



PONTIFICIA
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Contemporary Theory and Practice of Bible Translation
TRANSLATING THE BIBLE AS LITERATURE: TRANSLATING
BIBLICAL POETRY
Interconfessional Seminar at the Pontifical Urbaniana University, Faculty of Theology
September 26-30, 2022

Coordinator
Andrzej M. GIENIUSZ

Seminar description

This seminar is designed for those students of Biblical Theology who are pursuing either the second year of their Licentiate, or their doctoral degree. It can be attended separately or as part of the new *Interconfessional Diploma in the Theory and Practice of Bible Translation (IDBT)* offered by the Pontifical University Urbaniana's Faculty of Theology. The diploma program includes three semester courses and two intensive seminars and is obtainable while completing the Licentiate in Biblical Theology (-> <https://www.urbaniana.edu/Urbaniana/Pdf/Brochure%20DITB.pdf>). The thematic focus of this first seminar (Sept 26-30) 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 and evaluation

As specified above, this seminar is designed for those students of Biblical Theology who are pursuing either their Licentiate or their doctoral degree at PUU, at other pontifical universities and institutions, or at non-pontifical universities in Rome, as well as in countries outside of Italy. The seminar is a hybrid seminar, incorporating elements of both in-class and online learning. (Should further Covid-19 contingencies develop, online learning will increase accordingly.) 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.

During the September 26-30 seminar, morning and afternoon lectures will be followed by relevant practical exercises. After the September seminar, a written assignment (evaluation: 5ECTS)—introduced on September 30—will also be required and should be submitted online by January 6, 2023. While English will be the language of instruction for the seminar, written assignments may be submitted in Italian or other major modern languages upon the student's preference.

Evaluation

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

Professors (among others)

Dr. Edgar EBOJO
United Bible Societies

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

Prof. Valdo BERTALOT
Italian Bible Society

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 *** Translation of the Bible as Literature	Textual Criticism: Old Testament Poetic Discourse	Translating Old Testament Poetic Discourse	Work Session Draft #2 <i>continue...</i> "Instrumental" Translation <i>Consultants available for one-on-one assistance</i>	Student Presentations of Draft #2 Revisions <i>Brief, Exemplary Comparative Critiques</i>
10:00 - 10:30	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK
10:30 - 12:00	Discourse Typologies: Target Language Poetic Discourse <i>Lecture & Practicum</i>	New Testament Poetic Discourse	Translating New Testament Poetic Discourse	Work Session Draft #2 <i>continue...</i> "Instrumental" Translation <i>Consultants available for one-on-one assistance</i>	Versione ufficiale della Bibbia in Italiano CEI2008
	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
15:00 – 16:15	OT Pericope: Exegesis & Translation Problems <i>Lecture & Practicum</i>	<i>Skopostheorie & Translation Typologies</i>	Analyzing Target Language Poetic Discourse <i>Lecture & Practicum</i>	Small Group Consultant Reviews of Draft #2 (3 groups)	History of Catholic Bible Translations
16:15– 16:30	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK
16:30 – 17:45	NT Pericope: Exegesis & Translation Problems <i>Lecture & Practicum</i>	Work Session Draft #1 "Documentary" Translation	Work Session <i>Composing with Target Language Poetic Discourse Features</i> <i>Lecture & Practicum</i>	Small Group Consultant Reviews of Draft #2 (3 groups)	Synthesis of the Week Discussion of Final Project Course Evaluation and Closing
	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	