



Class Information

Day and Time: Monday 7-9:30 pm

Room Number: E209

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Kevin R. Warstler, Ph.D.

Instructor Email: kwarstler@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 214-818-1331

Instructor Office Hours: Monday 4-6 pm; Tuesday 10:30-11:00 am, 1-3 pm; Thursday 4-6 pm

Course Description and Prerequisites

An introduction to the history, language, and significance of the Greek translation of the Old Testament scriptures and additional writings from intertestamental Judaism contained in the Septuagint with an emphasis on the translation of the Greek text and comparisons to the Hebrew Masoretic text tradition. This course may substitute for GRK610 Greek Reading. (Prerequisite for the course: GRK502 (or equivalent) and HEB502 (or equivalent)).

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course you should be able to:

- A. Know the history and background of the development of the Septuagint;
- B. Know the major Greek versions of the OT and be able to distinguish their unique features;
- C. Know some of the major issues relating to the influence of the Septuagint in Old Testament text-critical studies;
- D. Understand the influences of the Septuagint on the NT in order to ascertain its significance in NT studies;
- E. Develop Greek reading skills by translating selected Septuagint texts and discussing specific lexical, syntactical, and linguistic issues in class; and
- F. Evaluate critically a scholarly journal article related to the Septuagint; and
- G. Develop a written research project relating to a specific area of Septuagint studies and present it in class.

Required Textbooks

1. Jobes, Karen H., and Moises Silva. *An Invitation to the Septuagint*. Second ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2015. (978-0801036491)
2. Conybeare, F. C. and St. George Stock. *A Grammar of Septuagint Greek*. Boston: Ginn and Company, 1905. Reprint, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2001. (978-0801045929)

Course Requirements and Assignments

A. Reading and Class Participation

Readings from Jobes and Silva, *An Invitation to the Septuagint* as well as supplemental material will be required for various class sessions. The schedule for the textbook reading is included on the course schedule and will also be available through weekly study guides, which might also include supplemental reading material. Each study guide will be handed out in class one week prior to the due date and will include all translation and reading required for that week. They will also be available through Canvas.

Students are expected to be prepared for class each week by completing the assigned readings and translations. The grade for this portion of the course is based on how well, in the judgment of the professor, each student is prepared for the translation and class discussion.

B. Exam

There will be one exam in the course, which will be administered through Canvas. The exam will be open book and not timed. You will also be allowed to take the exam in stages; in other words, you may go in and out of the exam as many times as you would like to in order to complete it. The only restriction is that you should not consult with other classmates in preparing your answers. The exam will be available on Canvas at least one week prior to the due date.

C. Journal Article Review

One journal article relating to Septuagint studies will be selected for a written review. Each student will be responsible for selecting the article, but it must be approved by the professor before the review is written. The review should consist of two parts of approximately equal length. The first part will summarize the content of the article with little or no opinion from the reviewer; the second part will be an evaluation of the content, argument, and significance of the article for Septuagint studies. The review must be no more than 5 double-spaced pages in length. Be prepared to discuss the journal article and your review of it on the day it is due.

D. Research Paper

Students enrolled in the graduate course will produce a research paper on a topic that is directly related to the study of the Septuagint. The topic must be approved by the professor before completion. It must include recent research (i.e., evidence in the bibliography of newer resources, preferably within the last 10 years). Both books and periodicals should be used as sources for the paper. The product should be as close to publishable journal article quality as possible. The format of the paper must follow Turabian (*Chicago Manual of Style*) format. The paper should be 15-20 pages in length. The paper must be received by the professor **at least 24 hours before the class presentation (i.e., Monday, May 2)**. Copies of the paper will be distributed to the students on the day of the presentation. The grade for the project will be based on both the quality of the paper (80%) and the presentation (20%).

Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-59	0.0 grade points per semester hour

Incomplete Grades

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An "I" may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their professors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar's Office. The "I" must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the grade was assigned, or the "I" will become an "F."

Academic Honesty

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,

- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

Institutional Email Policy

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students' institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

Disabilities

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the professor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

Resources and Support

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number, twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at studenttechsupport@criswell.edu.

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or studentservices@criswell.edu. Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students, at deanofstudents@criswell.edu.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, go to the library website, or email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu.

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to consult with writing tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence by practicing techniques of clear and effective writing. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Writing Center located on the first floor near the Computer Lab, or they can schedule an appointment by emailing writingcenter@criswell.edu or calling 214.818.1373.

Course Outline/Calendar

Week	Date	In-Class Topic	Jobes/Silva Chapter(s) Required
1	January 23	Introduction to Course, Syllabus	
2	January 30	Backgrounds of the LXX, <i>Letter of Aristeas</i>	Intro. and 1
3	February 6	Transmission of the LXX, Textual History	2
4	February 13	Modern LXX Studies	3
5	February 20	The LXX as a Translation	4
6	February 27	The Language of the LXX	5
	March 5	Textual Criticism and the LXX	6
7	March 12	The Use of the LXX in OT Textual Criticism	7
8	March 16-20	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS	
9	March 26	The Dead Sea Scrolls and LXX Studies	8
10	April 2	The LXX and NT Studies	9
11	April 9	Interpreting the LXX	10
12	April 16	Scholarship History of the LXX	11-12
13	April 23	LXX Reconstruction	13
14	April 30	Theological Development in the Hellenistic Period	14
15	May 7	Research Paper Presentations	

Selected Bibliography

Aejmelaeus, Anneli. *On the Trail of the Septuagint Translators: Collected Essays*. Revised and Expanded Edition. Leuven: Peeters, 2007.

Allen, Leslie C. *The Greek Chronicles: the Relation of the Septuagint of I and II Chronicles to the Masoretic Text*. Leiden: Brill, 1974.

Ausloos, Hans. *Translating a Translation: The LXX and Its Modern Translations in the Context of Early Judaism*. Leuven: Peeters, 2008.

Bartlett, John R. *Jews in the Hellenistic World: Josephus, Aristeas, the Sibylline Oracles, Eupolemus*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985.

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