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# BS 711 Advanced Greek: Historians and Historiography

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# BS711 Advanced Greek: Historians and Historiography

Version 1.0

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Spring 2001  
3 Semester Units  
Limited Enrollment: 15  
Tuesday/Thursday 8:00 – 9:15 am

## Course Description

For persons concerned with New Testament exegesis at an advanced level, facility with Hellenistic Greek is vital. Given the prevalence of historical narrative in Christian Scripture, familiarity with the development of historiography in the Classical Period and with developments in the philosophy of history is also vital. Using a seminar format, this course weds these two concerns by focusing alternating class sessions between (1) reading and translation work with ancient historiographers writing in Greek, and (2) the nature of historiography.

Prerequisites: NT601 or NT602

## Course Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, students should be able:

- < To exercise increased facility in Greek-reading skills, particularly with reference to Hellenistic Greek (thus, the course aims to build vocabulary, increase familiarity with the Greek verbal system, and provide review of syntax).
- < To articulate the nature and development of historiography in the Hellenistic world and in the Roman period, particularly in their relation to the socioliterary environment of Second Temple Judaism and early Christianity.
- < To deploy their understanding of the major concerns of the philosophy of history in their interpretation of the Bible's historical narratives.

## Course Requirements

(1) Regular attendance, preparation, and participation in the seminar is a necessity. Persons missing more than four course sessions will not be eligible for a passing grade. Preparation and participation involves regular the reading, translating, and analyzing in class of both prepared and sight passages from the assigned Greek texts (25%)

(2) Each student is expected to lead the seminar in a discussion of the reading assigned for one week. A sign-up sheet will be available at the first class session. A two-page

summary of the assigned reading, together with a list of discussion questions, should be made available to each member of the seminar at the beginning of the assigned class session. (15%)

(3) Each student is expected to serve as “the expert” on the translation assignment for one week. A sign-up sheet will be available at the first class session. (15%)

(4) Mid-Term Translation Examination. (20%)

(5) Students may choose between two options for the final assignment for this seminar (25%):

(5A) Generate a research paper on a topic germane to the course. This essay should be at least 15 pages (approximately 4000 words, typed, doubles-paced), but should not exceed 30 pages (approximately 8000 words). Regarding matters of style, refer to Patrick H. Alexander et al., eds. *The SBL Handbook of Style for Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Christian Studies* (Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson, 1999); and Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1996). (For more information regarding my expectations of research papers, see T:\Green\Written Assignments\Research Papers, on the Asbury network in the Media Center. Due: 15 May 2001.

(5B) Final, comprehensive translation exam.

### **Course Reading - Required Texts**

Breisach, Ernst. *Historiography: Ancient, Medieval, and Modern*. 2d ed. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1994.

Holladay, Carl R. *Fragments from Hellenistic Jewish Authors*. Vol. 1: *Historians*. Society of Biblical Literature Texts and Translations 20; Pseudepigrapha 10. Chico, California: Scholars, 1983.

Lownenthal, David. *The Past Is a Foreign Country*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985.

Lucian. PWS DEI ISTORIAN SUGGRAFEIN. Available in K. Kilburn, *Lucian VI*. Loeb Classical Library 430. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1959 (pages 1-73).

Marincola, John. *Authority and Tradition in Ancient Historiography*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Additional Greek texts (see the course schedule) will be available from the instructor.

## Course Reading - Recommended Texts

Liddell-Scott-Jones. *A Greek-English Lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon. (latest edition).

## Course Schedule

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|--------|---|
| 6 Feb  | 1. Introduction   |
| 8 Feb  | 2. Translation: Lucian <i>How to Write History</i> §§53-55; Josephus <i>Ant. Proem</i> 1-4 §§1-26; Thucydides 1.1 |
| 13 Feb | 3. Seminar: Marincola, 1-62.  |
| 15 Feb | 4. Translation: Lucian <i>How to Write History</i> §58; Thucydides 1.22   |
| 20 Feb | 5. Seminar: Marincola, 63-174.  |
| 22 Feb | 6. Translation: Lucian <i>How to Write History</i> §§34, 37-38  |
| 27 Feb | 7. Seminar: Marincola, 175-266.   |
| 1 Mar  | 8. Translation: Lucian <i>How to Write History</i> §§39-43  |
| 6 Mar  | 9. Seminar: Breisach, 1-106.  |
| 8 Mar  | 10. Translation: Lucian <i>How to Write History</i> §§44-48, 49B  |
| 13 Mar | 11. Seminar: Breisach, 107-198.   |
| 15 Mar | 12. Translation: Lucian <i>How to Write History</i> §§50-52, 61, 63   |
| 20 Mar | 13. Seminar: Breisach, 199-322.   |
| 22 Mar | 14. Mid-Term Examination  |
| 27 Mar | 15. Translation: Fragments: Eupolemus (Holladay 112, 114, 116, 118, 120a)   |
| 29 Mar | 16. Seminar: Breisach, 323-410.   |

3 Apr	17. Translation: Fragments: Eupolemus (Holladay 120b, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130)
5 Apr	18. Seminar: Lowenthal, 1-73.
10 Apr	19. Translation: Fragments: Pseudo-Eupolemus (Holladay 170, 172, 174, 176)
12 Apr	20. Seminar: Lowenthal, 74-182.
17/19 Apr	No Class: Reading Week
24 Apr	21. Translation: Fragments: Aristeas (Holladay 268, 270) and Pseudo-Hecataeus (Holladay 318, 320, 322)
26 Apr	22. Seminar: Lowenthal, 183-259.
1 May	23. Translation: Polybius 1.14-15
3 May	24. Seminar: Lowenthal, 260-362.
8 May	25. Translation: Polybius 2.56.10-16
10 May	26. Seminar: Lowenthal, 363-412.
TBA	27. Final Exam