



Nazarene Theological Seminary

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

LNG510 – Introduction to Biblical Languages Spring 2012

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 in the Essential Information section at <http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose Degree Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *Handbook for Inclusive Language*

Instructor Information

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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.

Introduction to Biblical Languages approaches its topic with a practice focused organizing principle. This course is designed to teach the student how to, with the help of Logos Bible Software, recognize the interpretative decisions made by translators of scripture. Furthermore, the course is designed to teach students how to make appropriate interpretative decisions when it comes to rudimentary translating of Biblical texts. Lastly, Introduction to Biblical Languages is designed to equip the students to study words in the Hebrew and Greek Bible in such a way that will enhance their preaching and/or teaching ministry.

Degree Objectives

This course meets the following objectives for the Master of Divinity at NTS:

- Objective one: The practice of the Christian disciplines of worship, prayer, contemplation, study and service within the community of the Seminary and in and through specific congregations and the wider church.
- Objective two: The articulation of the knowledge of this God through prayerful, scholarly study and a deepening understanding of the Christian Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.
- Objective five: The cultivation of gifts for ministry into competent skills and practices in worship and preaching, teaching and discipleship, care and counseling, evangelism and missions, administration and servant-leadership.

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an ability to write word studies for Hebrew and Greek words which prove to be exegetically sound and homiletically beneficial. This presumes the ability to use lexicons.
[Accomplished through Homework]

2. Demonstrate recognition of the following terms in English grammar: subject, direct object, indirect object, verb, tense, noun, singular, plural, definite article, preposition, and conjunction.
[Accomplished through Quizzes and Class Participation]
3. Explain the different interpretative options for the following Greek grammatical categories: nominative, accusative, dative, genitive, present, imperfect, aorist, future, perfect, active, middle, passive, imperative, subjunctive, participle, attributive, substantive, and predicate. One way this will be demonstrated is by writing word studies which address these categories.
[Accomplished through Class Participation, Homework, Quizzes, & Worksheets]
4. Explain the different interpretative options for the following Hebrew grammatical categories: verbal stems (qal, niph'al, piel, pual, hithpa'el, hiph'il, hoph'al), noun state (absolute or construct), dual number, direct object marker, prepositions (inseparable and separable), pronominal suffixes, vav (conjunctive, disjunctive, and consecutive), volitionals (jussive, imperative, and cohortative), infinitives, and participles. One way this will be demonstrated is by writing word studies which address these categories.
[Accomplished through Class Participation, Homework, Quizzes, & Worksheets]
5. Demonstrate an ability to ask appropriate questions pertaining to what decisions have been made in English translations of the Bible. The asking of such questions will give the students guidance for the sort of questions which should be dealt with in commentaries.
[Accomplished through Class Participation, Homework, and Worksheets]
6. Demonstrate an ability to discern which manuscript tradition is likely to be original when textual variants are present.
[Accomplished through Class Participation, Homework, and Worksheets]

Church of the Nazarene COSAC Competencies

- CN15 Ability to describe how the Bible came into being up to contemporary translations
- CN24 Ability to communicate publicly through oral and written mediums with clarity and creativity for the sake of fostering meaning
- CP2 Ability to write clearly and in a grammatically correct manner in the modes of discourse used in the ministry

Required Texts & Course Materials

Logos Bible Software 4 - Original Languages Library. Order directly from Logos: <http://www.logos.com/Academic/ntsmo/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*.

Recommended Texts & Course Materials

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS Hebrew): With Westminster 4.2 Morphology
This text is available from Logos at an academically discounted price of \$49.95 at this link: <http://www.logos.com/academic/discount/program/products/1>. The BHS with Westminster 4.2 Morphology is *strongly* recommended for this course as its parsing tools are more refined

than those which are included in the Original Languages Library package.

Lamerson, Samuel. *English Grammar to Ace New Testament Greek*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.

Van Pelt, Miles. *English Grammar to Ace Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

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. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelstiftung.

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 10-12

 Verb Stems - Weeks 10-11

 Participles, Infinitives, etc. - Weeks 11-12

Unit 6: Textual Criticism - Week 13

Final Exam - Week 14

Course Assignments & Requirements

1. Class Attendance and Participation - Students may earn up to 100 points for attending, participating in, and being prepared for each class session. Students are required to attend and participate in class. First and foremost this necessitates being physically present in class. However, it also means being mentally present. If you have a laptop, you are encouraged to bring it to class and to use Logos as different Bible passages are discussed. However, you should not be engaged in non-course related material on your laptop. In addition to being mentally present, you will also be expected to come to class prepared. If a homework assignment is assigned and is due to be discussed, you must be prepared to give your answers (and justification for those answers) in class. Coming to class unprepared would force the class to wait as you attempt to sight read the Biblical text. This will result

in you not receiving participation points for that day in class.

Failure to attend class, failure to engage in class discussion, and/or failure to come to class prepared means that you are not meeting the class participation standards. Failure to meet these standards for a total of four weeks (not necessarily consecutive weeks) may result in being failed or dropped from the course per the NTS 2011-2012 Student Handbook.

Class participation is important because this class utilizes two pedagogical methodologies which necessitate being in class and engaged. These methodologies are 1) Lecture-in which students will be introduced to and instructed in how to understand and translate various grammatical categories and 2) Collaborative learning-in which students will discuss and work through the homework as an application of the lectures' content. Both of these methodologies are needed for this course's structure to meet the course objectives. [Outcomes 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6]

2. Homework - Homework assignments will respond to lecture and reading material. You will be asked to work on an assignment and then be prepared to go over that assignment in class. Homework assignments will typically consist of preparing a rudimentary translation and a mini-word study. The translation portion of the assignment will demonstrate competence in interpreting the grammatical categories discussed in the class lectures. The word study portion of the assignment will demonstrate your ability to bridge the gap between the class lectures and the church setting. The word studies will consist of looking at a word from an assigned pericope and describing why its parsing is significant for translation, how the word is used in other pericopes, and how one might make appropriate homiletic statements regarding the assigned pericope in light of the word studied. The homework assignments will be due to be **submitted in Moodle before class starts** on the date indicated in the Course Calendar. [Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6]
3. Assessments - There will be two kinds of assessment of your mastery of course materials independent of the Homework Assignments. Unlike Homework assignments, **Assessments will not be accepted if turned in late.**
 - a. Quizzes - There will usually be at least one quiz in each unit which will test your mastery of the materials covered in that unit. Quizzes must be submitted in Moodle by the date and time listed in the course calendar. [Outcomes 2, 3, 4, 5]
 - b. Worksheets - There will also be occasional worksheets assigned in addition to the Homework. Worksheets shall be submitted in Moodle before class begins on the date indicated in the course calendar. [Outcomes 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6]
4. Course Evaluation - At the end of the semester students will be required to fill out a course evaluation. Your comments will be anonymous, but Moodle will record whether or not you complete the evaluation. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine whether or not this course accomplishes what it intends to accomplish. There are no points attached to this assignment, but failure to complete the evaluation will result in a one letter reduction of your final grade.

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

	hours
Face-to-face Class Sessions	36
Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.	24
Reading	5
Writing	0
Other Assignments and Learning Activities	60
Exams & Quizzes	18
TOTAL	143

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 appropriate links 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. After you complete each assignment, you must submit it to the professor through Moodle. The due dates for the homework assignments, quizzes, and worksheets are given in the course calendar. If there is a certain time (e.g. 11:55 PM) when an assignment is due, that time is on the Central Time Zone.

Form and Style Expectations

All the work submitted in this course will be in the form of worksheets and homework assignments which will not require research beyond the Logos 4 software system. The only information you will need to provide me with is which resource(s) you used within Logos for the word study portion of your assignments. However, it is expected that written parts of the homework assignments (e.g. word studies) will exhibit proper English grammar and spelling.

Inclusive Language

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

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. Homework assignments must be submitted in Moodle before due date and time listed in the Course Calendar. Late homework assignments will be accepted with a 15% penalty for the first week after an assignment is due. If the assignment is two weeks late it will receive an additional 10% deduction. No homework assignments will be accepted more than 2 weeks late.

Worksheets and Quizzes will not be accepted late and cannot be made-up unless the professor is given notice of an acceptable excuse **before the due date** listed in the course calendar.

All due dates and times in the course calendar refer to the Central Time Zone. If a student resides in a different time zone, it is his or her responsibility to ensure that coursework is submitted on time.

Class attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period and cannot be made up if you are absent. You may earn up to 100 points each day for class participation. If, however, you miss class, are unengaged during class, or are unprepared, your participation for that day will be reduced accordingly at the professor’s discretion.

One final note on due dates, while material is penalized for late submission, early submissions are welcomed. Some weeks of this course will cover a lot of information and will have multiple assignments due. The due dates for these assignments reflect the last possible date you can submit something without receiving a penalty. It is my hope that everyone in this class, especially those in ministry assignments, will be able to find a day to take as Sabbath. In studying languages I have found that it is necessary to take breaks from studying in order to recharge one’s mind.

Course Grading

All graded assignments will be worth 100 points and will be weighted as follows:

Class Participation	25%
13 Homework Assignments	30%
5 Worksheets	20%
6 Quizzes	20%
Quiz 7 (Final Exam)	5%

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 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.

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies, which have been beneficial for the student in the past.

Course Calendar

Date	Week/Unit	Assignment
2/6-2/12	1 / 1	<p>Unit 1-Introduction, English Grammar, Greek Alphabet Monday: Overview of Syllabus, <i>Lecture 1-Greek Alphabet</i> Assign: Homework 1</p> <p>Tuesday: <i>Lecture 1-Greek Alphabet</i>, Introduction to Logos 4, & Review of English Grammar. Reading: Nunn, Elements of NT Greek, Lesson 1 Assignment due: Homework 1</p> <p>Thursday: <i>Quiz #1: Alphabetizing & English Grammar Quiz</i> and Introduction to Logos Word Studies.</p>

2/13- 2/19	2 / 2	<p>Unit 2-Basic Greek Mastery Monday: <i>Lecture 2-Greek Nouns, Pronouns, Articles, & Adjectives</i> Reading: Nunn, Lessons 5-10. Assign: Homework 2</p> <p>Tuesday: Go over Homework 2 in class Due: Homework 2</p> <p>Thursday: Logos Practice Day on Nouns Assign: <i>Quiz #2: Basic Uses of Nouns</i>-This quiz must be completed in Moodle over the weekend. It must be submitted before 11:55 PM on Saturday.</p>
2/20- 2/26	3 / 2	<p>Monday: Begin Lecture 3 on Finite Verbs</p> <p>Tuesday: Continue <i>Lecture 3- Finite Verbs</i> Reading: Nunn, Lessons 3-4 Assign: Homework 3</p> <p>Thursday: Go over Homework 3 in class Due: Homework 3 Assign: <i>Quiz #3: Finite Verbs</i>-This quiz must be submitted in Moodle over the weekend. It must be submitted before 11:55 PM on Saturday.</p>
2/27- 3/4	4 / 3	<p>Unit 3- Participles, Infinitives, Conditional Sentences, and Alternative Case Meanings Monday: <i>Lecture 4-Participles</i> Reading: TBA</p> <p>Tuesday: Continue Lecture 4-Participles Assign: Homework 4</p> <p>Thursday: Go over Homework 4 Due: Homework 4</p>
3/5- 3/11	5 / 3	<p>Monday: Review of Participles Assign: Homework 5</p> <p>Tuesday: Go over Homework 5 in class Due: Homework 5 Assign: <i>Worksheet 1-Participles</i></p> <p>Thursday: Go over Worksheet 1 Due: <i>Worksheet 1-Participles</i> Assign: Worksheet 1-Participles</p>

3/12-3/18	6 / 3	<p>Monday: <i>Lecture 5a-Infinitives</i> Reading: Nunn, Lesson 32 Assign: Homework 6</p> <p>Tuesday: Go over Homework 6 and begin <i>Lecture 5b-Conditional Sentences</i> Due: Homework 6 Assign: Quiz #4: <i>Infinitives</i>-This quiz must be submitted in Moodle over the weekend. It must be submitted before 11:55 PM on Saturday.</p> <p>Thursday: Go over Homework 6, <i>Lecture 5b-Conditional Sentences</i> Due: Lecture 5 Assign: Homework 7</p>
3/19-3/25	7 / 3	Reading and Research Week
3/26-4/1	8	<p>Monday: Go over Homework 7, <i>Lecture 6-Alternative Case Meanings</i> Reading: Lecture 6 Supplement Due: Homework 7 Assign: Homework 8</p> <p>Tuesday: Go over Homework 8 Due: Homework 8 Assign: <i>Worksheet 2-Alternative Cases</i></p> <p>Thursday: Go over <i>Worksheet 2-Alternative Cases</i>, Wrap-up Greek Due: Worksheet 2</p>
4/2-4/8	9 / 4	<p>Unit 4-Basic Hebrew Mastery Monday: <i>Lecture 7-Hebrew Alphabet and Vowels</i> Reading: Futato, <i>Beginning Biblical Hebrew</i>, Lessons 1-3 Assign: Homework 9</p> <p>Tuesday: Go over Homework 9, Begin <i>Lecture 8-Hebrew Nouns...</i> Due: Homework 9 Distribute: Practice Quiz</p> <p>Thursday: <i>Quiz #5: Hebrew Alphabet & Vowels, Lecture 8-Hebrew Nouns...</i> Reading: Lessons 4-5 Assign: Homework 10</p>
4/9-4/15	10 / 4-5	<p>Monday: Go over Homework 10 Due: Homework 10 Assign: <i>Worksheet 3-Hebrew Nouns, etc...</i></p> <p>Tuesday: Go over <i>Worksheet 3-Hebrew Nouns, etc...</i> Due: <i>Worksheet 3-Hebrew Nouns, etc...</i></p> <p>Unit 5-Hebrew Verbs Thursday: <i>Lecture 9-Hebrew Verbs</i> Reading Due: Futato, Lessons 6 and 11 Assign: Homework 11</p>

4/16- 4/22	11 / 5	<p>Monday: Go over Homework 11, Prepare for Quiz 6 Due: Homework 11 Assign: Hebrew Verb Practice Assignment</p> <p>Tuesday: Go over Hebrew Verb Practice Assignment Assign: <i>Quiz #6: Hebrew Verbs</i> -This quiz must be submitted in Moodle before class begins on Thursday.</p> <p>Thursday: Go over <i>Quiz #6: Hebrew Verbs</i></p>
4/23- 4/29	12 / 5	<p>Monday: <i>Lecture 10-Hebrew Participles, etc...</i> Reading: Futato, Lessons 20-21 Assign: Homework 12</p> <p>Tuesday: Go over Homework 12 Due: Homework 12 Assign: <i>Worksheet 4-Hebrew Participles, etc...</i></p> <p>Thursday: Go over <i>Worksheet 4-Hebrew Participles, etc...</i></p>
4/30- 5/6	13 / 6	<p>Unit 6: New Testament Textual Criticism</p> <p>Monday: <i>Lecture 11-Textual Criticism</i> Reading: TBD Assign: Homework 13</p> <p>Tuesday: Go over Homework 13 Due: Homework 13 Assign: <i>Worksheet 5-Textual Criticism</i></p> <p>Thursday: Go over <i>Worksheet 5-Textual Criticism</i>, Review for Final Due: Worksheet 5-Textual Criticism</p>
5/7- 5/10	14 / 6	<p>Final Exam due on Wednesday, May 9, 2011 at 11:55PM</p>