

BI502 - Introduction to New Testament Greek

Instructor: Dr. Jordan J. Ryan

E-mail: jordanryan@dbq.edu

Phone: (563) 589-3418

3 credits.

Core requirement for M.Div. and senior 3/3 students; other students by permission.

Prerequisites: None

Course Description and Objectives

This course is an introduction to the vocabulary, grammar, and syntax of New Testament Greek. The aim is to help equip students for studying and interpreting the New Testament and its message in its original language.

By the conclusion of the course, students should:

1. Comprehend the basics of New Testament Greek grammar. We will cover about two-thirds of the content of a typical introductory grammar. In particular, students should be familiar with the various forms, including conjugations and moods, of ω -stem verbs.
2. Learn and familiarize themselves with at least 250 New Testament Greek vocabulary words.
3. Translate simple Koine sentences, such as those in the assigned workbook.
4. Begin to be able to grasp the interpretive value of reading the New Testament in its original value, and to consider how it might be useful for exegesis.

In keeping with the stated purpose of the M.Div. degree (“to serve the one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and prepare women and men for faithful, compassionate, and effective pastoral ministry”), this course meets the following M.Div. curricular objectives:

1. Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the Church.
2. Interpret the Christian Scriptures through faithful exegesis and in light of the Christian tradition.

Requirements and Procedure

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must fulfill the following requirements in order to receive a passing grade:

1. Translations/Homework: students must adequately demonstrate their understanding of the assigned grammatical material by submitting weekly written translation exercises.

2. Vocabulary and Translation Quizzes: students must master vocabulary (both verb and noun forms) as soon as possible to facilitate completion of assignments. Weekly quizzes will be cumulative but will focus on more recent forms.
3. Exams: students must pass three written, cumulative examinations covering vocabulary, verb/noun/adjective endings, and other grammatical material.

Required Texts

Mounce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek: Grammar*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

Mounce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek: Workbook*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

Access to a Greek New Testament will also be required. The two recommended editions are:

- *UBS 5th Revised Greek New Testament Reader's Edition* (can be acquired for a reasonable price at <http://www.bibles.com/academic/academicgreeknt/ubs-5th-revised-greek-new-testament-reader-s-edition-1.html>).
- *Nestle-Aland 28th Edition Novum Testamentum Graece*.

Although electronic versions can be helpful, a print copy without electronic tools is recommended, as it is both essential and useful for familiarizing oneself with reading the Greek New Testament. Languages are best learned by spending time with them, and constantly taking shortcuts by using electronic parsing tools can result in imperfect understanding by fostering a dependence on the tools rather than a true habitual familiarity.