



ENGLISH PROGRAMME

SCHOOL OF ENGLISH, FILM, THEATRE, AND MEDIA STUDIES *Te Kura Tānga Kōrero Ingarihi, Kiriata, Whakaari, Pāpāho*

ENGL 435 THE ENGLISH BIBLE AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

Second trimester, 2010

Teaching dates: Monday 12 July 2010 to Friday 15 October 2010
Mid-trimester break: Monday 23 August to Sunday 5 September 2010
Study week: Monday 18 October to Friday 22 October 2010
Examination/Assessment period: Friday 22 October to Saturday 13 November 2010

Notes: Students who enrol in courses with examinations are expected to be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

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Place and time: VZ802, 2.00-4.30 p.m., Mondays.

COURSE AIMS

This course will concentrate on the literary and linguistic 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.

The set text is the King James Bible or Authorised Version; recommended edition is David Norton, ed., *The Bible: King James Version with The Apocrypha*, Penguin Classics, 2006 (other editions are acceptable but should include the Apocrypha). You are required to have one other version for comparative purposes; this will be discussed in the first class.

WORKLOAD

Honours courses are designed on the assumption that students will be able to commit an average of 20 hours a week, including seminars, reading, research and writing.

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%).

WRITTEN WORK: Two essays on the Bible, approximately 1,500 words each (15 marks each), one long essay on the Bible and literature, 3,000 words (30 marks).

Essay 1. Due August 9. 1,500 words. 15 marks.

There is no possibility of considering the literary impact of the Authorised Version apart from that of the Bible in general... What is common, even from the literary point of view, to the originals and all the versions is after all far more important than what is peculiar.

C.S. Lewis, 'The Literary Impact of the Authorised Version'

With particular reference to **either** Ecclesiastes **or** Matthew 1-10, and using another version of the Bible for comparison, write an essay on the language of the King James Bible.

Essay 2. Due September 6. 1,500 words. 15 marks.

[The Bible] is, if you like to put it that way, not merely a sacred book but a book so remorselessly and continuously sacred that it does not invite, it excludes or repels, the merely aesthetic approach. You can read it as literature only by a *tour de force*.

C.S. Lewis, 'The Literary Impact of the Authorised Version'

In the light of Lewis's comment, write a literary reading of **either** Genesis 37-50 (the story of Joseph) **or** Tobit **or** 1 Corinthians **or** another section of the Bible of similar length. Your essay must be based on the King James Bible.

Essay 3. Due October 15. 3,000 words. 30 marks.

The King James Bible has been described as 'the most powerful factor in the history of English literature' (William Rosenau). Write a detailed analysis of the connections between a work of literature in English and the English Bible, showing what may be learnt about the Bible and literature in English from these connections.

Please consult with me about your intended topic before beginning this essay.

Note: you will be required to write on different material in the exam.

Extensions and Penalties

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Work that is submitted late without an extension may be subject to the following penalty: one grade subtracted and minimal comments offered.

PROGRAMME

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 intimidatory.

What follows is a draft. 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 12 Introduction. What is the Bible? English versions; resources. English literature and the Bible.
- July 19 Narrative and teaching: Matthew.
The sermon on the mount; familiar quotations; parables.
D.H. Lawrence, 'The Escaped Cock' (handout).
- July 26 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 2 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 9 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 16 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).
- August 21-September 3 mid-trimester break

Remainder to be arranged.

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), Manna Christian Stores (185 Willis 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

- The Bible in English* CD-ROM, Chadwyck-Healey, available electronically from the library; see under Online Resources (Databases). 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.
- Schwarz, W. *Principles and Problems of Biblical Translation*. Cambridge, 1955. BS450 S411 P.

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.

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.
- Bloom, Harold, interp., David Rosenberg trans. *The Book of J*. NY, 1991. BS1223 1991.
- Frye, Northrop. *The Great Code*. London, 1982. PN56 B5 F948 G.
- Words with Power*. San Diego, 1990. PN56 B5 F948 W.
- 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.
- * 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.
- Lawrence, D.H. *Apocalypse*. 1931. PR6023 A93 A66 1980 (or 1972).
- * 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.
- 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.
Willey, 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 means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

General University Policies and Statutes

You 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 or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcademic/Publications.aspx