



Contemporary Theory and Practice of Bible Translation

TRANSLATING THE BIBLE AS LITERATURE: TRANSLATING BIBLICAL POETRY

Interconfessional seminar at the Pontifical Urbaniana University
February 8-12, 2021

PONTIFICIA
UNIVERSITÀ
URBANIANA

Coordinator

Andrzej M. GIENIUSZ

Seminar description

This annual seminar aims to engage students in an exploration of the contemporary theory and practice of Bible translation, through focus on a particular topic or problematic within the field. The thematic focus of this year's seminar will be "Translating the Bible as Literature: Translating Biblical Poetry". Throughout history, countless scholars and writers have recognized the literary richness of the biblical text, replete with vivid passages in a full range of genres, styles and poetic forms. In the course of their work, translators of the Bible need also strive to produce translations that reflect this richness and variety in the voices and cadences of the receptor language. This seminar is designed to help students explore the richness of ancient biblical poetry. In particular, the seminar will focus on the poetic genre and consider how this knowledge can be practically applied to a translation process that aims to produce translated texts that are both aesthetically expressive and communicatively natural, effecting a clearer, richer understanding of the Biblical message.

Seminar objectives

By the end of the seminar, a successful student will:

- Identify and analyze some of the more prevalent literary properties of biblical poetry, as exemplified in specified texts from both the Old and New Testaments.
- Demonstrate appreciation for the expressive potential of vernacular language, highlighting specific examples from the language(s) of their own cultural context.
- Produce draft translations that demonstrate attention to literary structure and expression, as well as exegetical care.

Seminar requirements

This seminar is designed for those students of Teologia Biblica who are pursuing either their second year of Licenza, or their doctoral degree. It is intended to be a hybrid seminar, incorporating elements of both in-class and online learning; however, Covid-19 contingencies may necessitate an exclusively online learning experience. The course will utilize both *synchronous* (in-class or live-streamed) large group lectures, small group discussions, and one-on-one consultations, as well as *asynchronous* online assignments, discussions, and quizzes.

Prior to the first day of the seminar (February 8), students will be required to read Isaiah 53:1-7 and Colossians 1:15-20 in Hebrew and Greek texts, respectively. During the February 8-12 seminar, morning and afternoon lectures will be followed by relevant practical exercises. After the February 8-12 seminar, a final project—introduced on Feb. 12—will also be required and should be submitted online before the end of semester, i.e., by June 30. While English will be the language of instruction for the seminar, written assignments may be submitted in English, Spanish, French or Italian, depending upon the student's preference.

Professors

Prof. Pasquale BASTA

Pontificia Università Urbaniana / Pontificio Istituto Biblico

Dr. Simon CRISP

United Bible Societies (retired)

Dr. Daniel FITZGERALD

American Bible Society

Prof. Andrzej M. GIENIUSZ

Pontificia Università Urbaniana

Dr. Lénart DE REGT

United Bible Societies

Prof. Giovanni RIZZI

Pontificia Università Urbaniana

Prof. Philip H. TOWNER

Pontificia Università Urbaniana

Dr. Valdo BERTALOT

Evaluation

The grade that the student earns on the Final Project will serve as the student's final grade for the seminar. (4 CREDITS)

Calendar

December 15 Course registration deadline

February 8 Pre-seminar readings deadline: Is 53:1-7 (Hebrew) and Col 1:15-20 (Greek)

February 8-12 Intensive 5-day seminar (residential, or live-streamed)

June 30 Last day to submit (online) post-seminar *Final Project*

Contacts for further information

General questions

Dr. Valdo Bertalot – v.bertalot@gmail.com

Questions regarding matriculation

Prof. Andrzej M. Gieniusz – antigien@gmail.com

Questions regarding seminar website(s)

Dr. Daniel Fitzgerald – dfitzgerald@nidaschool.org

Tentative Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08:30 - 10:00	Welcome and Opening *** Online Learning Platform [FITZGERALD] *** Translation of the Bible as Literature [TOWNER]	Textual Criticism: Old Testament Poetic Discourse (LÉNART) *** New Testament Poetic Discourse (CRISP)	Translating Old Testament Poetic Discourse (LÉNART)	Work Session Draft #2 <i>continue...</i> "Instrumental" Translation Consultants available for one-on-one assistance [CRISP/TOWNER/DE REGT]	Student Presentations of Draft #2 Revisions Brief, Exemplary Comparative Critiques
10:00 - 10:30	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK
10:30 - 12:00	Discourse Typologies: Target Language Poetic Discourse Lecture & Practicum [FITZGERALD]	Rhetorical Discourse (Classical & Biblical) (GIENIUSZ)	Translating New Testament Poetic Discourse (CRISP)	Work Session Draft #2 <i>continue...</i> "Instrumental" Translation Consultants available for one-on-one assistance [CRISP/TOWNER/DE REGT]	"Da Liturgiam autenticam a Magnum Principium. Le traduzioni della Bibbia nel contest cattolico." [BASTA]
	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
15:00 – 16:15	OT Pericope: Exegesis & Translation Problems Lecture & Practicum [DE REGT]	Skopostheorie & Translation Typologies [FITZGERALD]	Analyzing Target Language Poetic Discourse Lecture & Practicum [FITZGERALD]	Small Group Consultant Reviews of Draft #2 (3 groups) [CRISP/TOWNER/DE REGT]	History of Catholic Bible Translation in Africa [RIZZI]
16:15– 16:30	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK
16:30 – 17:45	NT Pericope: Exegesis & Translation Problems Lecture & Practicum [TOWNER]	Work Session Draft #1 "Documentary" Translation	Work Session <i>Composing with Target Language Poetic Discourse Features</i> Lecture & Practicum [FITZGERALD]	Small Group Consultant Reviews of Draft #2 (3 groups) [CRISP/TOWNER/DE REGT]	Synthesis of the Week Discussion of Final Project Course Evaluation and Closing
	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
	Homework: Curating Vernacular Discourse Recordings & Transcriptions	Homework: Complete Draft #1 "Documentary" Translation	Homework: 1. Finish vernacular discourse analysis 2. Begin Draft #2 "Instrumental" Translation	Homework: REVISE Draft #2 & Prepare Friday Presentation	