

Ph.D./M.A. Seminar: Textual Traditions of the Old Testament
CHTH G105 – CO1/ OT 6ZE6 (draft)
McMaster Divinity College
Fall Semester 2009
Mondays 10:30am-12:20pm

Mark J. Boda, Ph.D.
Professor of Old Testament
(905) 525-9140^{x24095}
mjboda@mcmaster.ca

<http://divinity2.mcmaster.ca:8111/faculty/faculty.aspx?facid=5>

I. Description

A study of the various scribal traditions which preserved the Old Testament with attention to the disciplines of textual, redaction and canonical criticism. The variety of ancient witnesses to Old Testament texts will be analyzed and evaluated for their contribution to the establishment of the original text of the Old Testament, to the elucidation of the development of the texts of the Old Testament, and to the role of particular texts and manuscripts as canonical texts.

II. Purpose

A. Knowing: To have a thorough knowledge of the character and development of the full spectrum of ancient scribal traditions which preserved the Old Testament text with special attention to Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic, and Latin sources; To have a thorough knowledge of the historical and social contexts in and for which the various works were originally translated; To know the canons of lower (textual) criticism; To understand the relationship between lower and higher criticism and identify the ambiguity in the distinction between them.

B. Being: To gain a deeper appreciation for the role of scribes and translators in the preservation of the Bible; To locate oneself within this enduring tradition; To appreciate the impact of ancient textual forms on communities of faith.

C. Doing: To learn how to access the textual witnesses to the Old Testament text; To refine one's ability to work sensitively with the ancient scribal traditions, for the purposes of textual, redaction, and canonical criticism; To develop clear and creative presentations (written and oral form) of the textual traditions of the Old Testament.

III. Reading Resources

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

McCarter, P. Kyle. *Textual criticism: Recovering the text of the Hebrew Bible*. Guides to Biblical scholarship. Old Testament guides. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.

Tov, Emanuel. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible* (2nd edition). Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2001.

Articles distributed in class and on course website.

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 218, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9B 6E2: phone 416-620-2934; fax 416-622-2308; e-mail books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

IV. Schedule

A. Phase 1: Orientation to Textual Criticism, Textual Traditions, and the Shape of the Old Testament (September)

The first phase of this course is a combination of reading and discussion to orient students to the relationship between the textual traditions of the Old Testament.

B. Phase 2: Presentations of Textual Criticism Papers (October)

During this second phase of the course each student will produce an orientation to the textual traditions available for their particular project and provide a text critical analysis of key passages.

C. Phase 3: Presentations of Textual Tradition Papers (October-December)

In the third phase of this course each student will present a paper on the literary development and canonical shape of the textual traditions related to their corpus within the Old Testament. We will be attending sessions of the conference "The Dead Sea Scrolls: Transmission of Traditions and Production of Texts" at the University of Toronto (November 15-18).

V. Course Internet Resource Site

A course internet resource site has been developed for those in this seminar. Access is available through my personal faculty web page (see top of syllabus; password will be made available in class). This site will host some reading resources for this course, papers to be presented in class as well as any links to internet resources useful for this course. It is expected that each student will print out the papers to be discussed in class.

VI. Learning Experiences

A. Class Experiences

This is a graduate seminar style class of collaborative learning in which professor and students are engaged in active learning together. It is expected that all students will not only attend these sessions, but also that they will assume responsibility for contributing to and learning from the experience. This means that readings will be completed prior to arrival in class and that student and presenter alike will pursue the acquisition of knowledge in the learning environment.

Value: 20%

B. Textual Criticism Paper

For this paper the student will choose a particular corpus in the Old Testament that is related to their thesis/dissertation topic. They will then write a minimum 15 page research essay which first of all provides an overview of the main textual witness traditions for this corpus, including for example Hebrew (e.g., MT, Samaritan Pentateuch, Qumran manuscripts, Nash Papyrus), Greek (e.g., LXX), Aramaic (e.g., Targums, Peshitta), and Latin (e.g., Old Latin, Vulgate). Identify the main traditions, extant witnesses, and an initial description of the character and development of each tradition and their temporal, spatial, and sociological provenance. Secondly, the paper will identify key text critical issues for their corpus and, following text critical methodology, make appropriate decisions on the best reading. Papers are due in .pdf format by Sept 25 (send to professor by email) to be posted on the course web site and discussed beginning Sept 29. For the discussion please provide a 5-10 minute visual presentation (Powerpoint) of the various traditions and witnesses.

Value: 30%

Due: September 25

Submission: Via email to professor in .pdf format for posting

C. Textual Tradition Paper

For this learning experience the student will write a minimum 25 page research paper comparing and contrasting the Hebrew and Greek traditions of their chosen corpus in the Old Testament. The concern in this paper is not on text critical issues but rather on the way the Hebrew and Greek traditions provide evidence for the final stage(s) in the development of the text. The paper should offer reflection on the impact this has on canonical analysis of the Old Testament. Papers are due in .pdf format by October 23 (send to professor by email) to be posted on the course web site. Discussions on papers will begin October 27.

Value: 50%

Due: October 23

Submission: via email to professor in .pdf format for posting.

VII. Format

So I can properly evaluate your work the following **style guide** is to be used for papers in this class.

- **Layout:** Digitally printed or typewritten in an acceptable font (12 point, Arial or Roman) double spaced on 8½" x 11" paper with 1" margins, a title page, bibliography. Please use the "McMaster Divinity College Style Guide for Essays and Theses" (available on MacDiv website) for your formatting and ensure that the course name, instructor's and student's names are on the title page. The title page and bibliography is not included in the page numbers required. If you wish to include a table of contents, this is helpful for you and me, but also is not included in the page numbers required.
- **Inclusive language:** McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.
- **Citations:** You must cite the source of your material very carefully using the "McMaster Style Guide for Essays and Theses," not only when quoting from a section, but also when drawing from it as resource. Quotations should be kept to a minimum as I favour integration of secondary literature and the use of footnotes.
- **Academic honesty:** Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ www.madciv.ca/regs/honesty.php.

So I can properly evaluate your work and help you grow in your biblical and writing skills the following **evaluation guide** should be kept in mind as you write:

- **Presentation:** Is the spelling correct? Does the grammar/syntax reflect proper English? Is the paper laid out properly?
- **Argumentation:** Is there a good introduction and conclusion? Does the argument flow with ample support? Is the question answered?
- **Content:** Are all the points considered? Is there proper documentation of sources used?

VIII. Bibliography:

- Barthelemy, D. et al., *The Story of David and Goliath*. OBO 73; Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1986.
- Barthélemy, Dominique, Gerard J. Norton, and Stephen Pisano. *Tradition of the text: studies offered to Dominique Barthélemy in celebration of his 70th birthday*. Orbis biblicus et orientalis ; 109. Freiburg, Schweiz/Göttingen: Universitätsverlag/Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1991.
- Christiansen, D. L. "In Quest of the Autograph of the Book of Jeremiah: A Study of Jeremiah 25 in Relation to Jeremiah 46-51," *JETS* 33 (1990) 145-154.
- David, Robert, Manuel Jinbachian. *Traduire la Bible hébraïque: de la Septante à la Nouvelle Bible Segond = Translating the Hebrew Bible: from the Septuagint to the Nouvelle Bible Segond*. Montréal: Médiaspaul, 2005.
- De Troyer, Kristin. *Rewriting the Sacred Text: What the Old Greek Texts Tell Us about the Literary Growth of the Bible* (Text-Critical Studies 4). Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003.
- Dines, Jennifer M., and Michael A. Knibb. *The Septuagint*. London ; New York: T&T Clark, 2004.
- Fernández Marcos, Natalio. *The Septuagint in context: Introduction to the Greek version of the Bible*. Boston: Brill Academic, 2001.
- Fernández Marcos, Natalio. *Scribes and translators: Septuagint and Old Latin in the Books of Kings*. Supplements to Vetus Testamentum, v. 54. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994.
- Gentry, Peter J. "The Septuagint and the text of the Old Testament." *BBR* 16 2 (2006): 193-218.
- Griggs, C. Wilfred. *Early Egyptian Christianity: from its origins to 451 CE*. (Rev. ed.). Leiden: Brill, 2000.
- Hengel, Martin, Roland Deines, and Mark E. Biddle. *The Septuagint as Christian scripture: Its prehistory and the problem of its canon*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2004.
- Jobes, Karen H. "When God spoke Greek: The place of the Greek Bible in evangelical scholarship." *BBR* 16 2 (2006): 219-236.
- Jobes, Karen H., and Moisés Silva. *Invitation to the Septuagint*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.
- Kelley, P. H., D. S. Mynatt, and T. G. Crawford. *The Masorah of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia: Introduction and annotated glossary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- Klein, Ralph W. *Textual Criticism of the Old Testament: The Septuagint after Qumran* (Guides to Biblical Scholarship, Old Testament Series). Philadelphia: Fortress, 1974.
- Kraus, Wolfgang, and R. Glenn Wooden. *Septuagint research: issues and challenges in the study of the Greek Jewish scriptures*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2006.

- Maas, Paul. *Textual Criticism*. Translated by Barbara Flower. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1958.
- McCarter, P. Kyle. *Textual Criticism: Recovering the text of the Hebrew Bible* (Guides to Biblical Scholarship, Old Testament Series). Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986.
- Price, James D. *The Syntax of Masoretic Accents in the Hebrew Bible*. Vol. 27 Studies in the Bible and Early Christianity. Lewiston, N.Y.: Mellen, 1990.
- Sæbø, Magne. *On the Way to Canon: Creative tradition history in the Old Testament*. Journal for the study of the Old Testament Supplement series 191. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998.
- Schenker, Adrian, ed. *The Earliest Text of the Hebrew Bible: The relationship between the Masoretic text and the Hebrew base of the Septuagint reconsidered*. Leiden: Brill, 2003.
- Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS: Critical Apparatus, Masora, Accents, Unusual Letters & Other Markings* (Third edition). Berkeley: BIBAL Press, 1987.
- Sipilä, Seppo. *Between Literalness and Freedom: Translation techniques in the Septuagint of Joshua and Judges regarding the clause connections introduced by ׀ and ׀*. Publications of the Finnish Exegetical Society 75. Helsinki/Göttingen: Finnish Exegetical Society, 1999.
- Strugnell, John, Harold W. Attridge, John Joseph Collins, and Thomas H. Tobin. *Of Scribes and Scrolls: Studies on the Hebrew Bible, intertestamental Judaism, and Christian origins, presented to John Strugnell on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday*. Lanham: University Press of America, 1990.
- Sweeney, Marvin A. *Zephaniah: A Commentary* (Hermeneia). Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003, esp. 1-41.
- Tov, Emanuel. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 1992.
- Tov, Emanuel. *The Text-Critical Use of the Septuagint in Biblical Research*. Vol. 3 of Jerusalem Biblical Studies. Jerusalem: Simor, 1981.
- van der Kooij, Arie. *The Oracle of Tyre: The Septuagint of Isaiah 23 as Version and Vision* (VTSup 71). Leiden: Brill, 1998.
- Weil, G. E. *Massorah Gedolah iuxta Codicem Leningrandensem B19a*. 4 vols. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1971.
- Weingreen, J. *Introduction to the Critical Study of the Hebrew Bible*. Oxford/New York: Clarendon/Oxford University Press, 1982.
- Wonneberger, Reinhard. *Understanding BHS: A manual for the users of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (Second revised edition). Trans. D. R. Daniels. Vol. 8 of Subsidia Biblica. Rome: Biblical Institute, 1984.
- Würthwein, Ernst. *The Text of the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Biblia Hebraica*. Translated by Erroll F. Rhodes. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979.
- Yeivin, Israel. *Introduction to the Tiberian Masorah*. Translated by E. J. Revell. Vol. 5 Society of Biblical Literature Masoretic Studies. Missoula: Scholars, 1980.

Please Note: This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.