

**NT887, Survey of Greek Literature
Spring 2001**

Tue., 2:00–4:15 P.M., 2 credit hours

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Course Syllabus

Please note! Students are responsible for everything in this syllabus, whether it is specifically mentioned in class or not. Please read all of it very carefully. If you have questions, please ask.

1. Catalog Description

In order to facilitate a better understanding of the origin and nature of early Christianity and to enable a more accurate interpretation of the New Testament in its original cultural, historical, and literary environment, this course provides an analysis of Greek literature from Jewish, Christian, and non-Christian sources which impacts and reflects the New Testament period. This will be achieved by translating selected portions from Greek sources and reading a wide range of primary sources in English translation. Readings will be selected from the Septuagint, Jewish apocrypha and pseudepigrapha, Josephus, Philo, the New Testament, and early Church Fathers.

2. Course Objectives

The student will: be exposed to Greek literature outside the NT with a goal of increasing his translation proficiency in Greek generally (vocabulary, grammar, and syntax); read widely in the field of study through the medium of English translation; and be exposed to the hermeneutical, historical, and theological issues on the first century socio-religious matrix.

3. Materials

3.1. Required textbooks

Jobs, Karen H. and Moisés Silva. *Invitation to the Septuagint*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.

Lightfoot, J. B. *The Apostolic Fathers: Greek Texts and English Translations of Their Writings*.

Edited and revised by Michael Holmes. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992. (You really should have the 2d edition; it is a major improvement over the 1st edition.)

Rahlfs, Alfred, ed. *Septuaginta*. Editio minor, duo volumina in uno. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1979.

3.2. Recommended textbooks

Jefford, Clayton N. *Reading the Apostolic Fathers: An Introduction*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996. (< reading assignment)

Kelly, J. N. D. *Early Christian Doctrines*. 5th ed. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1978. (< reading assignment)

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Lust, J.; E. Eynikel; and K. Hauspie. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint*. 2 vols. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1992–96. (The only LXX lexicon; a standard reference work.)

4. Requirements

4.1. Reading: See semester schedule below. In addition, read 200 pages on any related area of interest selected from the bibliography at the end of the syllabus.

4.2. Writing & Related Projects

All reading is to be summarized and submitted in writing (typed) along with your translations of the assigned texts. Length of the summaries will vary from a single, half-page paragraph to several pages. Book-length reading (e.g., Jobes & Silva) should be summarized by chapter. All translation work and reading summaries are to be compiled in a notebook and submitted for grading twice during the semester (3/13 and 5/1).

4.4. Quizzes and Exams: There will be no quizzes or exams.

4.5. Attendance

Classes will be governed by the (very generous) attendance policy as delineated in the Student Handbook (p. 5).

5. Grading

Reading, 20 pts.; Translation, 50 pts.; Written summaries, 30 pts.: Total: 100 pts.

The final grade is calculated by adding the total points earned and dividing by the total points possible to arrive at a percentage grade. One point on any assignment is worth as much as one point on any other item. Grades that average to a decimal figure of .5 or above will be rounded to the next higher grade when the final semester grade is calculated.

The grade scale for this class is as follows: A = 100–95, B = 94–89 ; C = 88–80 ; D = 79–73; F = 72 & below.

• Late Work Policy

Assignments submitted after the beginning of the class hour on the due date will automatically be penalized 15% of the total points possible on the assignment plus 5% per day thereafter (weekends included). Failure to submit an assignment by the day of the final exam will result in a zero grade for the missing assignment. Inclement weather does not affect this policy unless Seminary classes are canceled or if students commuting from outside the Scranton

metro area encounter impassable roads.¹ If you know in advance that you will be unable to attend class the day an assignment is due, plan to submit it early.

6. Misc. Notes

“Crutches”: Due to the nature of this course and the fact that it is not a NT exegesis class, the use of analytical lexicons and other reading aids (including published English translations—when you can find one!) *is permitted* (though there are precious few such aids in the waters in which we will be sailing!).

Taping: Class sessions may not be tape recorded.

Instructor’s books: Please do not ask to borrow books in the instructor’s personal library. The library is available for that purpose. If it is critically important and the library does not have a copy, order your own copy at the bookstore or avail yourself of interlibrary loan.

Audit policy: Students requesting to register for a class on an audit basis must first obtain my approval. I would *prefer* that you jot me a note (e-mail is fine) stating what class you would like to audit and your reasons for auditing rather than taking it for credit. Attendance requirements are the same for audit and credit students. The following course requirements apply to audit students: all reading and all translation (written summaries not required).

Contacting the prof.: E-mail is great (because then I have a record of your request) and you’re most likely to get a prompt reply. Otherwise, I usually plan to be in my study all day (room 123; ext. 9397; direct: 585-9397). You may, if necessary call me at home (587-3297) or stop by the house in the evening (307 Layton Rd.: about 1/4 mile up the hill from rt. 6 on the left; 3-story, gray house). Unless it is a real emergency,² I’d rather you not do either after 9 P.M. (esp. on days that I have a 6:30 A.M. class the next morning).

7. Tentative Class Schedule

In the assignments below, **Transl.:** = translate the assigned passage from a Greek text; **Read:** = read the passage from an English translation (if a primary source) or read the assigned collateral reading. Some of these texts have been provided, others you will need to locate in the library. The assignments listed between each class session below are to be completed *before* coming to class the following week.

<i>Wk</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>First Hour</i>	<i>Second Hour</i>
1	1/23	History of the Greek language	LXX (lecture & reading)
<p>Transl.: Gen. 1:1–13 Read: “LXX” in <i>ABD</i> 5:1093–1104; Jobes & Silva, <i>Invitation</i>, pp. 19–44, 206–14</p>			
2	1/30	Gen. 1	Gen. 4 (in class transl.)

¹Only two exceptions will be considered: 1) unscheduled coronary thrombosis, and 2) your wife giving birth* that day. (*I.e., birthing a child, not a late paper that you have gestated too long!)

²*Emergency* does not include parsing Greek verbs!

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Transl.: Deut. 4:1–14

Read: Jobs & Silva, *Invitation*, pp. 45–85; and Combs, “Transmission-History of LXX.” *BSac* 146 (1989): 255–69.

3	2/6	Deut. 4:1–14	Deut. 4:15-24 (in class transl.)
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Transl.: Deut. 4:25–40

Read: ; Jobs & Silva, *Invitation*, pp. 86–118

4	2/13	Deut. 4:25–40	Deut. 7 (in class transl.)
	2/19–23	<i>Missions conference and modules</i>	

Transl.: Joshua 10:7–14

Read: Jobs & Silva, *Invitation*, pp. 119–182

5	3/6	Joshua 10:7–14	
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Transl.: 1 Reigns 17:1–37 [= only 17 vv.!), cf. Conybeare & Stock

Read: Jobs & Silva, *Invitation*, pp. 183–205, 237–57

6	3/13	1 Reigns 17:1–37 <i>Notebook due today.</i>	1 Reigns 17:38–51 (in class transl.)
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Transl.: Psalm 2

Read: Jobs & Silva, *Invitation*, pp. 258–318

7	3/20	Psalm 2	Psalm 68
	3/26–30	<i>Spring break</i>	

Transl.: Psalm 110 *and* locate all NT quotations of vv. 1 & 4 and transl./compare the Greek text of each *and* translate/compare these two verses with the Hebrew text.

Read: Barrett, *NT Background*, 23–91, 252–308 (This reading is to give you an overview of other areas of Greek literature which we do not have time to include in the course work; you may read it rapidly, but do pay attention as you do so.)

8	4/3	Psalm 110	
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Transl.: Isa. 52:13–53:12

Read: Jobs & Silva, *Invitation*, pp. 215–35

9	4/10	Isa. 52:13–53:12	Esther 5:1–2 [= 10+ vv.!]
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Transl.: Ignatius to Polycarp, 3–4, 6 (Note: there is a commentary on this text in the library, see s.v. Schoedel in the bibliography below.)

Read: Jefford, *Rdg. Ap. Fthrs.*, 1–83

10	4/17	Ignatius	Didache 7, 11–12 (in-class transl.)
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Transl.: 1 Clement 5, 7 (= Ep./Clement to the Cor.)

Read: 1 Clement (all in English); Jefford, *Rdg. Ap. Fthrs.*, 84–116

11	4/24	1 Clement 5, 7	Shepherd of Hermas, M. 1, 11.1–4 (in-class transl.)
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Transl.: Nicene Creed

Read: J. Kelly, *Early Christian Doctrines*, 223–343

12	5/1	Nicene Creed <i>Notebook due today.</i>	
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8. Bibliography

Aejmelaeus, A. *On the Trail of the Septuagint*. Kampen: Kok Pharos, 1993.

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- Barrett, C. K. *The New Testament Background: Selected Documents*. Rev. ed. New York: Harper San Francisco, 1987.
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- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
- Horsley, H. R. *New Documents Illustrating Early Christianity*. 8+ vols. (ongoing series) North Ryde, NSW, Australia: Macquarie Univ., 1981–.
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- Lampe, G. W. H., ed. *A Patristic Greek Lexicon*. 5 vols. Oxford: Clarendon, 1961–68. (Covers primarily Clement of Rome [late first C. A.D.] to Theodore of Studium [9 C. A.D.], although it also includes a few outside that range, e.g., Pss. of Solomon [1 C. B.C. Jewish!]. "No word which is well attested in [LSJ] is included ... unless they are of significance for patristic study" [ix].)
- Lesky, Albin. *A History of Greek Literature*. [*Geschichte der Griechischen Literatur*, 2d ed., Bern: Francke, 1963.] Translated by J. Willis and C. De Heer. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1966.
- Liddell, H. G. and R. Scott. *A Greek-English Lexicon*. Revised by H. S. Jones and R. McKenzie. 9th ed. [1940] *With a Revised Supplement*. Edited by P. Glare and A. Thompson. Oxford: Clarendon, 1996.
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Wilson, R. McL., "New Testament Apocrypha." In *The New Testament and Its Modern Interpreters*, ed. E. J. Epp and G. W. McRae, 429–55. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1989.