

SCHOOL OF ENGLISH, FILM, THEATRE, AND MEDIA STUDIES

ENGL 435 2008, second trimester

THE ENGLISH BIBLE AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

David Norton. Office phone: 463 6811. david.norton@vuw.ac.nz

COURSE AIMS

This course will concentrate on the literary qualities of the King James Bible (1611), how those qualities have influenced some English writers, and how some writers have used the Bible. Among the biblical topics and books to be considered will be: narrative (Genesis, the story of David, the gospel story), poetry and poetic form (Psalms, Song of Solomon), prophecy, Job, imagery, the influence of biblical language on the English language, and the history of Bible translation. Texts from English literature will be introduced at various points.

WORKLOAD

Honours courses are designed on the assumption that students will be able to commit an average of 24 hours a week, including seminars, reading, research and writing.

PROGRAMME

Classes meet in VZ808, 10.00 a.m., Fridays, for approximately two and a half hours.

Reading of the basic biblical and literary texts is the essential work. The background reading, for which suggestions follow, can easily make undue demands on your time. The suggestions are meant to be helpful, not intimidating.

The programme is open to revision as we see fit (so only the first half is outlined at this point). Please feel free to make suggestions: this course is an opportunity for you to explore what interests you most from an enormous subject.

- July 11 Background: what is the Bible? English versions; resources.
Introduction to English literature and the Bible.
Before reading for this class, write an outline of the gospel story through to Jesus's baptism as you remember it.
Nativity stories to baptism: Matthew 1-3, Mark 1, Luke 1-3, John 1; poetry handout.
Choose one of the poems and come prepared to talk about it as an example of the Bible and literature.
Lancelot Andrewes, sermon 15.
- July 18 Narrative and teaching: Matthew.
The sermon on the mount; familiar quotations; parables.
D.H. Lawrence, 'The Escaped Cock' (handout).
- July 25 Stories from Adam to Moses (Genesis 1 to Exodus 20).
Background reading: Julian Barnes, 'The Stowaway'; Erich Auerbach, *Mimesis*, ch. 1, Isaac Bashevis Singer, 'Genesis', in David Rosenberg, ed., *Congregation* (handout).
- August 1 Stories from Adam to Moses (Genesis 1 to Exodus 20) continued.

Background reading: C.S. Lewis, 'The literary impact of the Authorised Version' (handout).

August 8 Poetry. In what ways (if any) do biblical poems appear poetic in the KJB? Psalms (especially 8, 22-4, 69, 114, 127, 137), poetic form and verse adaptations; Song of Solomon; Macpherson and Lawrence (handout).

Background reading: Robert Alter, *The Art of Biblical Poetry*; Norton, *A History of the Bible as Literature*, 1: 15, or *A History of the English Bible as Literature*, ch. 6.

August 15 Prophecy. Preparatory work: research the idea of a 'prophet' in the Bible. Key chapters will include Isaiah 40, 42 and 60, Jeremiah 1-4, Ezekiel 37. Eliot, *The Waste Land*.

Background reading: George Saintsbury, *A History of English Prose Rhythm* (London: Macmillan, 1912), c. pp. 142 ff; Rudyard Kipling, "'Proofs of Holy Writ'" (handout).

Trimester break

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance at the seminars (health permitting, you are expected to attend all the seminars), completion of written work, examination. If you miss a seminar, please check with me for handouts and reading for the next seminar.

ASSESSMENT

By a combination of written work (60%) and final 3-hour exam (40%), or the exam mark if that is better.

WRITTEN WORK: Two 2,500 word essays in the two general areas the course focusses on, 1: the English Bible, especially the King James Bible, in any way that is illuminating for an understanding of the Bible and English literature or language; 2: the Bible and literature.

The first essay is due by September 1, the second by October 10; early submission is encouraged. The essays are of equal value.

The essays should have a significant research element to them. Part of this is identifying your own topic to work on. Please do this in consultation with me. You may wish to use material and issues covered in one of the classes as a starting point. Note: you will be required to write on different topics in the exam.

SELECT LIST OF RESOURCES

These works represent a very small selection of available material but are much more than you can reasonably cope with. I have asterisked a few that are of very special usefulness. Some have already been noted as recommended background reading.

Bibles and biblical material can be purchased from (among others), The Salvation Army (202-6 Cuba St), the Bible Society in New Zealand (144 Tory Street), and secondhand bookstores such as Quilters (Lambton Quay).

Bibliographies

Gottcent, John H. *The Bible as Literature: a selective bibliography*. Boston, 1979. Z7770 G685 B.

Darlow, T.H., and H.F. Moule. *Historical Catalogue of Printed Editions of the English Bible, 1525-1961*. Revised and expanded from the edition of 1903 by A.S. Herbert. London, 1968. Z7771 E5 H536 B.

Bibles

The English Hexapla. London, 1841. NT: Greek, Wyclif, Tyndale, Cranmer, Geneva, Rheims, KJB. BS125 E5.

The New Testament Octapla. NY, n.d. Tyndale, Great, Geneva, Bishops', Rheims, KJB, RV, RSV. BS2025 1962 W419. This is the easiest resource for comparing versions.

Tyndale, William. *Tyndale's Old Testament*. Ed. David Daniell. New Haven and London, 1992. Modern spelling edition of 1534 Pentateuch and some other books from 1537. BS140 1992.

Tyndale's New Testament. Ed. David Daniell. New Haven and London, 1989. Modern spelling edition of 1530 edition. BS140 1989.

Coverdale, Myles. *The Bible*. 1535. Reprinted London, 1838. aBS145 1838 (stackroom).

The New Testament. Geneva, 1557. Facsimile London, 1842. BS2070 1842.

The Bible. Geneva, 1560. 1585 Barker, London, edition held by Beaglehole Room.

The Geneva Bible. A facsimile of the 1599 edition with undated Sternhold & Hopkins Psalms.

Intro.: Michael H. Brown. Buena Park, Calif.: The Geneva Publishing Company, 1990. *BS170 G328 (Big Book).

The Holy Bible. 1611. Facsimile, ed. A.W. Pollard. Oxford, 1911. BS185 1911.

The Bible Designed to be Read as [Living] Literature. Ed. E.S. Bates. 1936 etc. BS391 B329 B (stackroom). Often to be found secondhand.

Electronic Bibles and Resources

Almost all versions to 1800 are available from the VUW library website. See Databases, EEBO Early English Books Online (texts to 1700), and ECCO Eighteenth Century Collections Online.

The Bible in English CD-ROM, Chadwyck-Healey, available electronically from the library; see under Databases. Searchable texts of all major English translations through to the KJB, plus some more recent versions.

Electronic texts of the KJB are commonly available from religious bookshops and computer shops.

Bible texts are also readily available on the internet (e.g. <http://www.blueletterbible.org/>), but are less easily searched than CD versions.

Concordances

For most purposes electronic Bibles have made concordances obsolete.

Cruden, Alexander. *Complete Concordance*. 1737 etc. r BS425 C955 C.

Strong, James. *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. 1894. This is the best of many available but not held by VUW library.

Young, Robert. *Analytical Concordance*. Edinburgh, 1879. r BS425 Y75 A.

Background to translations

Tyndale *Doctrinal Treatises*. Ed. Henry Walter. Cambridge, 1849. BX5133 A1 P (vol. 32).

Expositions of Scripture and the Practice of Prelates. Ed. Henry Walter. Cambridge, 1849. BX5133 A1 P (vol. 37).

* Daniell, David. *William Tyndale: a Biography*. New Haven & London, 1994. BR350 T8 D185 W.

- KJB * *Translating for King James*. Ed. Ward Allen. Nashville, 1969. BS186 B682 T. Facsimile and transcription of notes made by the translators while revising the Epistles.
- * *The Coming of the King James Gospels: a collation of the translators' work-in-progress*. Ed. Ward S. Allen and Edward C. Jacobs. Fayetteville, 1995. BS2555.2 A432 C. A transcript of the translators' handwritten revisions of parts of the Bishops' Bible Gospels.
- * Nicolson, Adam. *Power and Glory: Jacobean England and the Making of the King James Bible*. London : HarperCollins, 2003. BR757 N653 P.
- Norton, David. *A Textual History of the King James Bible*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005. BS186 N883 T.
- Opfell, Olga S. *The King James Bible Translators*. London, 1982. BS186 O61 K.
- Pollard, A.W. *Records of the English Bible*. Oxford, 1911. BS455 P771 R. Documents relating to English Bible translations through to the KJB.

Histories of the Bible

- Bruce, F.F. *History of the English Bible*. Oxford, 1978. BS455 B886 H 3ed.
- * Daniell, David. *The Bible in English: its history and influence*. New Haven and London, 2003. BS455 D185 B.
- The Cambridge History of the Bible*. 3 vols. Cambridge, 1963-70. BS475.2 C178.
- * Hammond, Gerald. *The Making of the English Bible*. Manchester, 1982. BS455 H226 M.
- Partridge, A.C. *English Biblical Translation*. London, 1973. BS455 P275 E.
- Robinson, H.W., ed. *The Bible in its Ancient and English Versions*. Oxford, 1940. BS445 R661 B.

Bible as Literature

- * Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. NY, 1981. BS1171.2 A466 A.
- The Art of Biblical Poetry*. NY, 1985. BS1405.2 A466 A.
- The World of Biblical Literature*. New York, 1992. BS 535 A466 W.
- * Alter, Robert and Frank Kermode, eds. *The Literary Guide to the Bible*. Cambridge, Mass., 1987. BS535 L776.
- Frye, Northrop. *The Great Code*. London, 1982. PN56 B5 F948 G.
- Words with Power*. San Diego, 1990. PN56 B5 F948 W.
- Josipovici, Gabriel. *The Book of God*. New Haven, 1988. BS535 J83 B.
- * Kermode, Frank. *The Genesis of Secresy*. Cambridge, Mass., 1979. PN81 K39 G.
- Kugel, James L. *The Idea of Biblical Poetry*. New Haven, 1981. BS1405.2 K95 I.
- Jasper, David, and Stephen Prickett, *The Bible and Literature: a Reader*. Oxford, 1999. BS535 B582 A.
- Josipovici, Gabriel. *The Book of God*. New Haven, 1988. BS535 J83 B.
- * Lewis, C.S. 'The literary impact of the Authorised Version'. In *Selected Literary Essays*, ed. Walter Hooper. London, 1969. PR6023 E926 A16 H788. Or *They Asked for a Paper*. London, 1962. PR6023 E926 T5.
- Lowes, John Livingston. 'The noblest monument of English prose'. In *Essays in Appreciation*. Boston 1936. PR99 L917.
- Lowth, Robert. *Lectures on the Sacred Poetry of the Hebrews*. (1753), 1787. Excerpts in Scott Elledge, ed., *Eighteenth Century Critical Essays*. 2 vols. Ithaca, NY, 1961. PR74 E45 E.
- * Moulton, R.G. *The Literary Study of the Bible*. 2nd ed. Boston, 1899. a BS535 M927 L 2ed.
- Norton, David. *A History of the Bible as Literature*. 2 volumes. Cambridge, 1993. BS585 N883 H.
- A History of the English Bible as Literature*. Cambridge, 2000. BS585 N883 2000.
- O'Sullivan, Orlaith, ed. *The Bible as Book: The Reformation*. London, 2000. BS454 B582.

- PN Review 13: Crisis for Cranmer and King James*. Ed. David Martin. 6: 5 (1979). o PN6101 P745.
- Preminger, Alex, and Edward L. Greenstein, eds. *The Hebrew Bible in Literary Criticism*. NY, 1986. BS1172.2 H446.
- Quiller-Couch, Arthur. *On the Art of Reading*. Cambridge, 1920. PE1408 Q6 O.
- Rosenberg, David, ed. *Congregation*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1987.
- Ryken, Leland, ed. *The New Testament in Literary Criticism*. NY, 1984. BS2361.2 N532.
- Sugirtharajah, R.S. *The Bible and the Third World: Precolonial, Colonial and Postcolonial Encounters*. Cambridge, 2001. BS476 S947 B.
- Wiley, Basil. 'On translating the Bible into modern English'. *Essays and Studies*, new series (1970), 23: 1-17. p PR5 E58 E7.

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- o an oral or written warning
- o cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- o suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Student and Staff Conduct
- Academic Grievances
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support