

Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary
Advanced Greek Grammar and Exegesis (Fall 2005)

NT-610 (3 units) 608

Instructor: Tim Geddert (Office # 8)

(559) 452-1716 <tgeddert@mbseminary.edu>

Class Meets 1:00 – 4:00 pm Tuesdays, August 30 – December 13

(except September 13, professor out of town, and October 11, module week).

A. Objectives for the Course

This course is designed to advance the student's knowledge of New Testament Greek and to apply that knowledge to the task of reading and understanding the New Testament. (Prerequisite: NT-510-511 Elementary Greek).

B. Nature of the Course

This course will involve careful analysis of Greek grammatical concepts. Students are expected to understand the range of options open in interpreting words, phrases, and sentences in Greek and to gain ability to make wise decisions about which of these options best captures the meaning intended by the New Testament author.

The textbook by Black plus the help of the professor will and some additional resources drawn from various workbooks will be the main resources for learning the exegetical options and strategies. Reading various N.T. texts in Greek will provide opportunity to illustrate the options and learn how to make good exegetical decisions.

Students will learn various aspects of New Testament Greek syntax, but always with the goal in mind that they improve in their ability to read and understand N.T. Greek, and the Greek N.T.

C. Textbooks for the Course

Required Texts:

Aland, Kurt. (et. al.) The Greek New Testament. (4th revised ed.) New York: United Bible Societies, 1993 or newer. (The edition with the dictionary is recommended).

NOTE: If you already have the second or third edition of the U.B.S. Greek N.T. or any edition of the Nestle-Aland Greek N.T., you may not need to buy a new text for this course, but you may need to for Greek IV (if you plan to take that course). Please check with the professor. (A "Textus Receptus" is not adequate.)

Black, David Alan, It's Still Greek to Me. Baker, 1998.

Any Greek Lexicon/Dictionary (the one at the back of the Greek N.T. is adequate.)

Other helpful resources:

(These are not required but we will use some of these resources in class!)

Arndt, W.F. and Gingrich, F.W. A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1979. (This is the standard lexicon, “The Big One.” It is very comprehensive and is therefore somewhat difficult to use.)

Guthrie, George H. and J. Scott Duvall, Biblical Greek Exegesis. Zondervan, 1998. This book teaches methods of grammatical and semantic diagramming. We will spend some time learning these methods and practicing them, based on a few exercises in this workbook.

Han, Nathan. A Parsing Guide to the Greek N.T. Scottsdale: Herald Press, 1972. (This is a time-saving help which parses all the verbs encountered when reading a N.T. text; it has some deficiencies, however! . . . and is replaced by any electronic Bible program that does the same thing and more!)

Kubo, S. A Reader's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975. (This is helpful "vocabulary" book that saves much time in translating from the N.T. Again, any electronic Bible program working with Greek makes this unnecessary.)

Mounce, William D. A Graded Reader of Biblical Greek. Zondervan, 1996. (This book contains a helpful summary of the material in Wallace (see below) and contains various readings from the N.T. which can be worked through in reviewing Elementary Greek and learning to apply new insights from our study of syntax in this course.

Newman, Jr., B.N. A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament. London: United Bible Societies, 1971. (This is the dictionary included with the UBS Greek NT. It is also available separately.)

Wallace, Daniel B. Greek Grammar: Beyond the Basics. Zondervan, 1996.

- This is “The Big One” in terms of Greek grammar. It is a resource book which will be available in the library. However, some students may wish to purchase this text as a permanent resource. A summary of its material is contained in our the Mounce Graded Reader (see required texts).

Any Bible software program that works with the Greek text (strongly recommended). Some options are Logos, Bible Works, etc.

D. Outline of the Course

During the first 7 weeks (until module week), we will do the following:

- introduce the course, the syllabus, and the text books, etc.
- review of Elementary Greek (paradigms, concepts, reading practice)
- to help us review Greek we re-reading some of 1 John 1:1 - 2:2 and 2:28 - 3:10, with the help of Mounce, Graded Reader, pp. 1-11.
- work through the chapters of Black in order to review grammar and supplement what we learned in Greek I and II with a more detailed account of what is involved in the various parts of speech, grammatical constructions and verb forms. (The goal is to complete our work with Greek grammar (using various texts for practice) before modular week.
- write a short midterm test. (Oct. 25)

During the last 7 weeks (after the two-week break in the middle of the course), we will:

- read through the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) in Greek.
- Note: assigned readings must be prepared ahead of the class period in which they are to be discussed.
- Approximate schedule:
 - o Nov. 1 – Matthew 5:1-16
 - o Nov. 8 – Matthew 5:17-32
 - o Nov. 15 – Matthew 5:33-48
 - o Nov. 22 – Matthew 6:1-24
 - o Nov. 29 – Matthew 6:25 – 7:12
 - o Dec. 6 – Matthew 7:12-29
 - o Dec. 13 – Final Exam

E. Assignments for the Course

TEXT BOOKS: Students are expected to master the concepts in Black’s “It’s Still Greek to me.”

GREEK READING: Students will demonstrate their ability to read Greek in four ways: By class participation, by their exegetical work, by a midterm test, and by the final exam.

RESEARCH PAPER: Students are to write a research paper on one NT text. This paper will consist primarily of a careful reading of the Greek text, in which the student explains grammatical decisions made and their implications for interpreting the text. Grammatical and/or semantic diagramming may also be used. The exegetical work of others (commentaries, etc.) should also be consulted and should be referenced, but the paper must give evidence of original work as well.

Texts should be chosen in consultation with the prof. Students are encouraged to select a text from the Sermon on the Mount, but may also choose texts that help them with projects they are working on in academic or ministry contexts.

Parameters: 10 pages double spaced. **Due date:** Dec. 6. (We will take some time on Dec. 6 in class to have students report on what their papers.)

EXAMS: There will be a short midterm test on Oct. 25 and a more comprehensive final exam on Dec. 13 (an alternative date could be negotiated!)

F. Grading for the Course

Research Paper: 40 %

Midterm Test: 10 %

Final Exam: 40 %

Class Participation: 10 %

(Note: this last category will be based on evidence of having mastered the concepts in the textbooks and on ability to read Greek, as demonstrated in classroom work.)

G. Academic Policies

MBBS academic policies are described at www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies. These policies provide guidance regarding matters such as academic integrity and plagiarism, incomplete course work, extensions, dates for changing registration, non-discriminatory and inclusive language, appeals, etc. Students are expected to be familiar with these policies and to follow them. You will be held responsible for following these policies. If you have questions about how these policies refer to you or to a situation that you face in your studies, please speak to the professor or consult the Registrar or Academic Dean.