

GRK 510

Introduction to New Testament Greek

Nazarene Theological Seminary
3 Hours, Fall 2009

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Purpose:

Introduction to New Testament Greek is an elective course offered in each of the degree programs at NTS and is a course that fulfills the Biblical Language requirement for the M. Div. program. The purpose of Introduction to New Testament Greek is to offer the student a working knowledge of Koiné Greek, including an introduction to the alphabet, basic grammar, and vocabulary, thus enabling the student to begin to translate the Greek New Testament. The course will also equip students in the utilization of commentaries and exegetical tools that require a basic knowledge of New Testament Greek. Finally, as with the acquisition of any language, Introduction to New Testament Greek will begin to form and shape the student's worldview, opening up avenues of insight into the culture and literature of the New Testament world otherwise unavailable to students who read only English translations of the Christian Scriptures.

Course Objectives:

The student of New Testament Greek will be evaluated on their progress in the course based on their demonstrated ability in three areas:

Memorization – This is not the most glamorous part of learning a language, however it is foundational. You will:

- ❖ Memorize the alphabet of Koiné Greek and be able to reproduce it in both the lower and upper cases;
- ❖ Remember and reproduce nominal and verbal system paradigms that will assist the student in their translations; and
- ❖ And memorize the basic vocabulary of the Greek New Testament (including words appearing 50 times or more).

Comprehension – Grammar, it's not just for elementary school anymore! The student will:

- ❖ Remember or be refreshed in basic grammatical categories of the English language;
- ❖ Know the formation, declension and function of the noun system in all declensions;
- ❖ Know the formation, inflection, and function of verbs in most tenses and moods, including an introductory knowledge of participles; and
- ❖ And understand the use of prepositions and conjunctions.

Application – The fruit of your labor! The student will:

- ❖ Read Greek aloud with consistent and correct pronunciation; and
- ❖ And translate passages from the Greek New Testament.

Other objectives include:

Appreciation and Enjoyment – This is an elective course that is offered for the enjoyment of the students and as an important tool for ministry. I expect that:

- ❖ Students will be able to appreciate the value of a working knowledge of New Testament Greek for biblical exegesis and ministry; and
- ❖ And students will be able to appreciate if not enjoy the process of learning and utilizing another language.

Textbooks:

Aland, Barbara and Kurt; Karavidopoulos, Johannes; Martini, Carlo M.; Metzger, Bruce M. eds. *Novum Testamentum Graece*. 27th ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1993.

Mounce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek: Grammar*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2003.

Mounce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek: Workbook*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2003.

Course Expectations:

Attendance & Late Policy: A large part of learning another language comes through repetition and over time; we will be going through this material at a fast pace (much faster than would be expected of you in an undergrad program). For most this will be a challenging venture. Missing or being late to class will probably hinder your own progress in the material but it also detracts from the progress of the whole class, as everyone will be expected to contribute to discussions during the lectures and overviews. I will expect everyone to be present and to arrive on time to class. Of course all of us have other responsibilities that will at times conflict with the class schedule. For that reason I allow 2 unexcused absences / late arrivals. If you exceed that amount (barring mitigating circumstances which are delineated in the student handbook) your final grade will be lowered a whole letter grade for each absence beyond the second.

Homework: The exercises in the *Workbook* correspond to the chapters in the *Grammar*. This is part of the repetition needed to learn the language. It will be, at times, tedious and perhaps overwhelming, but it will be necessary for each one to persist in the work even in those times of distress if our efforts are going to bear fruit. Remember, we are doing this together as a class, so that if anyone has questions from the homework assignment it offers us a focus for our times together. The grade for most of the homework assignments will depend on the completion of the assignment (and most assignments will be graded in class). There are four translation assignments due on the days of the four exams. These will be turned in and I will grade them. At times I may ask you to turn in a regular homework assignment for me to grade so that I can get a better feel for how you are doing. Always come to class prepared to turn in your homework assignments. Remember that each person is different when it comes to language acquisition. If you find yourself struggling on a concept you are encouraged to go beyond the assigned material to better reinforce your own understanding. *Cumulative 200 points possible.*

Vocabulary Quizzes: This is another one of those repetitive aspects of language acquisition. Every week on Monday (the first week will be an exception) we will take a short vocabulary quiz covering the terms listed in the chapters of Mounce's grammar. It is extremely important that you establish a regular and consistent habit of memorization throughout the week so that you can truly learn these terms. This is probably one of the most important pillars for learning a language. To encourage healthy learning practices all of the quizzes will be cumulative (you will need to keep reviewing all of your vocabulary terms). *Cumulative 200 points (20pts. each)*

Topical Quizzes: Once again repetition and memorization are important practices for learning a language. The topical quizzes are designed to give you an essential grouping of paradigms that will serve as rubrics to unlock the rest of the language. Obviously one cannot memorize every form of every word in a language, so it is important to be able to recognize patterns that will reduce the load of memorization. These paradigms are represented in the topical quizzes. Each student will be required to memorize all of them and be able to reproduce them **flawlessly**. Points will only be given if the paradigm is reproduced without error. Given the nature of these quizzes

the student will be allowed to take them again. However, a penalty of 10% will be assessed each time the student repeats the quiz (First time 100%, second time 90%, third time 80%, fourth time 70%, etc.). Make-up will be arranged by appointment as needed. *Cumulative 300 points possible (30pts. each).*

Exams: There will be four exams given during the semester, which will serve to divide the material into manageable sections. These exams will focus mainly on the grammatical concepts covered in Mounce's grammar and in class. Their purpose is to give each student an idea of how well they have digested the material. The make-up of each test will be covered in more detail on the review day for each exam, though the general make-up of these exams will be short answer questions and at least one brief translation exercise. *Cumulative 100 points possible (weighted 25% each).*

Final Vocabulary and Comprehensive Exams: The final vocabulary exam will be on Monday, December 7, and it may cover any vocabulary words from chapters 4-30 (100 total). The comprehensive final exam will take place during finals week, on Monday, December 14 and on Thursday, December 17, during the normal class hour. The final exam will include material from any of the topics covered in class throughout the semester, one part will focus on the material covered in Mounce's grammar and in class throughout the semester, the second part will consist in a more extended translation exercise (open book, open note). *100 points possible for the final vocabulary exam; 100 points possible for the comprehensive final exam.*

Regular Study: For only a rare and fortunate few individuals do languages come easily. Greek demands hours of hard but rewarding study for most people. It is impossible to cram for Greek. Daily preparation and review are imperative. This course is not designed to be impossibly difficult; it is my hope that with hard work and perseverance all students will gain a working understanding of New Testament Greek. If, for any reason during the course, a student is concerned with his or her comprehension or is having difficulty for any reason, please feel free to speak with me. I am easily accessible via the email address at the top of the syllabus.

Also, it is the commitment of NTS and this instructor to make every reasonable effort to facilitate the learning of students capable of graduate level seminary work. Any student who has a condition that may prevent full demonstration of his or her abilities (e.g. difficulty seeing or hearing, dyslexia, or other learning disabilities) **should contact the instructor immediately**, or as soon as possible, to discuss learning needs, alternatives, and mutually acceptable modifications to ensure the student's full participation and appropriate evaluation in the course.

Use & Abuse of Language:

Inclusive Language Statement: Nazarene Theological Seminary is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language (as well as other languages!) in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, the Seminary urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. Please refer to the NTS Handbook for Inclusive Language for further information.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is the use of the words or ideas of another person and presenting them as one's own work. There are few original ideas and especially in the field of theology and ministry few original ways of expressing ideas. The issue of plagiarism is not the borrowing of ideas or words, but doing so without appropriate acknowledgement of one's sources of those ideas or words. For this reason plagiarism is dishonest and unacceptable in academic work done at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Using any English translation without proper citation to complete the exercises or translation assignments falls into this category

Grading Policy:

In order to maintain as much objectivity in grading as possible, the value of each assignment has been determined before the beginning of the course. Extra credit is built into some of the assignments and, therefore, will not be offered outside of that structure. Integrity and honesty and fairness in grading will be expected when assignments are evaluated during the class period

Quizzes, daily assignments, and tests are intended to help motivate students to achieve the course objectives. Grades are only a rough measure of success in this endeavor. I record grades for:

Homework	200	(20 %)		
Vocab Quizzes/Tests	200	(20 %)		
Topical Quizzes	300	(30 %)	“A”	1000-900
Chapter Tests	100	(10 %)	“B”	899-800
Vocabulary Final	100	(10 %)	“C”	799-700
Comprehensive Final	<u>100</u>	(10 %)	“D”	699-600
<i>Total Points</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>(100%)</i>	“F”	599-0