



Nazarene Theological Seminary

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

LNG510 – Introduction to Biblical Languages Spring 2010

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. NTS library services
3. Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
4. NTS Student Handbook, including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
5. *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

Professor: Andy Johnson
Email: ajohnson@nts.edu
Phone: 816-268-5485
Office Hours: By Appointment

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 4 - Original Languages Library. Order directly from Logos:

<http://www.logos.com/Academic/nts-mo/required>. If you have questions, call 1-800-878-4191. At a higher level, *Logos Scholars Library: Gold* has all the materials in the *Original Languages Library*, plus many other resources. If ordered through the link listed above, Logos grants a fifty percent (50%) discount off either the *Original Languages Library* or the *Scholars Library: Gold*.

Allowed, not recommended: Logos only recently upgraded from *Software 3* to *Software 4*. This may cause problems in the beginning. Therefore, you may choose to *begin* the course with the recommended texts listed below, until we can sort out the more serious problems of the new edition.

Recommended Texts & Course Materials

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

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

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

Unit 2: Basic Greek Mastery - Weeks 2-3

Greek Nouns, Pronouns, Article, and Adjectives - Weeks 2-3

Greek Verbs - Person, Number, Tense, Voice, Mood - Weeks 3-4

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

Participles - Weeks 4-6

Infinitives, Conditional Sentences - Weeks 6-7

Alternative Case Meanings - Week 7

Spring Break - Reviewing and using Greek; preparing for Hebrew - Week 8

Unit 4: Basic Hebrew Mastery - Weeks 9-10

Hebrew Alphabet and Preliminary Hebrew skills - Week 9

Hebrew Nouns, Pronouns, Prepositions, Pronominal Suffixes - Weeks 9-10

Unit 5: Hebrew Verbs - Weeks 10-11

Verb Stems - Weeks 10-11

Participles, Infinitives, etc. - Weeks 11-12

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 two main categories: Homework and Assessments.

1. Homework - Homework assignments will respond to lecture and reading material. You will be asked to work an assignment and then be prepared to go over that assignment in class. The homework assignments will be due to be handed in on the date indicated in the Course Calendar.
2. Assessments - There will be two kinds of assessment of your mastery of course materials independent of the Homework assignments.
 - A. Quizzes - There will usually be at least one quiz in each unit that will test your mastery of the materials covered in that unit.
 - B. Worksheets - There will also be occasional worksheets assigned in addition to the Homework. The Worksheets will be handed in on the date indicated on the Course Calendar.

Method for Submitting Assignments

The homework assignments and worksheets will require work on your own using the Logos Original Language Library. You will need to download the homework assignments from the Homework Assignments Section in Moodle. You will need to be sure that you have installed the proper fonts to be able to read and print the assignments. Until you develop adequate skill to type in Greek or Hebrew, you may select, copy, and paste words from the homework assignments and worksheets to include with your answers. You should print the homework assignments and worksheets and bring them to class with your answers (either printed via computer or by hand or a combination thereof) on the date the assignment or worksheet is due.

Some quizzes will be done “on paper” in class and other quizzes will be downloaded, worked using your Logos software and then returned electronically.

Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams

Because of the nature of work with Biblical Languages the material (homework, worksheets, and quizzes) in this course will tend to be cumulative and you will not be able to lag behind the course schedule and successfully complete the course. Material for each unit will be accepted with a 10% penalty until the unit is completed. Material from the previous unit may be submitted with a 50% reduction in credit. No material will be accepted once the unit following it has been completed.

Course Grading

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

16 Homework assignments @ 3% 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.

Course Calendar (Subject to change at instructor's discretion)

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday
1	Feb 1 Introductions, Syllabus, Teach alphabet, practice pronunciation	Feb 2 - Homework 1 go over in class, Practice looking up words in lexicons	Feb 4 - Quiz 1 More pronunciation practice
2	Feb 8 - Lecture on Nouns, etc.	Feb 9 - Homework 2 - Go over in class	Feb 11 - Logos Practice Day on Nouns
3	Feb 15 - Quiz 2	Feb 16 - Lecture on Verbs, Assign Homework 3	Feb 18 - Go over Homework 3 in class
4	Feb 22 - Logos Practice Day on Verbs	Feb 23 - Quiz 3; More practice on verbs	Feb 25 - Lecture on Participles
5	Mar 1 - More on Participles; Assign Homework 4	Mar 2 - Go over Homework 4, Assign Homework 5	Mar 4 - Go over Homework 5, Assign Participle Worksheet 1
6	Mar 8- Go over Participle Worksheet 1, Lecture on Infinitives	Mar 9 - Lecture on Infinitives, Assign Homework 6	Mar 11 - Go over Homework 6, Lecture on Conditional Sentences, Assign Homework 7
7	Mar 15 - Go over Homework 7, Lecture on Alternative Case Meanings, Assign Homework 8	Mar 16 - Go over Homework 8, Assign, Alternative Case Worksheet 2	Mar 18 - Go over Alternative Case Worksheet 2, Review of Greek Questions
9	Mar 29 - Introduce Hebrew alphabet, Assign Homework 9	Mar 30 - Go over Homework 9, Practice looking up words in lexicons	Apr 1 - Quiz 5 Lecture on Hebrew nouns, etc., Assign Homework 10
10	Apr 5 - Go over Homework 10, Assign Worksheet 3	Apr 6 - Go over Worksheet 3	Apr 8 - Lecture on the Hebrew verb stems, Assign Homework 11
11	Apr 12 - Go over Homework 11, Prepare for Quiz 6	Apr 13 - Quiz 6 Lecture on Hebrew Participles, etc. Assign Homework 12	Apr 15 - Go over Homework 12, Assign Worksheet 4
12	Apr 19 - Go over Worksheet 4 Lecture on NT Textual Criticism, Assign Homework 13	Apr 20 - Go over Homework 13, Lecture on OT Textual Criticism, Assign Homework 14	Apr 22 - Go over Homework 14, Prepare for Quiz 7
13	Apr 26 - Quiz 7 Lecture on Word Studies Assign Homework 15	Apr 27 - Go over Homework 15, Assign Worksheet 5	Apr 29 - Go over Worksheet 5, Review
14	May 3 - Final Exam (8:00-8:55)		

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.
- Mounce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek Grammar*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993.
- 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 Kysar, Robert. *Greek for Preachers*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2002.

Hebrew

- Arnold, Bill T. and Choi, John H. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Dobson, John H. *Learn Biblical Hebrew*. 2nd Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.
- Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew: Learning Biblical Hebrew Grammatical Concepts through English Grammar*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 2002.
- 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 Finley, Thomas John. *How Biblical Languages Work: A Student's Guide to Learning Hebrew and Greek*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2004.