

times may seem like you have read it before and are not sure to what it adds.

AGAINST CELSUS is a thorough vindication of Christianity against the charges of Celsus. It is written in the mode of the time and to be seems overly cumbersome and complicated...and, like my syllabus, wordy. But you might like it!

THE HEXAPLA is the justly famous critical work that sought to bring forth the true text of the Old Testament and particularly that of the Septuagint. The text of this translation had become so altered and corrupted by so many hands that it had come to be all things to all men and the work of Origen was to re-discover its best form. Written in six columns (you will get the technical data in other courses), it was destroyed when the Islamic forces burned the library in Alexandria in the 7th century. It was perhaps one of the most ambitious text studies of all time and marked Origen as a pioneer in the field of lower criticism.

He was also the author of many homilies and sermons. In that regard it is worth noticing his view of Scripture. Origen thought of the text as having a manifold sense:

The verbal meaning was basic but limited.  
The moral meaning was the heart of the work.  
The mystical meaning was the most edifying.

We would call the first literal and the last allegorical and the second is more associated with the ideas of the text. You can see how his ideas gave birth to a continued hermeneutic of allegorism. And in this regard, it is interesting to note that he is rather condemned by literalists and allegorists as well. The former do it on the basis of excessive interpretation and the latter for his rearrangement of biblical texts.

His influence is hard to estimate. He will be the subject of debate for years and his students will be leaders in several fields. The fifth ecumenical council (551) will condemn him and pronounce his works heretical en masse. His influence in methodology is probably more important than his actual theological statements. You will need to make up your own mind on his worth and influence.