



Introduction to Greek Grammar (NTGK5300)

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Biblical Studies Division—Fall 2019

Dr. Gerald L. Stevens, PhD (gstevens@nobts.edu)

Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Greek

Office: Hardin 262; Phone: (504) 282-4455 ext. 3734

I. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment through the local church and its ministries.

II. CORE VALUE FOCUS

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course supports these five core values of the seminary.

1. *Doctrinal Integrity*: We believe, teach, proclaim, and submit to the Bible as the Word of God. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by equipping students to understand and gain ability to articulate biblical, theological, and historical truths.
2. *Spiritual Vitality*: We emphasize both personal spirituality as a worshipping seminary family gathering together for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in his Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by challenging students to grow in spiritual and moral integrity through biblical study and spiritual and ethical practices.
3. *Mission Focus*: We purpose to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandment through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and Great Commandment.
4. *Characteristic Excellence*: We aim for characteristic excellence to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to understand and interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
5. *Servant Leadership*: We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment and lifestyle patterns.

The core value emphasis for this academic year is: Spiritual Vitality.

III. COURSE PURPOSE

This purpose for this course is to introduce the book of Acts for purposes of teaching and preaching and building the faith and ministry of the local church.

IV. CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES

All ministers need to develop specific competencies to have effective ministries. The seminary has developed a competency-based curriculum centered on seven essential competencies for effective ministry: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses six competencies directly.

1. *Biblical Exposition*: by preparing students to understand, interpret, and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. *Christian and Theological Heritage*: by reminding students of the Christian theological heritage of the Old and New Testament and Baptist polity for the church
3. *Discipleship Making*: by stimulating church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth through modeling the principles of discipleship through classroom deportment.
4. *Interpersonal Skills*: by performing pastoral care effectively with skills in communication and conflict management through interaction among students in the class and in small group activities.
5. *Servant Leadership*: by serving churches effectively in team ministry through modeling and reflecting the attitude of Christ in the life of a disciple.
6. *Spiritual and Character Formation*: by providing moral leadership and modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion through discussion and modeling of spiritual disciplines as a normal part of class discussion and activity.

V. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a basic introduction to the Greek language used in writing the New Testament. The student will be instructed in the basic morphology of koine Greek in order to develop translation skills from Greek to English to facilitate exegesis of New Testament passages for ministry in teaching and preaching. The grammar is deductive in approach. A video describing the course is here:

<https://drkoine.com/classes/language/introgk/index.html>

VI. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge

Students who complete this course successfully should:

- Know Greek morphology of verb and noun systems and understand the connections between morphology and grammar
- Know Greek vocabulary of words occurring 50 or more times in the New Testament to facilitate reading and use of the Greek New Testament
- Understand Greek grammar principles that lead interpreters to discover the meaning intended by the biblical author
- Understand major translation theories and the basic principles of moving words and ideas from the original language to the receptor language
- Apply understanding of vocabulary, morphology, grammar, and translation to selected New Testament passages

Attitudes

Students who complete this course successfully should:

- Appreciate the significance of Greek grammar for translation of the New Testament
- Appreciate the richness of the Greek language for the inspired text
- Recognize the importance of original language study for sound exegesis
- Be more confident in interpreting biblical texts

Skills

Students who complete this course successfully should be able to:

- Utilize basic methods of studying Greek grammar that will contribute to a regular application of Greek grammar in teaching and preaching

- Translate selected portions of the Greek New Testament using appropriate translation aids
- Grasp grammatical issues in translation that affect an understanding of the biblical text
- Incorporate Greek studies in support of the exegetical and hermeneutical tasks of ministry
- Use critical commentaries based upon the Greek text, in so far as discussion pertains to issues of the Greek language and translation

VII. TEACHING METHODOLOGY

- Class sessions will consist of lecture presentations previewing upcoming units of study followed by review of homework exercises of assigned units.
- Class preparation will consist of memorizing assigned vocabulary, reading textbook assignments, and preparing homework exercises.
- Class units presented are: five units reviewing English grammar, nine units on the Greek substantive system, ten units on the indicative Greek verb, and seven units on the non-indicative Greek verb.

VIII. REQUIRED TEXTS

- Gerald L. Stevens, *New Testament Greek Primer, Third Edition* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2010)
- Bruce M. Metzger, *et al., eds., The Greek New Testament* (New York: United Bible Societies, 2014, fifth edition)

IX. OTHER RESOURCES

- *Dr. Stevens's personal website is:*

<http://www.drkoine.com>

This website is for students in classes taught by Dr. Stevens. The site has a three-fold purpose: (1) to provide personal information to get to know the professor beyond the classroom in the areas of background, family, music and photography, (2) to provide professional information to get to know the professor within the academic guild in the areas of publications, presentations, and sermons, and (3) to provide educational information in support of his teaching career in the areas of classes, travel, and museums.

- To go straight to the Classes page for information about any of Dr. Stevens's classes, use the following link:

<http://drkoine.com/classes/index.html>

- To go straight to the IntroGk course page with a brief course description, introductory video, syllabus, textbooks used, and related course files, use this link:

<https://drkoine.com/classes/language/introgk/index.html>

- *Recommended vocabulary program:*

- **iOS—NOBTS APP** The free seminary app in the iTunes store has a Toolbox section within which are vocabulary lists coordinated with the chapters of the *New Testament Greek Primer* text. This app works on all iOS devices. Use this iTunes link:
<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/nobts/id494807674?mt=8>
- **Vocabulary Pronunciation** is available. These are PowerPoint presentations developed to help you with pronunciation of vocabulary words. The PowerPoint files (1.3–3.9 Mb) are available on my website. Go to the course page link given earlier.
- **Technology Assistance**, call ITC (504-816-8180) or consult the following websites.
—For online registration, financial account, online transcript. etc.:
selfserve.nobts.edu (email: selfserve@nobts.edu)
—For Blackboard Learning Management system:
nobts.blackboard.com (email: blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu)
—For general technical questions and support requests:
www.nobts.edu/itc/ (email: itcsupport@nobts.edu)
—For general NOBTS technical help information:
www.nobts.edu/itc/
- For help in writing papers, NOBTS maintains a Writing Center called “The Write Stuff” (HSC 290B, x8193) to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information towards becoming a better writer. Email writingcenter@nobts.edu

X. COURSE REQUIREMENTS and EVALUATION:

- **Vocabulary Homework** will be checked each class. *Greek vocabulary words are to be written out five times each and turned-in every class.* Vocabulary homework can be made up after any given class; however, any makeup work must be turned in by the next class meeting.
- **English Quizzes** will be given on the days scheduled from the *Greek Primer* appendix lessons. Each quiz will consist of grammar questions from the material in the assigned English lessons. *These tests will be administered online in the Blackboard section of the class, entitled “Greek Grammar (Fall 2018).”* Exam availability will be announced on Blackboard. *The quiz must be completed by the beginning of class on the assigned date.* The student will take the exam without any aids, whether written or published in print or electronically. The student will not discuss the content of the exams in any shape or form with any other student in the class while the exams are available online.
- **Vocabulary Exams** will be given in class on the days scheduled from the *Greek Primer* lists. Each exam will consist of twenty (20) Greek words for which the student must supply the correct English gloss.
- **Sectional Exams** will be given on the days scheduled. These exams focus on the material since the last exam. Learning any language, however, is a cumulative enterprise, so concepts build upon each other.
- **Final Exam** is on vocabulary and material since the last sectional exam.
- **Participation** of students in class will be observed and included in grading.

- **Extra Credit:** Several options are available:
 1. *Reading options.* Turn in an extra credit reading report indicating what you read and verifying that you have read 100% of the assigned material and sign your name. You can combine individual items from both #1, the reading material, and from #2, the homework options. However, on #1, the reading material, you may do *either* 1.1 (Greek articles) or 1.2 (Bruce's book), but not both together. Simply turn in a sheet of paper with a statement acknowledging that you read 100% of the material you have indicated and provide your signature.
 - 1.1 Greek Articles. Read the articles below for up to 10 points on a sectional exam. Each article is worth 2 points, and articles can be used cumulatively.
 - *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, volume 2, pages 480–82, "Hellenistic Greek" (IDB 2:480–82).
 - *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, volume 2, page 486, "The Discovery of Koine" (IDB 2:486).
 - *Broadman Bible Commentary*, volume 8, pages 15–18, "The Text and Canon of the New Testament," Part 1 (BBC 8:15–18).
 - M. J. Harris, "Appendix: Prepositions and Theology in the Greek New Testament, Part I, General Observations," *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*, Colin Brown, gen. ed., translated with additions and revisions from the German *Theologisches Begriffslexikon zum Neuen Testament*, ed. by Lothar Coenen, Erich Beyreuther and Hans Bietenhard, 3 vols. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978), volume 3, pages 1171–78 (NIDNTT 3:1171–78).
 - J. B. Phillips, "The Problems of Making A Contemporary Translation," *The Bible Translator*, Vol. 16 (Jan. 1965): 25–32 (Phillips: 25–32).
 - 1.2 Bruce's Book. Read the short book below for 10 points added to a sectional exam.
 - F. F. Bruce, *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1960).
 2. *Homework options.* Turn in Xerox copies of completed homework for the following chapters or parts of chapters. Each of these items can be used cumulatively and in combination with reading the Greek articles in #1.1 above.
 - 2.1 Chapter 19, "The Perfect System." For up to 5 points added to a sectional exam, read the material on the pluperfect tense (296–303), and do homework exercises #1.7, #1.9; #6; #7.12.
 - 2.2 Chapter 20, "Subjunctive and Optative." For up to 5 points added to a sectional exam, read the material on the optative mood (320–28), and do homework exercises #1.7 and #6.5.
 - 2.3 Chapters 27–28, "MI Verbs." For up to 12 points added to the final exam, read the two chapters on the MI Verb system and do all homework exercises, including all vocabulary written out five times each (10 words).
- **Final Average**
 - vocabulary homework = 10%
 - English quiz avg. = 10%
 - vocabulary exams avg. = 20%
 - sectional exams avg. = 40%
 - final exam = 20%

XI. COURSE POLICIES:

- **Attendance:** Class attendance for all sessions is expected. In a three-hour semester class, you are allowed to miss a total of nine classroom hours, which is less than six 80 minute class periods. Class periods missed because of late enrollment are counted as absences. Three tardies equals one absence. Be forewarned that cutting a grammar class is academically unwise at any time. Absence due to illness or emergency must be accompanied by documentation acceptable to the professor to be an excused absence with no penalty.
- **Etiquette:** Please silence cell phones before class begins. Otherwise, you may disrupt the entire class. If you expect an extremely important call, wait for that call outside class. Also, please do not disrupt class by leaving to take a cell phone call. We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a positive learning environment.

XII. PLAGIARISM:

- **Plagiarism:** NOBTS has a *no tolerance policy* for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

XIII. ASSIGNMENTS:

WEEK	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1: Aug. 20, 22	CLASS INTRODUCTION: • Lesson Preview • Syllabus • Staff	ENGLISH 1–2: Words, Wrds. Groups • Primer: 445–63 and Exercises • <i>English Quiz 1 (Blackboard)</i> CHAPTER 1: Alpha, Beta, Gamma • Primer: 3–16 and Exercises • <i>Language Lesson 1: 17–19</i>
Week 2: Aug. 27, 29	ENGLISH 3: Sentences • Primer: 465–76 and Exercises • <i>English Quiz 2 (Blackboard)</i> CHAPTER 2: Greek Verbs • Primer: 21–28 and Exercises	ENGLISH 4–5: Sen. Sense, Diagram. • Primer: 477–512 and Exercises • <i>English Quiz 3 (Blackboard)</i> CHAPTER 3: Middle & Pass. Voice • Primer: 29–38 and Exercises • <i>Language Lesson 2: 39–41</i>
Week 3: Sept. 3, 5	CHAPTER 4: Greek Nouns • Primer: 43–52 and Exercises	CHAPTER 5: First Declension • Primer: 53–62 and Exercises CHAPTER 6: The Article • Primer: 63–72 and Exercises
Week 4: Sept. 10, 12	CHAPTER 7: Third Declension • VOCABULARY EXAM #1 • Primer: 75–87 and Exercises	▣ SECTIONAL EXAM #1
Week 5: Sept. 17, 19	CHAPTER 8: Adjectives • Primer: 89–108 and Exercises	CHAPTER 9: Pronouns • Primer: 109–30 and Exercises
Week 6: Sept. 24, 26	CHAPTER 10: Prepositions • Primer: 131–52 and Exercises	CHAPTER 11: Adverbs and More • VOCABULARY EXAM #2 • Primer: 153–72 and Exercises
Week 7 Oct. 1, 3	CHAPTER 12: Contract Verbs • Primer: 175–86 and Exercises • <i>Language Lesson 3: 187–89</i>	CHAPTER 13: Imperfect Tense • Primer: 191–205 and Exercises
Week 8 Oct. 8, 10	CHAPTER 14: Conditional Senten. • Primer: 207–22 and Exercises • <i>Language Lesson 4: 223–26</i>	▣ SECTIONAL EXAM #2
Break Oct. 14–18	FALL BREAK CHAPTER 15: Future Tense: (Primer: 227–42 and Exercises)	
Week 9 Oct. 22, 24	CHAPTER 16: First Aorist • Primer: 243–53 and Exercises	CHAPTER 17: Second Aorist, Liqs. • Primer: 255–66 and Exercises

Week 10 Oct. 29, 31	CHAPTER 18: The Passive System • <i>VOCABULARY EXAM #3</i> • Primer: 267–81 and Exercises	CHAPTER 19: The Perfect System • Primer: 285–309 (omit Pluperfect) • Exercises (omit 1.7, 1.9, 6, 7.12) • <i>Language Lesson 5</i> : 311–14
Week 11 Nov. 5, 7	CHAPTER 20: Subjunctive • Primer: 315–32 (omit Optative) • Exercises (omit 1.7, 6.5)	CHAPTER 21: Imperative • Primer: 333–41 and Exercises
Week 12 Nov. 12, 14	▣ <i>SECTIONAL EXAM #3</i>	CHAPTER 22: Infinitives • Primer: 343–63 and Exercises
Week 13 Nov. 29, 21	CHAPTER 23: Adverbial Infinitives • <i>VOCABULARY EXAM #4</i> • Primer: 365–73 and Exercises	CHAPTER 24: Participles • Primer: 377–89 and Exercises
Break Nov. 25–29	THANKSGIVING	
Week 14 Dec. 3, 5	CHAPTER 25: Adjectival Participle • Primer: 391–403 and Exercises	CHAPTER 26: Adverbial Participles • Primer: 405–22 and Exercises
Week 15 Dec. 11–13	FINAL EXAM Thurs., Dec. 12, 2:00–4:00 pm	

XIV. Bibliography

The following bibliography is suggested by the New Testament Department of Denver Seminary and available at this link:

<http://www.denverseminary.edu/article/new-testament-exegesis-bibliography-2009/>

Textual Criticism

Aland, K. and B. *The Text of the New Testament*. G.R.: Eerdmans, 1989.² Black, D. A. *New Testament Textual Criticism: A Concise Guide*. G.R.: Baker, 1994.

Greenlee, J. H. *Introduction to New Testament Textual Criticism*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1995.²

Jones, T. P. *Misquoting the Truth: A Guide to Fallacies of Bart Erhman's Misquoting Jesus*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2007.

*Metzger, B. M. *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*. London & N.Y.: United Bible Societies, 1994.²

Omanson, R. L. *A Textual Guide to the Greek New Testament*. Stuttgart: German Bible Society, 2006.

Parker, D. C. *An Introduction to the New Testament Manuscripts and Their Texts*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

*Wegner, P. D. *A Student's Guide to Textual Criticism of the Bible: Its History, Methods and Results*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2006.

Grammar

*Black, D. A. *It's Still Greek to Me*. G.R.: Baker, 1998.

Blass, F., A. Debrunner, and R. Funk. *A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961.

Mounce, W. D. *The Morphology of Biblical Greek*. G.R.: Zondervan, 1994.

Porter, S. E. *Idioms of the Greek New Testament*. Sheffield, UK: Sheffield Academic Press, 1992.

Wallace, D. B. *The Basics of New Testament Syntax*. G.R.: Zondervan, 2000.

*Wallace, D. B. *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*. G.R.: Zondervan, 1996.

Young, R. A. *Intermediate New Testament Greek*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.