

Associated Canadian Theological Schools of Trinity Western University

BIB 692: Special Topics **Septuagint Approaches and Methods**

Dirk Büchner, PhD
Professor of Old Testament Studies
Summer 2020
3 credit hours
Prerequisites: Intermediate level Greek.
A knowledge of Hebrew is
recommended, though not
essential

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Course Dates: May 4 – Aug 15, 2020
Phone: 604-888-7511, ext. 3112
Class Days: Mon May 4 – Fri May 8
Class Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Note: this course will be delivered by live-stream on the Zoom platform. Students may participate through interactive online live-streaming of class sessions. A back-up system is recommended.

Course Description

The Old Greek or Septuagint version of the Jewish Scriptures is the product of the work of Jewish scholars who, beginning in the third century BCE, undertook to translate the Hebrew Bible into what became the vernacular of the Mediterranean world and significant portions of West and Central Asia following the conquests of Alexander the Great. In this course, we shall explore a number of larger topics that are receiving attention in contemporary Septuagint scholarship. These are: the Septuagint as translation, the Septuagint as Greek literature, the Septuagint as Sacred Scripture of the Early Church, the quest for the Old Greek of Samuel-Kings, and the Septuagint as source of new theological content for early Judaism and early Christianity.

Objectives

By the end of this course, students will have:

1. gained a perspective on the Septuagint, both as a translated text closely tied to its Hebrew original, and a text that has served as free-standing Greek Scripture to Jewish and Christian readers who knew no Hebrew.

2. gained a historical perspective on how Scriptural meaning was conceptualized in ancient times, as a window on contemporary views of Sacred Text mediated through translation.
3. gained a perspective of contested positions in some areas of contemporary Septuagint scholarship, in order to recognize the complexity of the discipline, and to find some footholds.
4. conducted in-depth language research by means of the available linguistic tools.
5. gained a desire to pursue Septuagint studies to inform and augment their ongoing language/textual research and interest in Biblical Interpretation.

Course Outline with Readings

The articles in the list below are available in electronic format via the Trinity Western University Library or other open access sources. Students who have registered will be able to access them directly through the TWU "Moodle" portal.

A reading guide by the instructor will accompany each article and will be posted for the relevant day.

Monday May 4: The Septuagint as Translation of Scripture

(Topic 1 on the Course Portal in Moodle)

Readings from the secondary literature:

Cameron Boyd-Taylor, "Toward the Analysis of Translational Norms: A Sighting Shot," *BIOSCS* 39 (2006): 27-46.

Sebastian Brock, "Aspects of Translation Technique in Antiquity," *Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies* 20 (1979): 69-87.

Readings in Greek:

Gen 25:20-34

Exodus 3:1-15

Leviticus 19:9-17

Tuesday 5: What words in the Septuagint Mean

(Topic 2 on Moodle)

Readings from the Secondary Literature:

G. H. R. Horsley, "Divergent Views on the Nature of the Greek of the Bible," *Biblica* 65 (1984): 393-403.

J. A. L. Lee, "The Present State of Lexicography of Ancient Greek," in *Biblical Greek Language and Lexicography: Essays in Honor of Frederick W. Danker* (ed. B. Taylor, J. Lee, P. Burton, and R. Whitaker; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004), 66–74.

J. K. Aitken, *No Stone Unturned: Greek Inscriptions and Septuagint Vocabulary* (Winona Lk: Eisenbrauns, 2014), Chapter 1: "The Current Study of Septuagint Vocabulary."

Readings in Greek:

Selected short passages from the Papyri and Inscriptional Literature

Exercises in Using the resources: Perseus, TLG, Papyri.Info, PHI, <https://www.atticinscriptions.com/>

Lexical investigations into some of the following words in their Hellenistic Greek Environment:

ἔνοχος, δικαίωμα, ἀσημοσύνη, εἶδωλον, προσήλυτος, σκάνδαλον, πρόσθεμα, αὐτόχθων, συμφή

Wednesday 6: The Reception of the Septuagint as Scripture (Topic 3 on Moodle)

Section A: The Septuagint in Pauline literature and the Epistle to the Hebrews

Readings in the Secondary Literature:

Florian Wilk, "The Letters of Paul as Witnesses to and for the Septuagint Text," *Septuagint Research: Issues and Challenges in the Study of the Greek Jewish Scriptures* (ed. Wolfgang Kraus and R. Glenn Wooden; Septuagint and Cognate Studies 53; Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2006).

Martin Karrer, "The Epistle to the Hebrews and the Septuagint," *Septuagint Research: Issues and Challenges in the Study of the Greek Jewish Scriptures* (ed. Wolfgang Kraus and R. Glenn Wooden; Septuagint and Cognate Studies 53; Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2006).

Wolfgang Kraus, "Hab 2:3-4 in the Hebrew Tradition and in the Septuagint, with its Reception in the New Testament," *Septuagint and Reception* (ed. Johann Cook; Leiden: Brill, 2009).

Section B: Origen, Augustine, Jerome and the Question about the Septuagint's Authority

Readings in the Secondary Literature:

T. Michael Law, "Origen's Parallel Bible: Textual Criticism, Apologetics, or Exegesis?" *Journal of Theological Studies*, NS, Vol. 59, Pt 1 (April 2008).

Paul B. Decock, "Jerome's Turn to the Hebraica Veritas and his Rejection of the Traditional View of the Septuagint," *Neotestamentica* 42.2 (2008): 205-222.

Edmon Gallagher, "Augustine on the Hebrew Bible," *Journal of Theological Studies*, NS, Vol. 67, Pt 1 (April 2016).

Thursday 7: The Septuagint's Historical books: The Old Greek, Codex Vaticanus and the Lucianic / Antiochene Text

(Topic 4 on Moodle)

Readings in the Secondary Literature: (details of exactly which portions of each article will be posted)

Bruce Metzger, "The Lucianic Recension of the Greek Bible," reprinted from B. M. Metzger, ed. *Chapters in the History of New Testament Textual Criticism* (Leiden, 1963) in Sidney Jellicoe, ed., *Studies in the Septuagint: Origins, Recensions, and Interpretations* (New York, 1973).

Natalio Fernandez Marcos, "The Lucianic Recension," Chapter 14 in *The Septuagint in Context* (Leiden: Brill, 2000), 224-232.

Michael Law and Tuukka Kauhanen, "Methodological Remarks on the Textual History of Reigns: A Response to Siegfried Kreuzer," *BIOSCS* 43 (2010): 73-88.

Tuukka Kauhanen, *The Proto-Lucianic Problem in 1 Samuel* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2012), 13-29.

Siegfried Kreuzer, "B or not B? The Place of Codex Vaticanus in Textual History and in Septuagint Research," in *The Bible in Greek: Translation, Transmission, and Theology of the Septuagint* (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019), 92-99.

—————, "A Reply to M. Law and T. Kauhanen," *BIOSCS* 43 (2010): 89-95.

Anneli Aejmelaeus, "The Septuagint of 1 Samuel," in *On the Trail of the Septuagint Translators* (Leuven: Peeters, 2007), 123-142.

Readings in Greek:

A text from the kaige-section of Reigns, comparing Codex Vaticanus with the Antiochene Text

2 Samuel 13.

A text from the non-kaige section of Reigns, comparing Codex Vaticanus with the Antiochene Text

1 Kings 20

Friday 8: The Question of Septuagintal Theology

(Topic 5 on Moodle)

Readings in the Secondary Literature:

Martin Rösel, "The Reading and Translation of the Divine Name in the Masoretic Tradition and the Greek Pentateuch," *JSOT* (2007): 411-428.

Larry Perkins, "The Greek Exodus Translator's (or Translators') Rendering of Elohim" *CBQ* 80: 17-37.

Larry Perkins "'Drawn from the Water': A Commentary on the Old Greek Text of Exodus 2:1-10." Pages 69-94 in *The SBL Commentary on the Septuagint. An Introduction* (ed. Dirk Büchner; SBLSCS 67; Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017).

Dirk Büchner, "Interpretive Intent and the Legal Material of the Septuagint Pentateuch," in Martin Rösel and Johann Cook, *Stellenbosch Symposium on the Theology of the Septuagint*, August, 2018 (in print).

Robert Hiebert, "Iakob at the Iabok: Exegetical Observations concerning a Pericope of Septuagint Genesis" (in Print)

Readings in Greek:

Gen 25:20-34

Exodus 3:1-15

Leviticus 19:9-17

Course Requirements and Assignments

1) Preparation and Participation in Each Day's Prescribed Activities

a. being prepared to discuss the day's topic as a result of reading the assigned secondary literature and completing the reading guides

b. being prepared to translate and comment on the assigned passages in Greek

2) A summary and reflection on each day's activities

Due: a week after attending the course.

a. what have I learned from the day's readings? (one page)

b. what questions remain? (no limit)

c. what did I not find helpful? (no limit)

3) A major paper relating to any of the subject matter treated in class, or arising from the class.

The paper must contain:

- a. (comprising 20%) An overview of current research, and statement of the problem you wish to investigate and work on.
- b. (comprising 60%) Own research. In this part you will showcase whatever your preferred approach to text and your skill-set may be (linguistic, historical, text-critical, narratological, thematic-interpretive).
- c. (comprising 15%) Synthesis of current research and own research.
- d. (comprising 5%) Bibliography

Length: 20-25 pages 1.5 spacing, font Times New Roman, size 12.

Format: SBL Style

Due Date: on or before Aug 15, 2020.

Grade Allocations

- 1. Self-assessment of preparation and participation25%
- 2. Summary reflections of each day 10%
- 3. Major paper65%

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Assessment	Grade Point
A+	97-100	4.30
A	93-96	4.00
A-	90-92	3.70
B+	87-89	3.30
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.70
C+	77-79	2.30
C	73-76	2.00
C-	70-72	1.70
F	Below 70	0.00

Additional Bibliography and Resources

Boyd-Taylor, Cameron. “In the Beginning – Greek Genesis: A Descriptive Study of Genesis 1:1-5 and 11:1-9.” Pages 267-311 in Cameron Boyd-Taylor, *Reading between the Lines: The Interlinear Paradigm for Septuagint Studies*. Leuven: Peeters, 2011. [PDF will be supplied]

Boyd-Taylor, Cameron. “The Evidentiary Value of Septuagintal Usage for Greek Lexicography: Alice’s Reply to Humpty Dumpty.” *Bulletin of the International Organization for Septuagint*

- and Cognate Studies* 34 (2001): 47-80. [Available on the IOSCS website at <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/ioscs/journal/volumes/>]
- Büchner, Dirk, ed. *The SBL Commentary on the Septuagint: An Introduction*. SCS 67. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.
- Muraoka, Takamitsu. "Recent Discussions on the Septuagint Lexicography With Special Reference to the So-called Interlinear Model." Pages 221-235 in Martin Karrer and Wolfgang Kraus, eds., *Die Septuaginta – Texte, Kontexte, Lebenswelten*. WUNT 219. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2008. [PDF will be supplied]
- Pietersma, Albert and Benjamin G. Wright, eds. *A New English Translation of the Septuagint*. New York / Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007. Pages xiii-xx, 1-42. [The 2009 electronic edition is available at <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/nets/edition/>]
- Pietersma, Albert. "A Response to Muraoka's Critique of Interlinearity." Pages 315-338 in Cameron Boyd-Taylor, ed. *A Question of Methodology: Albert Pietersma, Collected Essays on the Septuagint*. BTS 14. Leuven: Peeters, 2013. [PDF will be supplied]
- Wevers, John W. *Genesis*. Septuaginta: Vetus Testamentum Graecum Auctoritate Academiae Scientiarum Gottingensis editum 1. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1974.
- Wevers, John W. *Notes on the Greek Text of Genesis*. SBLSCS 35. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1993.

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia, 5th ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1997.

Hebrew-English Lexicon: BDB = Brown, F., S. R. Driver and C. A. Briggs. *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1996. OR DCH = Clines, D. J. A. *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. 8 vols. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993-2011. OR HALOT = Koehler, L., and W. Baumgartner et al. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. 5 vols. M. E. J. Richardson et al., trans. and ed.; Leiden: Brill, 1994-2000.

Greek-English Lexicon: LSJ = Liddell, Henry G., Robert Scott, and Henry S. Jones. *A Greek-English Lexicon*. 9th ed. with Supplement. Oxford: Clarendon, 1996.

Concordance: H-R: 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. OR Search functions in Bible software such as Accordance or Logos.

Greek Database: TLG = *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae*. [Accessible online via the TWU library website]