

SPRING TERM 2007
COURSE SYLLABUS

Department: Biblical Studies
Course Title: Greek New Testament
Course Number: NT 701
Credit Hours: 3

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This intermediate course in New Testament exegesis focuses on tools and skills involved in understanding, appropriating, and communicating the biblical text. We will pay particular attention to those tools and skills which are most directly related to work in the Greek text. You will have opportunity to hone your exegetical skills through focused exercises, as well as by study of particular biblical passages that represent different genres and various levels of grammatical difficulty. A systematic survey of intermediate level Greek grammar is also included, as well as work on parsing, and an introduction to BibleWorks (a computer resource) and several web resources.

I am excited about this course because it gives you a chance to improve your knowledge of Greek and to sharpen your exegetical skills, thereby giving you increased opportunity to hear God's word. In the process, we engage very rich texts that lead us to consider major aspects of the Faith and to think about how to appropriate this revelation and share it with others. Thus, the training offered in this course has the potential for revolutionizing your encounter with God through His word, as we explore the particular opportunities which study of the biblical text in Greek offers us.

II. CURRENT TEXTS:

Essential:

Barbara and Kurt Aland, eds. Novum Testamentum Graece, 27th ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1993. ISBN: 3-4380-5100-1.

- This edition (known as NA²⁷) is designed for exegesis, while the other commonly used edition, the UBS⁴, is designed for Bible translators. We will use NA²⁷ throughout the course, so you will need to either buy a copy or borrow one for use in the course.

Gordon D. Fee. New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors. Third edition. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2002. ISBN: 0-664-22316-8.

- Fee's book is the standard introduction to detailed exegesis of the New Testament. Although we will focus on his sections that are related most directly to the Greek text, he offers guidance for the whole process of exegesis, including its application to sermon preparation.

Daniel B. Wallace. Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament With Scripture, Subject, and Greek Word Indexes. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. ISBN: 0-3102-1895-0.

- Wallace's grammar is a clear and relatively thorough discussion of Greek grammar, with a focus on the exegetical significance of the grammatical details. He offers valuable comments on the interpretation of many specific passages in the New Testament. This resource is also available in electronic form from BibleWorks and elsewhere.

Desirable:

Frederick William Danker, ed. A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature. Third edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000. ISBN: 0-2260-3933-1.

- This third edition is a major revision, which sets it apart from earlier editions, and, indeed, from all other Greek lexicons. If you have an earlier edition, it is obsolete. This third edition is also available in electronic form from BibleWorks and elsewhere.

III. COURSE OUTLINE

A. Objectives

1. To become more fluent in Greek.
2. To become more proficient in basic exegetical skills.
3. To encounter God's word through the Greek text of several passages.
4. To develop and tailor practical ways of using the Greek New Testament both in personal life and in ministry.

B. General Approach

This course does not require a lot of reading, but rather great attention to detail. Our time in class will include some lecture, but, since this is a tools course most of our time will be spent working together on tools and texts. You will hone your skills and then use them to explore the treasures found in several passages of the Greek New Testament.

C. Course Requirements

1. **Class attendance.**
2. **Preparation for class** by preparing the texts for discussion, and preparing the assignments in morphology and grammar. Since this is a lab course, preparation for each class is essential.
3. **Grammar worksheets and parsing quizzes.** For most days you will have worksheets on sections of Wallace's grammar due at the beginning of class. You may want to photocopy your worksheets before class so you can have a copy as we go over the material at the beginning of class. During the first half of the course there will also be daily quizzes on basic morphology. Details regarding these quizzes are given at the end of this syllabus. The worksheets and quizzes together are 20% of your course grade.
4. **Greek notes.** You are to come to class prepared to translate and discuss the passages assigned from the Greek New Testament. You should prepare notes for each passage which include:
 - parsing of any forms you have to look up
 - meanings for any words you don't recognize
 - important points of grammar
 - significant points from at least three major commentaries
 - other notes you want to include from other resources or your own research

Note that you must write or type these notes—you may not simply cut and paste material from electronic resources. Samples of such notes are on reserve. These notes are 50% of your course grade. The notes for John 15 are due by 5 p.m., 19 March, the rest are due 4 May, by 5 p.m. Seniors' work is due by 5 p.m., 27 April.

5. **Class presentation.** Each student will lead part of a class session on the passage assigned for that day. The presentation should begin with your analysis of a designated section of the passage, followed by leading the discussion of these verses. This assignment is 10% of your course grade.
6. **Exegetical notes on Eph. 3.14-19.** (1) Prepare a sentence flow and discourse analysis of this passage. (2) Do a word study (1-2 pages, single spaced) on a word of your choice within this passage. (3) Assess the textual variants to determine if any of them are in serious doubt (i.e., rated C or D in UBS⁴), and for those readings in serious doubt do an analysis of the evidence for the readings. For all the variants noted in the apparatus in NA²⁷ provide a translation of each variant, and comment briefly on how the variants would affect the meaning of the text. (4) Write a 2-4 page (single-spaced) discussion covering the following items: (a) describe the role of the passage in the letter, (b) highlight the main topic(s) addressed in the passage, (c) summarize the

flow of thought within the passage, (d) discuss the contribution of the passage to Biblical Theology, (e) suggest a focus for teaching or preaching the passage.

This assignment is a set of notes, not an integrated essay, so organize your material according to the sections I have just indicated, though you may rearrange their order. These notes are 20% of your course grade. Due 4 May, by 5 p.m. Seniors' work is due by 5 p.m., 27 April.

D. Course Evaluation

Worksheets and quizzes	20%
Leading of class discussion	10%
Greek notes	50%
Notes on Eph. 3.14-19	20%

In general your written work will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Clarity and charity of thought and expression
2. Accuracy of information
3. Breadth and depth of discussion

Grades should be interpreted as follows:

B (80-89): The thought and expression are clear, the information is accurate, and the views of others are engaged with respect. The discussion is broad and deep enough to indicate a solid understanding of the issue. By broad I mean that sufficient aspects of the topic are covered and by depth I mean that enough supporting and illustrating material is offered to flesh out the basic thought.

C (70-79): The material shows an adequate grasp of the topic, but at points the discussion is unclear, inaccurate, narrow, shallow, or uncharitable.

D (60-69): The material shows something close to an adequate grasp of the topic, but is notably defective according to one or more of the criteria.

F (below 60): The material does not indicate that the student has an adequate grasp of the topic, or it is severely defective according to the criteria.

A (90-100): The material is exceptional. Usually this means that it is not only clear and accurate, but also develops the topic in breadth and depth beyond what is necessary for a good understanding of it. Such material is often, though not always, marked also by creativity, exceptional insight, and/or relatively extensive research.

Your final grade may be affected by class attendance, participation, and/or tardiness of work.

IV. CLASS SCHEDULE

Jan. 26

Introduction to the course
Introduction to word studies
Fee, 1-38, 79-95, 142-143

Feb. 2

Word studies, cont.
Introduction to textual criticism
Wallace 01, 02, Morph. 1
Fee, 59-70, 140-141
Metzger, *Textual Commentary*,
*1-*16 (on reserve and in
BW07)

Feb. 9

Textual criticism, cont.
Intro. to grammatical analysis
Wallace 03, 04, Morph. 2
Fee, 71-78, 141-142

Feb. 16

Grammatical analysis, cont.
Introduction to sentence flows
Wallace 05, 06, Morph. 3
Fee, 41-58, 138-139

Feb. 23

Sentence flows, cont.
Introduction to discourse analysis
Wallace 07, 08, Morph. 4
Handouts

March 2

Discourse analysis, cont.
John 15.1-17,
Wallace 09, 10, Morph. 5

March 9

John 15.1-17, cont.,
Wallace 11, 12, Morph. 6

March 16

Rom. 3.21-31, Wallace 13, 14

March 20 (Tuesday)

Greek notes on Jn. 15.1-17
due by 5 p.m.

March 23

Rom. 3.21-31, cont., Wallace 15, 16

March 30

Eph. 2.1-10, Wallace 17, 18

April 6

Good Friday

April 13

New Wineskins

April 20

Eph. 2.1-10, cont., Wallace 19, 20

April 27

Heb. 2.14-18, Wallace 21
All Seniors' work due by 5 p.m.

May 4

All work due by 5 p.m.

Morphology Assignments

The handout “Basic Hellenistic Greek Morphology” is available on the website for this course. It contains a one page selection of basic material to be memorized, known as the “Sneeze Sheet,” along with an explanation of how the Sneeze Sheet applies to recognition of forms in a passage of text. You will be quizzed on the Sneeze Sheet and its application according to the schedule given below. Quizzes will include writing out the assigned memorization material and additional questions related to the week’s morphology topic as discussed in the handout. The material should be memorized exactly as it is given on the Sneeze Sheet, apart from the accents, which you need not include. In studying “Basic Hellenistic Greek Morphology” pay attention to how the material you memorize from the Sneeze Sheet is applied in actual paradigms, and become familiar with the terminology used.

Assignment 1

- Memorize the Square of Stops, the Vowel Contraction chart, and the Definite Article
- Study “Morphology,” pgs. 1-6

Assignment 2

- Memorize the Indefinite Pronoun
- Study “Morphology,” pgs. 6-19

Assignment 3

- Memorize the Personal Endings, both Primary and Secondary
- Memorize which tenses are Primary and which are Secondary
- Memorize the bullet points regarding Variable Vowels, Zero Endings and Moveable n

Assignment 4

- Memorize the morphological elements for the first three Principal Parts
- Study “Morphology,” pgs. 20-27, paying attention to the forms related to the first three Principal Parts

Assignment 5

- Memorize the morphological elements for the last three Principal Parts
- Study “Morphology,” pgs. 20-27, paying attention to the forms related to the last three Principal Parts

Assignment 6

- Memorize the Mood Indicators (including the Imperative endings), the paradigm of pa / j , and the chart of Participle Endings
- Study “Morphology,” pgs. 27-33