



Contemporary Theory and Practice of Bible Translation

“Translating the Bible as Literature: *Translating Narrative and Rhetorical Discourse*”



A seminar at the Pontificia Università Urbaniana
in collaboration with the Nida School of Bible Translation

Rome, Italy | | **September 30 - October 4, 2019**

Course 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 Narrative and Rhetorical Discourse.”

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 discourse. The seminar will focus on the narrative and rhetorical genres 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.

Course Objectives

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

- Identify and analyze some of the more prevalent literary properties of biblical narrative and rhetorical discourse, 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

Course 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 designed to be a hybrid course, incorporating elements of both in-class and online distance learning. Prior to the September 30 - October 4 gathering in Rome, students will be required to complete and submit two pre-seminar assignments, as well as review all preparatory readings. During the five days which comprise the residential portion of the course, morning and afternoon lectures will be followed by time spent in groups working on relevant practical exercises. A final follow-up project for the course, which will be introduced in Rome, will also be required and should be submitted before the end of the calendar year. While English will be the language of instruction for the course, written assignments may be submitted in English, Spanish, French or Italian, depending upon the student's preference.

Faculty

This seminar will incorporate lectures from a faculty roster that includes:

- Prof. Pasquale Basta (Pontificia Università Urbaniana / Pontificio Istituto Biblico)
- Dr. Simon Crisp (United Bible Societies / Nida Institute)
- Dr. Daniel Fitzgerald (Nida Institute)
- Prof. Andrzej M. Gieniusz, C.R. (Pontificia Università Urbaniana)
- Dr. Lénart de Regt (United Bible Societies)
- Prof. Giovanni Rizzi, B (Pontificia Università Urbaniana)
- Rev. Dr. Philip H. Towner (Nida Institute)

Cost of Course: €100

Tentative Course Schedule

June 15	DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION
September 2	Last day to submit pre-seminar assignment #1
September 29	Last day to submit pre-seminar assignment #2
Sept 30 - Oct 4	Residential seminar in Rome
December 31	Last day to submit final course assignment

Contacts for further information

- General questions:
 - Dr. Valdo Bertalot, email: v.bertalot@gmail.com
- Questions regarding matriculation:
 - Prof. Andrzej M. Gieniusz, C.R., email: antgien@gmail.com
- Questions regarding course website (Canvas):
 - Dr. Daniel Fitzgerald, email: dfitzgerald@nidaschool.org
- Canvas Website: <https://nida.instructure.com/>

Residential Program Overview

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08:30 - 10:00	Welcome and Opening Translation of the Bible as Literature [TOWNER]	Biblical Narrative Literature [DE REGT & TOWNER/CRISP]	Work Session 3 [Instrumental Draft of OT or NT Narrative Pericope]	Work Session 4 [Instrumental Drafts of OT or NT Rhetorical Pericope]	Student Presentations with Consultant Reviews
10:00 - 10:30	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK
10:30 - 12:00	Discourse Typologies Biblical & Vernacular [TOWNER/FITZGERALD]	OT Pericope: Exegesis & Translation Problems [DE REGT] *** NT Pericope: Exegesis & Translation Problems [CRISP/TOWNER]	Rhetorical Literature (Classical & Biblical) [GIENIUSZ]	Work Session 5 [Instrumental Draft of OT or NT Rhetorical Pericope]	History of Bible Translation in Catholic Context [BASTA]
	LUNCH*	LUNCH*	LUNCH*	LUNCH*	LUNCH*
13:30 - 14:45	Skopostheorie & Translation Typologies [FITZGERALD]	Work Session 2 [Documentary Draft of OT or NT Narrative Pericope]	Translating NT Rhetorical Discourse [GIENIUSZ/CRISP/TOWNER] *** Translating OT Rhetorical Discourse [DE REGT]	Work Session 6 [Revision of Instrumental Drafts of OT or NT Narrative or Rhetorical Pericope]	History of Catholic Bible Translation in Asia [RIZZI]
14:45- 15:15	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK
15:15 - 16:30	Work Session 1 [Currate Vernacular Discourse Types]	Vernacular Narrative Discourse [FITZGERALD]	Vernacular Rhetorical Discourse [FITZGERALD]	Preparation of Student Presentations for Friday	Synthesis of the Week Discussion of Final Project Course Evaluation and Closing

* Lunch will be provided