

COURSE SYLLABUS  
Department of Biblical Studies  
BL 550/551 - Beginning Greek  
Summer 2008

Rev. Richard Herbster, M.Div.  
Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church  
Aliquippa PA 15001  
724-495-6362  
[rich\\_herbster@hotmail.com](mailto:rich_herbster@hotmail.com)

I. Description:

Beginning Greek is an intensive eight-week course of study. The class is designed to teach you the basics of Biblical (or “koine”) Greek. At the end of this course of study you will be equipped with the basic grammar, vocabulary and translation skills which you will need in order to do exegesis in the Greek New Testament.

I can imagine little that is as exciting as getting closer to God’s Word in the original language – these are valuable skills which will serve you faithfully in your lifetime of ministry as you serve our Lord. What a privilege to be able to study it! Of course, not everyone approaches basic Greek with this kind of enthusiasm – maybe you would prefer minor surgery! If you are one of those who is terrified at the thought of this course, take heart – YOU CAN DO IT!! Learning a language requires some memorization (and just plain hard work), but will pay handsome dividends for you down the road.

This must be said up front – although you can do it, you will have to work at it. No one learns Greek by osmosis. You must study every day, read the assigned texts, do the assigned exercises, and prepare for quizzes and exams. If not, you will not do well and you will not have usable language skills. Students are advised to minimize all outside commitments during this course of study in order to maximize study time (you’ll need it!).

II. Objectives:

- A. To learn the elements of Greek Grammar necessary for exegetical study.
- B. To begin to build a vocabulary of the most common words found in the Greek New Testament – students will learn all words which occur 30 or more times in the Greek New Testament.
- C. To introduce students to the Greek New Testament and some other resources to aid in exegetical study.
- D. To launch students into New Testament reading.
- E. To begin to bridge the student to using the Greek New Testament to gain exegetical insight into God’s Holy Word.

- III. Requirements:
- A. Students are expected to attend all classes. Although roll will not be formally taken, regular unexcused absences will be noted and will affect any borderline grades. Skipping class hurts only oneself and wastes time, money and resources.
  - B. Time will be spent each day in class teaching new material and reviewing exercises. Students are expected to come to class prepared for the day's lessons. It is assumed that all appropriate exercises have been completed and that the necessary vocabulary has been memorized. In addition to the daily assignments below, additional exercises and vocabulary will be dispensed in class.
  - C. Quizzes will be given on a (usually) daily basis on the dates indicated by this syllabus. The final exam will be administered on the final day of class.
  - D. The professor reserves the right to modify these requirements as needed.
- IV. Grading: The Grading for BL 252 will be based on quizzes and the final exam. Ordinarily, quizzes will be given every day and will include vocabulary, grammar, parsing, and translation. The final exam will be primarily translation and will allow you to show your ability to apply all that you have learned in this course by translating Holy Scripture. The quizzes will comprise 75% of the course grade; the remaining 25% is based on the grade of the final exam. All quizzes and the final exam are cumulative.
- V. Textbooks and Resources:

Required

William D. Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek Grammar: Second Edition* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003) ISBN: 0310250870

William D. Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek Workbook: Second Edition* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003). ISBN: 0310250862

Recommended, but you do not need to purchase for this course:

*The UBS Greek New Testament, A Reader's Edition* (Grand Rapids: Hendrickson, 2007). ISBN: 1598562851

William Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek Vocabulary Cards*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004). ISBN: 0310259878

Walter Bauer and Frederick Danker, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, 3rd edition (Chicago: University Press, 1999). ISBN: 0226039331

VI. Schedule and Class Assignments:

Mon.	June 23	Chs. 1-4	
Wed.	June 25	Chs. 5-6	Quiz 1
Fri.	June 27	Ch. 7	Quiz 2
Mon.	June 30	Ch. 8-9	Quiz 3
Wed.	July 2	Ch. 10	Quiz 4
Fri.	July 4	No class – Study Greek every day!	
Mon.	July 7	Ch. 10	
Wed.	July 9	Chs. 11-12	Quiz 5
Fri.	July 11	Chs. 13-14	Quiz 6
Mon.	July 14	Chs. 15-16	Quiz 7
Wed.	July 16	Chs. 17-18	Quiz 8
Fri.	July 18	Chs. 19-20	Quiz 9
Mon.	July 21	Chs. 21-22	Quiz 10
Wed.	July 23	Chs. 23-24	Quiz 11
Fri.	July 25	Ch. 25-26	Quiz 12
Mon.	July 28	Ch. 27	Quiz 13
Wed.	July 30	Chs. 28-29	Quiz 14
Fri.	August 1	Ch. 30	Quiz 15
Mon.	August 4	Ch. 31	Quiz 16
Wed.	August 6	Chs. 32-33	Quiz 17
Fri.	August 8	Chs. 34-35	Quiz 18
Mon.	August 11	Scripture study	Quiz 19
Wed.	August 13	Scripture study	
Fri.	August 15	Final Exam	