Litterarum Göttingensis editum*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1966—.
- Smyth, Herbert W. *Greek Grammar*. Gordon M. Messing, rev. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1956.
- Society of Biblical Literature Septuagint and Cognate Studies [SBLSCS] monograph series, 1972—.
- Stone, Michael E., ed. *Jewish Writings of the Second Temple Period: Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, Qumran Sectarian Writings, Philo, Josephus*. CRINT 2.2. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984.
- Swete, Henry B. *An Introduction to the Old Testament in Greek*, 2d ed. Richard R. Ottley, rev. New York: Ktav, 1968; Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1902.
- Taylor, Bernard, ed. *X Congress of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies: Oslo, 1998*. SBLSCS 51. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2001.
- Tcherikover, Victor A. *Hellenistic Civilization and the Jews*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1959; reprint ed. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1999.
- Thackeray, Henry St. John. *A Grammar of the Old Testament in Greek according to the Septuagint*, vol. 1: *Introduction, Orthography and Accidence*. Cambridge: University Press, 1909.
- Thesaurus Linguae Graecae. [Accessible online via the TWU library website]
- Toury, Gideon. *Descriptive Translation Studies and Beyond*. Benjamins Translation Library 4. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1995.

- Tov, Emanuel. *The Greek and Hebrew Bible—Collected Essays on the Septuagint*. VTSup 72. Leiden: Brill, 1999.
- Wevers, John William. *Notes on the Greek Text of Genesis*. SBLSCS 35. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1993.
- . *Notes on the Greek Text of Exodus*. SBLSCS 30. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1990.
- . *Notes on the Greek Text of Leviticus*. SBLSCS 44. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1997.
- . *Notes on the Greek Text of Numbers*. SBLSCS 46. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1998.
- . *Notes on the Greek Text of Deuteronomy*. SBLSCS 39. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1995.

Supplement: Important Academic Notes from ACTS

Web Support – Student Portal <https://students.twu.ca>

All students at TWU have a TWUPass username and password. This is determined at the time of an online application or can be managed through the computing services help desk or the link on the student portal. Your student email account is also available through this student portal and is vital for communication about grades, account statements, lost passwords, sign-up instructions, etc. If you do not know your account or password, there is a link at the login area called “I forgot my password.” When you click on that link, you will be walked through the process of retrieving your account information.

Campus Closure

In the event of deteriorating weather conditions overnight or other emergency situations, every effort will be made to communicate information regarding the cancellation of classes to radio stations CKNW (980 AM), CKWX (1130 AM), MAX (850 AM), PRAISE (106.5 FM) and KARI (550 AM) by 6:30 a.m., and an announcement will be placed on the University's switchboard as well as on the website <http://www.twu.ca/conditions/>. The first announcement regarding a closure will cover the period up to 1:00 p.m. only. If classes are to be cancelled beyond 1:00 p.m., this decision will be announced by the same means before 11:00 a.m. that day. Students and faculty should assume that all night classes will continue to operate. If the emergency continues into the evening, students and faculty may check for a closure notice on the University's switchboard and website after 3:00 p.m. that day.

Paper Formatting

Students need to adhere to Turabian Notes (Bibliography) format except in counselling courses, for which APA format is used, and in CanIL courses.

Students are strongly encouraged to use RefWorks (available through the library home page www.twu.ca/library) as their bibliographical manager and as a tool for formatting bibliographies. They will need to be aware of the need to “clean up” most bibliographies generated by this program. Students are encouraged to view the documents on the following websites for format samples: http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html or www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/. In RefWorks the available formatting styles are those of Turabian (Notes), 7th edition, and APA – American Psychological Association, 5th edition. For Turabian, there are two formats – Notes (Bibliography) and Reference List (a short format citation style). ACTS uses the Notes (Bibliography) format, not Reference List.

Counselling students are expected to purchase the APA Publications Manual. More information found at the following website: <http://www.apastyle.org/pubmanual.html>.

For free online programs that will enable you to create properly formatted bibliography citations, go to <http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/> (“Chicago” stands for “Turabian”) or <http://www.sourceaid.com/citationbuilder/>

CANIL students can locate this on the CANIL intranet, under the “student” side. A hard copy is given to incoming students in the fall.

Please check with your professor to see which style he/she recommends you use!!

Research Ethics

Please note that all research projects involving human participants undertaken by members of the TWU university community (including projects done by ACTS students to satisfy course or degree requirements) **MUST** be approved by the Trinity Western University Research Ethics Board. Information and forms may be found at <http://www.twu.ca/academics/research/ethics/>. Those needing additional clarification may contact Dr. Bruce Guenther. Please allow at least three (3) weeks from the date of submission for a review of the application.

Academic Integrity and Avoiding Plagiarism at TWU

As Christian scholars pursuing higher education, academic integrity is a core value of the entire TWU community. Students are invited into this scholarly culture and required to abide by the principles of sound academic scholarship at TWU. This includes, but is not limited to, avoiding all forms of plagiarism and cheating in scholarly work. TWU has a strict policy on plagiarism (see academic calendar 2008-09, pp. 37-38). Further details on this subject are contained in the ACTS Student Handbook in section 4.12. The handbook is available online on the ACTS webpage (www.acts.twu.ca) at the following link: www.acts.twu.ca/Handbook.html.

Learning what constitutes plagiarism and avoiding it is the student’s responsibility. An excellent resource in this regard has been prepared by TWU Librarian William Badke and is freely available for download (PPT file) or can be viewed in flash (self-running) tutorials of different lengths:

<http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/plagiarism.ppt>

<http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/Plagiarism.swf> (14 minute flash tutorial)

http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/Plagiarism_Short.swf (8 minute flash tutorial)

Equity of Access

It is the responsibility of a student with a learning disability to inform the ACTS Director of Student Life of that fact before the beginning of a course so that necessary arrangements may be made to facilitate the student’s learning experience. We are unable to accommodate any student who informs the Director of Student Life of a disability after the beginning of class.

Reading Statement
The Septuagint in Early Jewish and Christian Traditions
BIE 640A

Note: Readings are to be completed by the dates indicated below.

- Jan. 14 NFM, ch. 1-2
- 21 NFM, ch. 3-4
- 28 NFM, ch. 5-6
- Feb. 4 NFM, ch. 7-8; FN, ch. 2-3
- 11 NFM, ch. 9; FN, ch. 4
- 18 NFM, ch. 10-11; FN, ch. 5, 8
- March 4 NFM, ch. 12-13; FN, Prefaces, ch. 1, 6-7, 10-11
- 11 NFM, ch. 14-15, FN, ch. 9
- 18 NFM, ch. 16-17
- 25 NFM, ch. 18-19
- April 1 NFM, ch. 20-21
- 8 NFM, ch. 22

PLUS 500 pages of additional reading related to your research and the Septuagint and its transmission history.

NFM = Natalio Fernández Marcos, *The Septuagint in Context*

FN = *Frederick Field's Prolegomena* translated by Gérard Norton

Record the percentages for the appropriate options below. Then sign (legibly and in English) and date this statement. Due: April 8.

I completed preparing _____ % of the assigned readings by the due dates.

I completed reading _____ % of the assigned textbook readings after the due dates.

I failed to complete _____ % of the assigned readings.

NB: The total of the preceding percentages cannot exceed 100%!!

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please print your name (in English!) _____