ID 6000 – Bible Study Tools:
Greek Language, Reference Works, and Software

Syllabus

Ἑλληνιστὶ γνῶσκας (Acts 21:37)

For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. (Matt 5:18)

1. Course Description
This course is designed with two types of student in mind: (1) those who are hoping to learn a little Greek for the first time and (2) those who have learned some Greek but have forgotten so much that they no longer really use it in Bible study, teaching or preaching. The course surveys essential features of biblical Greek grammar in order to equip the student to make more productive use of concordances, lexicons, commentaries, software tools and other Bible study resources in their exegesis. Unlike traditional first-semester Greek, this course does not emphasize the extensive memorization of vocabulary or inflectional forms. Students will learn to use various tools and resources to find lexical and grammatical information, and then learn to apply this knowledge in the interpretation of the New Testament. Note: This course does not fulfill Greek proficiency requirements for the M.Div. or MA/NT programs. Students in these programs should take either NT 4030/4031 or NT 4038 (see course catalog for details).

2. Learning Objectives
By the end of the course students should...
• have learned the Greek alphabet, English transliteration, and the pronunciation of Greek words,
• be able to recognize approximately 110 of the most frequently occurring words in the Greek New Testament;
• be able to use either an interlinear New Testament or Bible software program to identify the Greek words behind an English translation and find parsing information;
• have learned enough about inflection and syntax to interpret this parsing information for exegetical purposes;
• be able to perform basic word studies, including the ability to (i) look up the range of possible meanings of a Greek word in standard reference works, to (ii) discern in most cases the intended meaning of the word in a given New Testament context, and to (iii) find all occurrences of the word and its close cognates in New Testament books;
• be able to employ a knowledge of Greek conjunctions to help them trace the basic flow of an argument in a New Testament passage and understand the relationships between the various propositions and statements;
• be able to compare English Bible translations, and in most cases, discern the reasons for the differences among them;
• be able to make productive use of certain scholarly commentaries that discuss the Greek text;
• be able to make use of all of the above for God’s glory and for a better understanding of the New Testament.

3. Texts and Software

Required
1. William D. Mounce, Greek for the Rest of Us (2nd edition; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013). Note: You are required to use the second edition. E-books are acceptable.

2. Either an interlinear New Testament (with parsing information and Strong’s/GK Numbers) OR a Bible software equivalent. Note: You may want to wait to purchase until after I discuss options in class.
   – Recommended Bible Software: Accordance, Logos, or The Bible Study App. Note: The instructor will primarily use Accordance for classroom presentations. Bibleworks is also acceptable, but it is not recommended for those without prior knowledge of Greek.
Reverse interlinear NTs are available in various Bible versions. Some have online formats. If you or your church uses the NIV, you may want to get William D. Mounce, *Interlinear for the Rest of Us* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006/2013). Otherwise, you may want to consider the *The English-Greek Reverse Interlinear New Testament: English Standard Version* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2006).

3. Access to a Greek-English lexicon or exegetical dictionary. Recommendations will be given in class.

4. Additional required readings will be posted in .pdf format on the course website.

4. **Course Requirements and Grading**

   **Class Participation (5% of overall course grade) and Attendance Policy**—Participation is essential for any language course, and even more so for this course because it involves in-class group exercises. Both extroverts and introverts need to practice active listening in addition to sharing their insights and questions. **Note:** Students are expected to attend ALL class meetings. You are allowed one excused and one unexcused absence. Subsequent absences, excused or not, will result in the drop of a half letter grade. Persistent tardiness will also adversely affect your grade.

   **10 Weekly Vocab and Reading Quizzes (20% of overall course grade)**—Quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class and will consist of 5-10 questions in various formats, e.g., multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer. The course schedule (see below) indicates specific readings and vocabulary sets covered in each quiz. Vocabulary sets will be available on the course website. Your overall quiz score will be the average of your 8 best quiz scores. This means that the lowest two quiz scores will be dropped! (Feel free to breathe a sigh of relief). However, this also means there will be NO MAKE UP quizzes.

   **Homework Exercises (15% of overall course grade)**—These assignments will be posted on the course website. Note: You should set aside approximately 30 to 60 minutes each week to complete these exercises.

   **Two Exegetical Projects (30% of overall course grade)**—Students will apply methods and concepts taught in the readings and lectures to the interpretation of specific New Testament passages. Detailed instructions will be provided in separate handout. Please upload to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) (Class ID: ; Enrollment password: ).

   **Final Exam (30% of overall course grade)**—The final will be cumulative. Most of the questions will resemble the kinds of questions asked in the weekly quizzes.

   **Grading Scale:**

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5. **Classroom Rules and Etiquette**

   1. **Asking Questions:** It’s always okay to interrupt a lecture with a clarification question. In fact, you are strongly encouraged to do so. If you need clarification, chances are some of your classmates need it as well. Other kinds of questions should wait either until a pause in the lecture or until the instructor invites them.

   2. **What to Bring to Class:** Interlinear NT and/or Bible Software. Laptops and/or Tablets are strongly encouraged, but volume must be muted. Phones should be out of sight and must be on vibrate mode. No social media in class please.

   3. **Eating and Drinking** is permitted as long as it not distracting to other students.
Tentative Course Schedule (6:30pm-8:30pm, Thursdays)

9/3  Topics: Class Orientation; How Greek Can Enhance Your Study of the Bible; Bible Translations; Alphabet and Transliteration.
Reading: Greek for the Rest of Us, chs. 1 & 2.

9/10 Topics: Pronunciation; Introduction to Greek Nouns; Introduction to Software Tools.
Pre-Class Assignments: Read Greek for the Rest of Us, chs. 3-5; HW Exercise Set 1.
Quiz 1: Greek for the Rest of Us, chs. 5, 6, 8 & Vocab Set 1.

9/17 Topics: Greek Prepositions; Introduction to Greek Verbs (part 1).
Pre-Class Assignments: Read Greek for the Rest of Us, chs. 6-8; HW Exercise Set 2.
Quiz 2: Greek for the Rest of Us, chs. 9 & Vocab Set 2.

9/24 Topics: Introduction to Greek Verbs (part 2); Software Tools (part 2).
Pre-Class Assignments: Read Greek for the Rest of Us, chs. 10-12; HW Exercise Set 3.
Quiz 3: Greek for the Rest of Us, ch. 13 & Vocab Set 3.

10/1 Topics: Word Studies; Understanding Lexicons, Dictionaries, and Concordances.

10/8 Topics: Understanding Noun Cases; Introduction to Greek Pronouns.
Pre-Class Assignments: Read Greek for the Rest of Us, chs. 11-12; HW Exercise set 5.
Quiz 5: Greek for the Rest of Us, ch. 11-12 & Vocab Set 4.

10/15 Topics: Modifiers and Phrases; Simplified Sentence Diagramming.
Pre-Class Assignments: Read Greek for the Rest of Us, chs. 13-14.
Quiz 6: Greek for the Rest of Us, ch. 13 & Vocab Set 5.
Due: Exegetical Project 1.

10/22 Topics: Verbal Aspect and Voice.
Pre-Class Assignments: Read Greek for the Rest of Us, chs. 15-16; HW Exercise set 6.
Quiz 7: Greek for the Rest of Us, chs. 15-16 & Vocab Set 6.

10/29 Topics: Verb Tenses and Moods.
Pre-Class Assignments: Read Greek for the Rest of Us, chs. 17-18; HW Exercise set 7.
Quiz 8: Greek for the Rest of Us, chs. 17-18 & Vocab Set 7.

11/5 Topics: Participles and Conjunctions.
Pre-Class Assignments: Read Greek for the Rest of Us, chs. 19-20; HW Exercise set 8.
Quiz 9: Greek for the Rest of Us, chs. 19-20 & Vocab Set 8.

11/12 Topic: Tracing the Flow of the Argument.

11/19 TBD: Guest Lecturer.

11/26 NO CLASS – Thanksgiving.

12/3 Topics: Greek Review; Odds and Ends; Troubleshooting for Exegetical Project 2.
Pre-Class Assignments: Read Greek for the Rest of Us, ch. 32.

12/10 Final Exam (online).

12/13 Due: Exegetical Project 2.