



Introduction to Greek Grammar (NTGK5300)

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Biblical Studies Division

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I. SEMINARY MISSION

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. COURSE PURPOSE

This purpose for this course is to introduce the Greek language used in writing the New Testament.

III. CORE VALUES:

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically in that the course is designed to prepare the student to grow in the understanding and interpreting of the Word of God.

Characteristic Excellence is also addressed in that the student should be as prepared as possible to be ministers for Christ. Mission Focus is emphasized in that interpreting the Bible is a key element in presenting the Good News of the Gospel to the world. Proper interpretation is vital in fulfilling the Great Commission. This course addresses the competency of Biblical Exposition by preparing the student to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately. *The core value for NOBTS this year is Spiritual Vitality.*

IV. KEY COMPETENCIES:

The Seminary has seven key competencies in its academic program: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. *The key competency addressed in this course is Biblical Exposition.*

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.

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. 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, 1993, fourth edition)

VIII. 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.

IX. COURSE 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 (Spring 2013)." 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%

X. 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.

XI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- *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:

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

- *Recommended vocabulary programs are:*

- **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>

- **Windows—VocabWorks** is a vocabulary review program for the Windows operating system that is freeware. This program works very well, and I have a Stevens database already compiled for this program that can be downloaded from my website. Obtaining the program now requires a work-a-round, since the VocabWorks website is static. Check with Dr. Stevens.
- **Mac—FlashWorks** is a vocabulary review program for the Mac operating system that is freeware. This program works very well, and I have a Stevens database already compiled for this program that can be downloaded from my website. Here is the link:

http://www.teknia.com/free_flashworks

- **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.
- *Internet and computer software aids are:*
- **Greek Aids:** Students often ask what computer software will help them learn Greek. I compiled research on the matter with links to Internet sites that you can access. Some information is out of date, since the Internet changes so fast. You can download the entire document as a pdf file that you do not have to be online to read. Go to the course page link given earlier for a downloadable pdf file (2.0 Mb) on this subject.

XII. COURSE SCHEDULE:

WEEK	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1: Jan. 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: Jan. 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: Feb. 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: Feb. 10, 12	CHAPTER 7: Third Declension • <i>VOCABULARY EXAM #1</i> • Primer: 75–87 and Exercises	□ <i>SECTIONAL EXAM #1</i>
Week 5: Feb. 17, 19	MARDI GRAS HOLIDAY	CHAPTER 8: Adjectives • Primer: 89–108 and Exercises
Week 6: Feb. 24, 26	CHAPTER 9: Pronouns • Primer: 109–30 and Exercises	CHAPTER 10: Prepositions • Primer: 131–52 and Exercises
Week 7 Mar. 3, 5	CHAPTER 11: Adverbs and More • <i>VOCABULARY EXAM #2</i> • Primer: 153–72 and Exercises	CHAPTER 12: Contract Verbs • Primer: 175–86 and Exercises • <i>Language Lesson 3: 187–89</i>
Week 8 Mar. 10, 12	CHAPTER 13: Imperfect Tense • Primer: 191–205 and Exercises	CHAPTER 14: Conditional Senten. • Primer: 207–22 and Exercises • <i>Language Lesson 4: 223–26</i>
Week 9 Mar. 17, 19	□ <i>SECTIONAL EXAM #2</i>	CHAPTER 15: Future Tense • Primer: 227–42 and Exercises
Break Mar. 23–27	SPRING BREAK	

Week 10 M 31, Ap 2	CHAPTER 16: First Aorist • Primer: 243–53 and Exercises	CHAPTER 17: Second Aorist, Liqs. • Primer: 255–66 and Exercises
Week 11 Apr. 7, 9	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 12 Apr. 14, 16	CHAPTER 20: Subjunctive • Primer: 315–32 (omit Optative) • Exercises (omit 1.7, 6.5)	CHAPTER 21: Imperative • Primer: 333–41 and Exercises
Week 13 Apr. 21, 23	□ <i>SECTIONAL EXAM #3</i>	CHAPTER 22: Infinitives • Primer: 343–63 and Exercises
Week 14 Apr. 28, 30	CHAPTER 23: Adverbial Infinitives • <i>VOCABULARY EXAM #4</i> • Primer: 365–73 and Exercises	CHAPTER 24: Participles • Primer: 377–89 and Exercises
Week 15 May 5, 7	CHAPTER 25: Adjectival Participle • Primer: 391–403 and Exercises	CHAPTER 26: Adverbial Participles • Primer: 405–22 and Exercises
Week 16 May 14	FINAL EXAMS and GRADUATION Thurs., May 14, 10:00–12:00	

XIII. 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.

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

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*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.