



Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - 2024-2025

Exchange

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers many English-taught courses in a variety of subjects, ranging from arts & culture and social sciences, neurosciences and computer science, to economics and business administration.

The International Office is responsible for course approval and course registration for exchange students. For details about course registration, requirements, credits, semesters and so on, please [visit the exchange programmes webpages](#).

Bible Translation as Contextual Theology

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|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Course Code | G_BATRSAL044 |
| Credits | 6 |
| Period | P2 |
| Course Level | 300 |
| Language Of Tuition | English |
| Faculty | Faculty of Religion and Theology |
| Course Coordinator | prof. dr. P.B.A. Smit |
| Examiner | prof. dr. P.B.A. Smit |
| Teaching Staff | prof. dr. P.B.A. Smit |
| Teaching method(s) | Seminar, Lecture |

Course Objective

After finishing this course, the student:

- has learned to reflect on the ancient and modern contexts of authors, scribes, translators and readers;
- is trained to apply insights from contextual Bible reading to the practice of Bible translation;
- has practiced her/his own skills by working on concrete case studies concerning Bible translation and contextuality;
- is equipped to evaluate contextually inspired choices in Bible translation.

Course Content

Every translation is contextual - how can you come to terms with that, understand the dynamics involved, and evaluate translations? In this course you learn to reflect on the contexts of authors, scribes, translators and readers and to apply insights from contextual Bible reading to the practice of Bible translation. The course brings together the fields of contextual biblical interpretation and Bible translation and equips students to independent thinking and scholarship at the interface of these fields.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

The course employs a combination of lectures and seminars and is taught online.

Method of Assessment

Examination takes place in the form of a paper on a topic agreed upon with the teaching staff.

Literature

Berman, Sidney K. "Cognition and Context in Translation Analysis: Contextual Frames of Reference in Bible Translation," *Scriptura* 113:1 (2014): 1-12.

Wendland, Ernst, *Contextual Frames of Reference in Translation: A Coursebook for Bible Translators and Teachers* (Manchester/Kinderhook, New York: St. Jerome Publishing, 2008).

Wit, Hans de/Louis Jonker/Marleen Kool/Daniel Schipani (ed.), *Through the Eyes of Another. Intercultural Reading of the Bible* (Elkhart: Institute of Mennonite Studies, 2004).

Wit, Hans de/Janet Dyk (ed.), *Bible and Transformation: The Promise of*

Additional Information Target Audience

This course is part of the minor Bible Translation in a Digital Age which will be taught in online format.

If chosen as elective, the course is intended for:

- All interested in questions of translation and contextuality
- Those interested in Bible translation as a discipline
- Those interested in contextual theology
- Those interested in biblical exegesis
- Those interested in the hermeneutics of (sacred) texts

Recommended background knowledge

Knowledge of one of the biblical languages (e.g., Greek, Hebrew) is an asset, yet not a requirement.