



Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E. Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/268-5400

LNG510 – Introduction to Biblical Languages Fall 2009

Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available at http://support.nts.edu/index.php/Essential_Information_for_Online_Courses.

Additional technical support information can be found at <http://support.nts.edu>.

1. NTS Mission Statement & Purpose and Master of Divinity Objectives
2. Tips for online learning success
3. NTS library services
4. NTS bookstore procedures
5. Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
6. NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
7. *A Handbook for Inclusive Language*

** Please refer to the link for “Biblical Languages and Moodle” found in the ‘Student FAQ’ (click on ‘Getting Help’), for information on the use of fonts and typing in Greek and Hebrew for this course.

Instructor Information

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N.B. I am located in Manchester, England, which is 6 hours ahead of Kansas City (CST).

Catalog Description

An introduction to the rudiments of Hebrew and Greek, to enable the student to do basic word studies, grammatical, and syntactical analysis of a text in the original languages. The course will teach the use of lexicons, original language commentaries, and computer-based Biblical language aids.

Course Narrative & Rationale

One of the “gaps” that must be overcome in understanding the Bible is that of language. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic (over 99% Hebrew) and the New Testament was written in “Koine” Greek. Unlike Islam, Judaism and Christianity have translated their Sacred Scriptures and printed translations within a few decades of moving into the culture of a new language. The study of Hebrew and Greek is not necessary to read the Word of God as Judaism and Christianity understand the Word of God.

However, every translation is an interpretation and every Christian leader is responsible that the interpretation(s) of the translation(s) used in the community do not lead people astray. This requires at least a rudimentary knowledge of the original languages of the Bible. It is no accident that the greatest decline in the integrity and focus of the Church corresponded with the loss of

knowledge of original languages and the greatest renewal of the Church (the Reformation movement) corresponded with the recovery of the biblical languages.

Traditional teaching of Hebrew and Greek in seminaries and universities has usually required massive memorization of vocabularies and conjugations of verbs and declensions of nouns. The massive amount of information that was necessary to work in the original languages meant that most students of Hebrew and/or Greek (even the best students) were not able to give the necessary time to translating their texts after they left school and entered ministry. In the late 20th century the rise of personal computers made access to this massive amount of information available by the click of a mouse.

The teaching of biblical languages has generally failed to adapt to the new resources available via computer and the Internet. This course is an attempt on the part of NTS to adjust to the new resources. This course is not designed to teach one to translate vast amounts of Greek or Hebrew text. A half semester in either language does not make one qualified to translate. Its purpose is to teach some basic elements of grammar and syntax that will enable a student to gain insight into a verse or small paragraph of material in the original language. That insight will supplement traditional translations and enable the student to recognize interpretive choices made by the translations. This will enrich both the personal understanding of the student and the ability to share meaning from Scripture with one's community of faith/ministry.

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- 1) Perform the preliminary skills of being able to read, pronounce, and look up in a lectionary (thus knowing and using alphabetical order) both Greek and Hebrew words.
- 2) Articulate the significance of basic English grammatical terms and concepts such as subjects, direct and indirect objects, objects of prepositions, possessives, number, person, tense, voice, mood, etc.
- 3) Explain the basic meaning that is likely of such Greek grammatical terms as nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, attributive, predicate, substantive, prepositions, pronouns, present, aorist, imperfect, perfect, future, active, passive, middle passive, indicative, subjective, imperative.
- 4) Explain the interpretive options that arise from alternative case meanings, participles, infinitives, and conditional sentences in Greek.
- 5) Explain the basic meaning of such Hebrew terms and/or constructions as absolute and construct nouns, singular, plural, and dual forms, direct object marker, separable and inseparable prepositions, pronouns, pronominal suffixes, vav-consecutive, qal, niph'al, piel, pual, hiph'il, hoph'al, hithpa'el, perfect, imperfect, participles, imperatives, jussives, cohortatives, infinitive construct, infinitive absolute.
- 6) Articulate the basic principles of textual criticism.
- 7) Make appropriate textual critical choices and/or interpretations for basic textual problems.
- 8) Demonstrate appropriate method and conclusions in doing a word study in the original languages.

Required Texts & Course Materials

Logos Bible Software 3 - Original Languages Library - If you have not yet acquired this, it is of utmost urgency that you do so immediately. This software should be ordered directly from Logos. It may be ordered through <http://www.logos.com/Academic/nts-mo/required>. If you have questions of Logos, you may call 1-800-878-4191. If you wish to invest at a higher level, the *Logos Scholars Library: Gold* has all the materials in the *Original Languages Library* plus many other resources. If

you order through the link listed above Logos will grant you a 50% discount of either the *Original Languages Library* or the *Scholars Library: Gold*.

Recommended Texts & Course Materials

These are not necessary for the successful completion of this course. However, if you desire paper copies of the Biblical texts in Greek and Hebrew and standard short lexicons (dictionaries) you should acquire the following:

Gingrich, F. Wilbur and Danker, Frederick, eds. *A Shorter Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, 2nd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983.

Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1972.

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia.

Novum Testamentum Graece. Nestle-Aland, 27th ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelstiftung,

Course Outline

Content Unit 1: Introduction, Getting Acquainted, English Grammar, Greek Alphabet -Week 1

Content Unit 2: Basic Greek Mastery - Weeks 2-3

Greek Nouns, Pronouns, Article, and Adjectives - Week 2

Greek Verbs - Person, Number, Tense, Voice, Mood - Week 3

Content Unit 3: Exegetical Significance of Particular Constructions - Weeks 4-7

Participles - Week 4

Infinitives, Conditional Sentences - Week 5

Fall Break - Reviewing Greek - Week 6

Alternative Case Meanings - Week 7

Content Unit 4: Basic Hebrew Mastery - Weeks 8-9

Hebrew Alphabet and Preliminary Hebrew skills - Week 8

Hebrew Nouns, Pronouns, Prepositions, Pronominal Suffixes - Week 9

Content Unit 5: Hebrew Verbs - Weeks 10-11

Verb Stems - Week 10

Participles, Infinitives, etc. - Week 11

Content Unit 6: Initial Applications for Exegesis - Weeks 12-13

Textual Criticism - Week 12

Word Studies - Week 13

Final Exam - Week 14

Course Assignments & Requirements

The Course Requirements are in three main categories: Homework, Discussion, and Assessments.

1. *Homework* - *Homework* assignments will respond to lecture and reading material. A few questions will require simple answers; you should give your answer and the reason you think it is correct. A number of questions will ask you to make an interpretive judgment based on the original language, and to explain why you think your interpretation is correct. You will be asked to work through a *Homework* assignment with your small group members, and then to upload your completed assignment to Moodle. *Homework* document files can be downloaded from the weekly topic links, or from the 'Assignments' link in the left column.
2. *Discussion* -
 - A. You are responsible for posting at least twice each week in the appropriate *Lecture Response Forum* for the week on Moodle (found in the weekly links, or in the 'Forums' link). These posts may be your own questions or responses to the weekly reading and lecture, or responses to your classmates' posts. This will allow you to ask questions for clarification about issues you do not understand. These posts must be made by Tuesday each week.

- B. You will further be expected to post to the appropriate *Groupwork Forum(s)* at least three times per week (once to post your Homework, and twice to respond to your classmates' Homework). The *Groupwork Forum* is designed to allow you to work together on the weekly Homework assignments, as though you were seated around a table together. When you click on the *Groupwork Forum* for each assignment, you will see only the posts from your small group; the rest of the class will not be able to see your group's discussion. Therefore, you may find occasionally that a question asked in your *Groupwork Forum* will be referred by the instructor to the *Lecture Response Forum*, so the whole class will be aware of the information being communicated. By answering the whole-class thread, the instructor will not be forced to repeat explanations to each group.
- 3. *Assessments* - There will be two kinds of assessment of your mastery of course materials independent of the Homework assignments and forums.
 - A. *Quizzes* - Most content units include a *Quiz*, which will test your mastery of the materials covered in that unit. These *Quizzes* will be found in the weekly topic on Moodle and in the 'Assignments' link.
 - B. *Worksheets* - There will also be occasional *Worksheets* assigned in addition to the *Homework*. The *Worksheets* will be uploaded directly to the instructor for evaluation and feedback; they are not to be worked on or discussed in your group. These *Worksheets* will be found in the weekly topic on Moodle and in the 'Assignments' link.

Method for Submitting Assignments

1. Once you have worked through the *Homework* assignment on your own, using the Logos Original Language Library, you will need to upload the completed draft first to the *Groupwork Forum* for that assignment, by Thursday each week. This will give you and your group members a chance to review each other's work, ask questions of each other and the instructor, and adjust your own work. You will then need to upload your final draft to the instructor using the link 'Homework __ (Submit to instructor here)'. Final drafts must be submitted to the instructor by Sunday.
2. In contrast to the *Homework* assignments, in which your groups may discuss and ask questions of each other, the *Worksheets* should be worked on alone, using your Logos software, and then uploaded in the link 'Worksheet __ (Submit to instructor here)' in the weekly topic in Moodle.
3. The *Quizzes* will be downloaded, worked on alone, using your Logos software, and then uploaded in the link 'Quiz __ (Submit to instructor here)' in the weekly topic in Moodle.

Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams

Because of the nature of work with Biblical languages, the material in this course (homework, worksheets, and quizzes) will tend to be cumulative and you will not be able to lag behind the course schedule and still complete the course successfully. Material for each content unit will be accepted without penalty until the unit is completed (see content unit titles in Course Outline above; also included in bold in the Course Schedule below). Material from the previous content unit may be submitted with up to a 50% reduction in credit. Material will not be accepted once the content unit following it has been completed.

Course Grading

The course grade will be determined by weighting the assignments in the following way:

15 Homework assignments @ 3.2% each	48%
5 Worksheets @ 5% each	25%
7 Quizzes (1-7) @ 3% each	21%
Quiz # 8 (Final Exam)	6%

Each assignment will be graded on a scale from 0 to 100. Letter grades will not be assigned until the final numerical average is calculated. At that time the curve will generally grant grades of A for averages in the 90's, grades of B for averages in the 80's, grades of C for averages in the 70's, grades of D for averages in the 60's, and grades of F for averages less than 60.

To achieve a maximum score in the *Homework* you must have participated in a significant way three times each week of the content unit, have given evidence through your responses of successfully completing the individual work, have given generally correct answers to the data questions, and to have engaged other student's posts in a courteous, thoughtful, and probing way. Responses to classmates' posts that affirm and seek clarification and promote further thought will be evaluated most highly.

To achieve a maximum score on the *Worksheets* they must be submitted no later than the due date and demonstrate correct responses to the questions on the worksheet.

To achieve a maximum score on the *Quizzes*, they must be taken on time and answer the questions correctly.

Course Calendar

Content Unit 1: Week 1 (Sept. 14)	Introduction, Getting Acquainted, English Grammar, Greek Alphabet 1. Briefly review English grammatical terminology, Lecture, Sample Worksheet, and Sample Quiz. 2. Know the Greek Alphabet well enough to look up words in the lexicons quickly. A. READ: Lecture; Nunn, <i>Elements of NT Greek</i> , Lesson 1 B. <i>Homework #1</i> - Look up the meaning of words and discuss them C. <i>Quiz #1</i> - Alphabetization
Content Unit 2: Week 2 (Sept. 21)	Basic Greek Mastery - Greek Nouns, Pronouns, Article, and Adjectives; Greek Verbs - Person, Number, Tense, Voice, Mood 1. Learn the basic functions of the nominative, genitive, dative, and accusative cases for nouns, pronouns, articles, and adjectives. A. READ: Lecture; Nunn, Lessons 5-10 B. <i>Homework #2</i> - Identify the case, number, and gender of the nouns, pronouns, articles, and adjectives of an assigned text and suggest the function of each word C. <i>Quiz #2</i> - Basic Uses of Cases of Nouns
Week 3 (Sept. 28)	2. Learn to identify and use the person, number, tense, voice, and mood information of Greek verbs. A. READ: Lecture; Nunn, Lessons 3-4 B. <i>Homework #3</i> - Identify the person, number, tense, voice, and mood of selected Greek verbs from an assigned text and describe the exegetical significance of the information derived. Compare and discuss results with your discussion group C. <i>Quiz #3</i> - Finite Verbs
Content Unit 3: Week 4 (Oct. 5)	Exegetical Significance of: Participles, Infinitives, Conditional Sentences, and Alternative Case Meanings 1. Be able to recognize the structures of attributive and substantive participles and translate them correctly. A. READ: Lecture; Nunn, Lesson 25 B. <i>Homework #4</i> - Identify the attributive and substantive participle constructions in the assigned passages, translate them, and describe why you translated them in such a way. Compare and discuss your work with your discussion group C. <i>Worksheet #1</i> - Participles

2. Be able to recognize the structure of a circumstantial participle and suggest appropriate possible translations.
 - A. *Homework #5* - Identify the circumstantial participles in the assigned passages, and suggest possible translations. With your small group, discuss why you selected the circumstantial word you chose and the exegetical significance of your choice.

Week 5 (Oct. 12)

3. Learn the basic uses of Greek infinitives and be able to translate infinitive constructions
 - A. READ: Lecture; Nunn, Lesson 32
 - B. *Homework #6* - Translate assigned passages with selected infinitives and discuss your translation choices and results with your small group
 - C. Using the worksheet on Conditional Sentences, be able to identify the class of conditional sentence and describe the exegetical significance of it
 - D. READ: Lecture
 - E. *Homework #7* - Identify the class of conditional sentences in the assigned passages and discuss with your small group the exegetical significance of your understanding.
 - F. *Quiz #4* - Infinitives

Week 6 (Oct. 19)

Reading and Research Week - Review and practice the use of Greek.

Week 7 (Oct. 26)

4. Learn to work with alternative cases meanings for the purpose of interpretation.
 - A. READ: Lecture
 - B. *Homework #8* - Evaluate possible alternative case meaning for assigned words in assigned texts. Discuss with your small group what choice you think is correct and why
 - C. *Worksheet #2* - Alternative Case

Content Unit 4:

Basic Hebrew Mastery - Alphabet, Hebrew Nouns, Pronouns, Prepositions, and Pronominal Suffixes

Week 8 (Nov. 2)

1. Know the Hebrew alphabet well enough to look up words in a lexicon quickly.
 - A. READ: Lecture; Futato, *Beginning Biblical Hebrew*, Lessons 1-3
 - B. *Homework #9* - Look up the meaning of assigned words in Hebrew lexica and discuss them
 - C. *Quiz #5* - Hebrew Alphabetization

Week 9 (Nov. 9)

2. Learn to translate Hebrew nouns and pronouns and the direct object marker.
 - A. READ: Lecture; Futato, Lessons 4-5
 - B. *Homework #10* - Translate the assigned verses and identify the number and gender of the assigned nouns and pronouns
 - C. *Worksheet #3* - Nouns, pronouns, and translation
3. Learn to recognize and translate prepositions (separable and inseparable) and pronominal suffixes.
 - A. READ: Lecture; Futato, Lessons 9, 10, 16, 19, 22

Content Unit 5:

Hebrew Verbs and Verb Stems

Week 10 (Nov. 16)

1. Learn the meaning of Hebrew verb stems and how to translate them.
 - A. READ: Lecture; Futato, Lessons 6 and 11
 - B. *Homework #11* - Translate the assigned verses and answer the questions regarding verbs
 - C. *Quiz #6*

Week 11 (Nov. 23)

2. Learn to translate Hebrew participles, infinitives, jussives, and cohortatives.
 - A. READ: Lecture; Futato, Lessons 20-21
 - B. *Homework #12* - Translate the assigned verses and answer the interpretive questions
 - C. *Worksheet #4* - Hebrew verb

- Content Unit 6: Applications for Exegesis: Textual Criticism and Word Studies**
- Week 12 (Nov. 30) 1. Learn the basic principles of Textual Criticism.
- A. READ: New Testament Textual Criticism Lecture; Old Testament Textual Criticism Lecture
 - B. *Homework #13* - New Testament Textual Criticism
 - C. *Homework #14* - Old Testament Textual Criticism
 - D. *Quiz #7* - Textual Criticism
- Week 13 (Dec. 7) 2. Learn and apply the principles of doing Word Studies.
- A. READ: Lecture
 - B. *Homework #15* - Word Study
 - C. *Worksheet #5*
- Week 14 (Dec. 14) **Final Week: Review**
- A. READ: Lecture
 - B. Review of earlier homework and worksheets
 - C. *Quiz #8* (Final Exam)

Bibliography

Greek

- Dobson, John H. *Learn New Testament Greek*. 3rd revised edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.
- Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Greek: Learning Biblical Greek Grammatical Concepts through English Grammar*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 2006.
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- Robinson, Thomas A. *Mastering New Testament Greek: Essential Tools for Students*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 2006.
- Wallace, Daniel B. *The Basics of New Testament Syntax: An Intermediate Greek Grammar*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000.
- Webb, Joseph M., and Robert Kysar. *Greek for Preachers*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2002.

Hebrew

- Arnold, Bill T., and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
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- Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1987.

General

- Goodrick, Edward W. *Do It Yourself Hebrew and Greek: A Guide to Biblical Language Tools*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1980.
- Silzer, Peter James, and Thomas John Finley. *How Biblical Languages Work: A Student's Guide to Learning Hebrew and Greek*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2004.