

OT 82335  
Septuagint Seminar

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The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Fall Semester, 2008

## **DESCRIPTION**

The course aims to introduce the student to the critical use of the Septuagint as a tool in biblical studies, whether of the Old or New Testament. Variant readings in manuscripts of the Septuagint will be assessed to determine their relative claim to originality, their significance in the history of the transmission the Greek text, and their relationship to known Hebrew manuscripts. Constant attention will be paid to the characteristics of Hellenistic Greek represented by the Septuagint (phonology, morphology, and syntax) as well as to gaining experience in reading original manuscripts.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. To gain a working knowledge of the history of the transmission of the Greek Text.
2. To develop skill in the use of the apparatus of critical editions of the Septuagint.
3. To develop expertise in issues of translation technique and theory.
4. To develop appropriate methodology in establishing a critical text of the Greek Translation.
5. To gain linguistic skill in the characteristics of Hellenistic Greek as represented by the Septuagint.
6. To develop experience and skill in reading ancient manuscripts.

## **PROCEDURE**

The seminar will meet on Wednesdays from 11:30 AM-2:20 PM as scheduled by the registrar. The first few seminars will be concerned with introductory matters. Thereafter students will present reports of their own investigation of specific texts according to the schedule of topics (*infra*). Prior to each seminar every member must translate the text to be discussed.

## REQUIREMENTS

1. Each student must read three of the six Introductions (e.g. Swete, Jobes-Silva, Fernández Marcos: bibliography infra) and prepare a five page review on each one in advance of the first meeting of the seminar. These are due by September 15.
2. Selected folios of Rahlfs 2110 (Fourth Century Papyrus) as well as portions of Ecclesiastes will be read and discussed in seminars. PLEASE HAVE ECCLESIASTES 1-12 READ BY SEPTEMBER 15. An examination will test the student on these texts for ability in Hellenistic Greek.
3. Students will analyse collations as preparation to discuss textual problems in the seminars on text criticism.
4. Each student will produce a major paper analysing a selected aspect of translation technique. This will involve comparing the Greek and Hebrew text of Ecclesiastes.

## SCHEDULE

August 29	Eccl_____
August 27	Eccl_____
September 03	Eccl_____
September 10	Eccl_____
September 17	Papyrology____
September 24	Papyrology____
October 01	Apparatus____
October 15	LXX Criticism_____
October 22	LXX Criticism_____
October 29	LXX Criticism_____
November 05	LXX Criticism_____
November 12	LXX Criticism_____
Last Class ??	LXX Criticism_____

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## **7. Hellenistic Judaism**

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## **Notes**

- a. In order to ensure full participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special notetaking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.
- b. Guidelines for papers submitted in this course are found in the Southern Seminary Manual of Style available in the LifeWay Christian Bookstore located in the Honeycutt Center.
- c. Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the course description, content outline, course objectives, grading criteria, examination dates, policy on absences, course bibliography and other information necessary to appraise the course. During the course of the semester, however, the professor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary because of events and circumstances that change during the semester.