

COURSE SYLLABUS
Department of Biblical Studies
Beginning Greek
Course Number: BL 251

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I. Description:

BL 251 is the second of two courses. Together with BL 250, 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.

This syllabus reads much the same as that of BL 250 since the two courses work together to form a comprehensive whole. The points of dissimilarity between the syllabi of the two courses will be seen primarily in the schedule.

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 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!).

Approaching Greek study in this online format will present you with many opportunities and challenges. The online format allows us to interact with the material between structured “lecture” times, allows for a give and take between teacher and student and student and student in an otherwise impossible manner, and allows accessibility to tools and resources instantly available at all times. The online format does provide us with some unique challenges, however. You will not be able to hear one another pronounce Greek, nor will you be able to simply raise your hand when something is unclear. We seek to circumvent such difficulties in every way possible. However, you will need to be very self-disciplined in order to study Greek in this format. Studying Greek in the

traditional format is challenging enough – studying Greek online will absolutely necessitate a disciplined approach to the assigned materials.

For each class “session” there is an assigned reading from the textbook. The textbook includes a CD-ROM with a summary lecture and slideshow presentation for that material. Additionally you will complete workbook exercises for which an answer key is provided. You will also complete my “assignment.” This assignment will include additional vocabulary, some points of clarification from the textbook, at times some additional grammar, as well as additional exercises with an answer key. In the midst of this study we will interact together with weekly group questions, devotional exercises, and other forms of online communication. In short, we will utilize every available means to teach, reinforce, and consolidate the assigned materials.

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 read the assigned chapters and listen to the assigned lectures.
- B. Students are expected to learn all assigned forms and vocabulary words, as well as the additional materials assigned by the professor.
- C. Students are expected to complete all assignments, including exams, in a timely manner.
- D. Students are expected to actively engage the professor and their fellow students in dialogue and interaction over the materials being studied.

IV. Grading:

The Grading for BL 251 will be based on three exams and the final exam. Exams will include vocabulary, grammar, parsing, and translation. The final exam will be comprised of a body of Greek that you will translate – this will be a “true” test and will show whether you have achieved the course objectives. The exams will comprise 66% of the course grade; the remaining 33% is based on the grade of the final exam. Borderline grades will be influenced by the level of thoughtful involvement in on-line discussions.

V. Textbooks:

Required

William D. Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek*, 2nd Edition (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003)

William D. Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek: Workbook*, 2nd Edition (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003).

Recommended:

Eberhard and Erwin Nestle, revised by Barbara and Kurt Aland, et al. *Novum Testamentum Graece*, 27th edition (Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1993).

Or

Richard Goodrich and Albert Lukaszewski, *A Reader's Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003).

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

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

VI. Schedule – Obviously, being online, you can work either faster or slower through the various course assignments (except exams). However, I strongly urge you that you at least keep pace with the schedule below. If you do not, you will not be able to interact with your classmates in an intelligent way (this can certainly affect borderline grades), and you will not learn or perform as well. The Assignments are “due” on the dates listed.

Tue.	January 24	Review Day
Thurs.	January 26	Assignment #20
Tue.	January 31	Assignment #21
Thurs.	February 2	Assignment #22
Tue.	February 7	Assignment #23
Thurs.	February 9	Assignment #24
Tue.	February 14	Assignment #25

Thurs.	February 16	Exam Prep
Tue.	February 21	Exam #4
Thurs.	February 23	Assignment #26
Tue.	February 28	Assignment #27
Thurs.	March 2	Assignment #28
Tue.	March 7	Assignment #29
Thurs.	March 9	Assignment #30
Tue.	March 14	No Class – Reading Week
Thurs.	March 16	No Class – Reading Week
Tue.	March 21	Exam Prep
Thurs.	March 23	Exam #5
Tue.	March 28	Assignment #31
Thurs.	March 30	Assignment #32
Tue.	April 4	Assignment #33
Thurs.	April 6	Assignment #34
Tue.	April 11	Assignment #35
Thurs.	April 13	No Class - Easter
Tue.	April 18	Assignment #36
Thurs.	April 20	Review Day
Tue.	April 25	Exam #3
Thurs.	April 27	Review Day
Tue.	May 2	Final Exam