

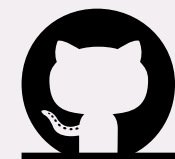
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# Applied Linguistics

LG 451/456 — Semester 2, 2021 (Jan-May 2022)

CLASS 16: TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING

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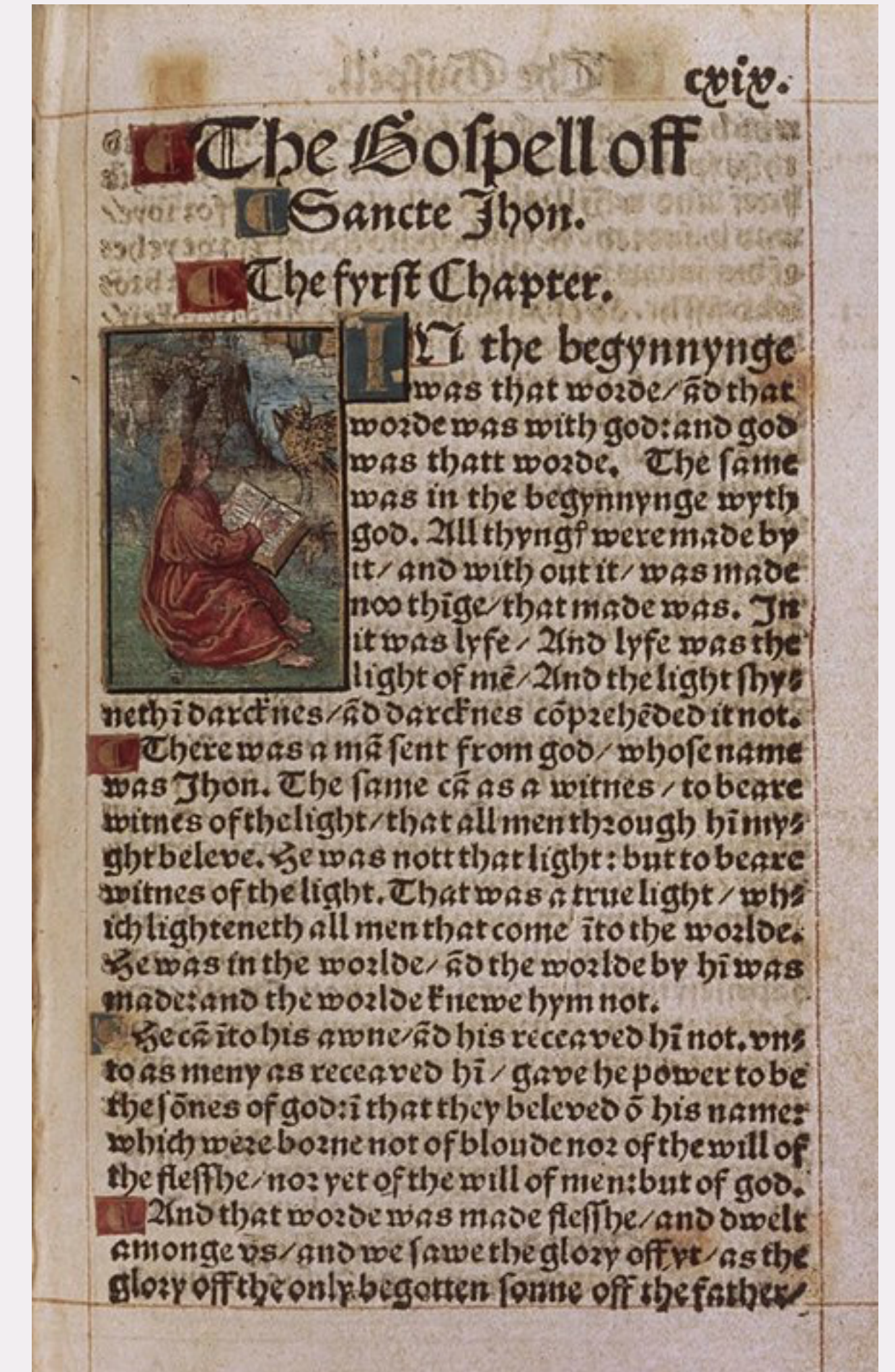
# Outline: Week 16

- Translation and interpreting
  - Setting the scene
  - Some historical perspective
  - Linguistic approach to translation
  - Situating translation studies
- Project: 3rd installment

# Translation & interpreting

# Setting the scene

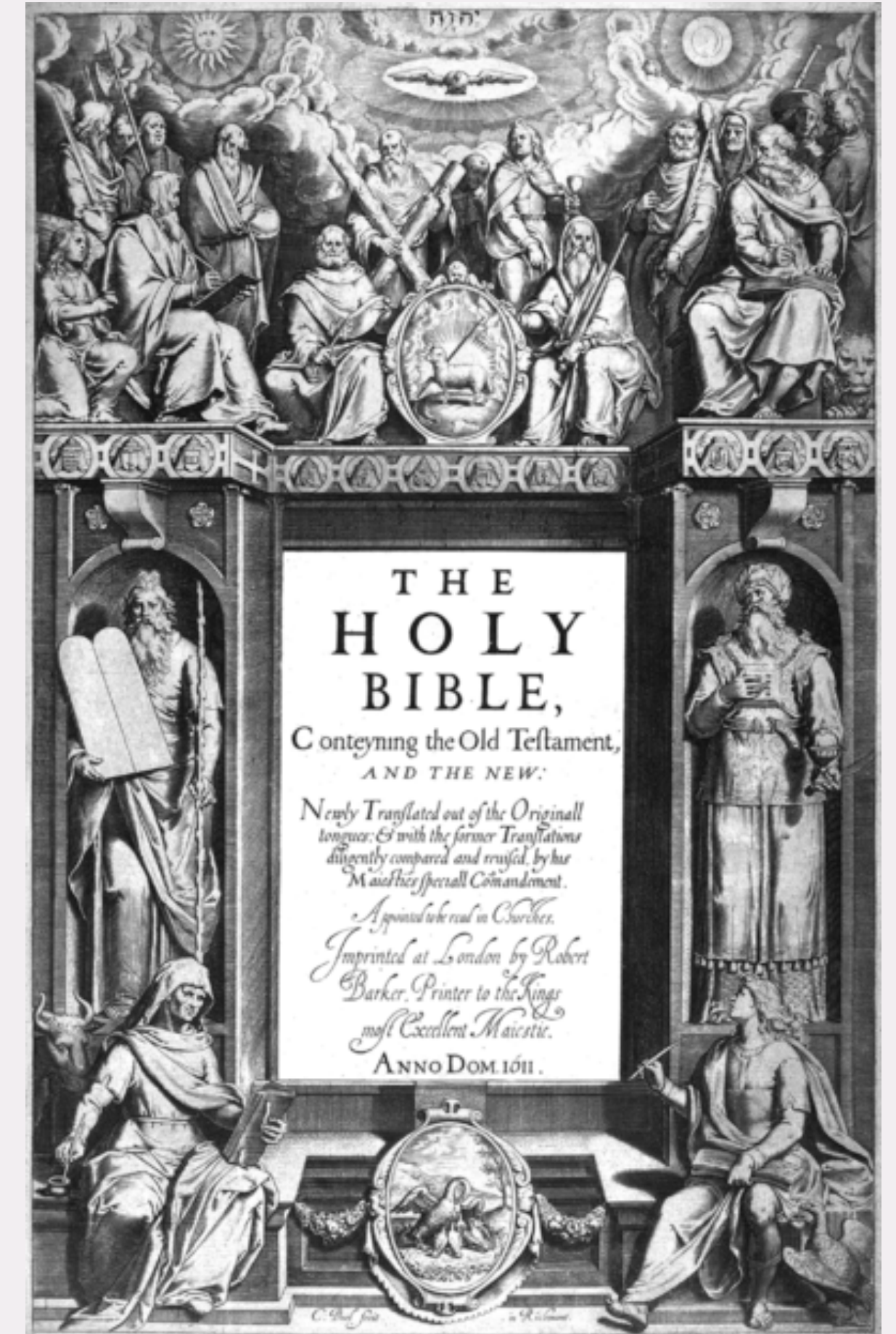
- Translation is perhaps one of the oldest professions!
- Translation (and interpreting) = linguistic mediation that involves rendering written or oral text from one language to another



The Tyndale Bible: Translation into Early Modern English

# Some historical perspective

- Earlier: translation mostly done by writers, statesmen, priests to serve literary purposes
  - Translation of religious texts (e.g., the Bible)
- Mid 20th century: translating became a mass activity and source of income



The King James Version

# Some historical perspective

- Academic study began in the 1950s
  - Initially focusing on short, often decontextualized stretches of text
  - Theorizing concerning taxonomies of different types of equivalence between **source text** (ST) and **target text** (TT)
    - Later, such theorizing was found to be highly problematic

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# Some historical perspective

- Major drivers
  - Rapid increase in the amount of non-literary translation
    - political speeches, international contracts, business letters, etc.
  - Separation of the science of translation from theories of literature
    - from literature to linguistics

# Linguistic approach vs. literary approach

- While a literary approach studies the translation of outstanding writers (or poets), a linguistic approach focuses on:
  - a wide variety of text types (e.g., technical and scientific texts, advertisements as well as literary texts);
  - the everyday work of great masses of translators and interpreters;
  - “mass” solutions, trying to describe and explain all of the operations (transformations) carried out by translators



# Linguistic approach vs. literary approach

## Literary approach

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- Product of translation
- Normative (prescriptive) bent
- Evaluation

## Linguistic approach

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- Product + process of translation
- Descriptive bent
- No evaluation

# Translation studies

- Translation and interpreting:
  - is a sub-discipline of applied linguistics
  - studies processes, products, and functions of translation
  - considers linguistic and extra-linguistic elements of the situational context
    - Linguistic: *source language, target language, source language text, target language text*
    - Extra-linguistic: *source language sender, target language receiver, and social & cultural contexts (and many more) of the SL and the TL*

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# Kinds of translation

- **written** translation of a **written** text
- **oral** translation of a **written** text (sight translation)
- **oral** translation of a **spoken** text (interpretation)
  - simultaneous translation of a spoken text
  - consecutive translation of a spoken text
- **written** translation of a **spoken** text

# Reading facilitation

# Project: 3rd installment

# Installment III: Interim draft (15%)

- Introduction:
  - My grading: **complete, thorough literature review**
    - Why do we need this study? Why do we need X approach/analysis on Y?
    - What are the RQs (or research objectives)?
- Method:
  - My grading: **complete, thorough discussion of tools, data, analyses**
  - Report everything, as if your study was completed (e.g., how many texts, how many words, when were data collected, what analyses were done?)

# Installment III: Interim draft (15%)

- Results:
  - My expectation: **30-40% of data collected; 1/4-1/2 of analysis done**
  - Report everything you have up to this point with graphs, charts, tables, excerpts, conversations, etc.
  - Once you have all data, these will help you write your final draft faster
- Discussion:
  - Present your interpretation and/or discuss major findings (it's okay if not everything is fully refined)