

NT520 – Elementary Biblical Greek I Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Spring 2018
Monday 6:30–9:20pm
Gault Hall 133

Ryan Schellenberg
rschellenberg@mtso.edu
Gault Hall 231
(740) 362-3125

Course Description

A study of the elements of New Testament Greek in order to prepare the student for reading and interpretation of the Greek New Testament. (To acquire basic reading knowledge, students should also expect to complete NT620 – Elementary Biblical Greek II.)

Office Hours

I am generally in the office Tuesday 2:00–4:30pm, and will also aim to be available Mondays from 5:30pm until class begins at 6:30pm. though please feel free to drop in at other times as well. If you want to be sure to catch me, please make arrangements by email, which I check frequently during office hours.

Texts

Required:

Rodney J. Decker, *Reading Koine Greek: An Introduction and Integrated Workbook*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.

Recommended:

The Greek New Testament: A Reader's Edition. UBS 5. Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2014.

Course Expectations

The two most important traits students can bring to the task of learning a language are diligence and humility. In other words, learning a language requires consistent effort, and a willingness to make plenty of mistakes. In this course, students will be expected to:

- Attend class regularly. Missing class will make your task much more difficult, so please make every possible effort to be at every class.
- Complete assigned readings prior to class. This will make following the lectures much easier.
- Complete assigned exercises prior to class. Ideally, you should spend some time on exercises each day (or at least 5 or 6 days a week).
- Learn and drill new vocabulary each week.
- Resist the temptation to work on exercises that you find easy. You will learn far more by making mistakes (and then identifying and correcting them) than by rehearsing what you already know.
- Give it your best effort when called on in class, even if that means making a public mistake.
- Ask questions without embarrassment. If you don't understand something, asking is the best way to get clarification, and your questions will almost certainly help your fellow students get clarity too.

Summary of Assignments

- 1) Final Exam (May 21) – 50% (or, if it earns you a better grade, 100%)
Cumulative exam that will involve translation and parsing. Some passages will be familiar from earlier in the semester. A few will be new, though the vocabulary should be familiar. The final is worth 50% of your course grade, but if your grade on the final is better than your grade in the course up to that point, I will count the final as 100% of your course grade.
- 2) Quizzes – 30%
In-class quizzes will be given at the start of each class (except the first). Quizzes will consist of questions taken from the assigned exercises, or similar to them, as well as vocabulary testing. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped. Except in cases of family or medical emergencies, make-up quizzes will not be offered.
- 3) Take-home translations – 20%
Twice during the semester, I will assign a passage for you to take home and translate. You will also be asked to parse/decline various words. You may consult your textbook, but no other resources.

Course Schedule

Assigned readings from Decker should be done before class. Do the exercises as you work through each chapter. (Note that you may skip sections designated “Advanced Information for Reference.”)
Schedule of topics subject to modification as I deem necessary.

If at all possible, prior to our first meeting, read Decker ch. 1, memorize the Greek alphabet, and practice writing it until you feel confident. (I’ve posted a pronunciation guide on Populi.)

Week 1 (Feb. 5)

Alphabet
Pronunciation
Learning strategies
Second declension nouns

Week 2 (Feb. 12)

Read Decker, Introduction and chs. 1–2 (and skim D3)
First and second declension nouns
The nature of Koine Greek
Quiz 1 – alphabet; D2 and D3 vocab

Week 3 (Feb. 19)

Read D3 and D4
Genitive and dative cases
Personal pronouns
Quiz 2 – noun cases; D4 and previous vocab

Week 4 (Feb. 26)

Read D5 and D6
Introducing verbs, parsing
Adjectives
Adverbs
Quiz 3 – pronouns; D5, D6, and previous vocab

Week 5 (Mar. 5)

Read D7

Simple aorist verbs

Quiz 4 – present active indicative verbs; adjectives; vocab

Week 6 (Mar. 12)

Read D8 and D9

Conjunctions

Phrases, clauses, sentences

Prepositions

Quiz 5 – verb parsing; vocab

Week 7 (Mar. 19)

Read D10 and D11

More pronouns

Third declension nouns

Quiz 6 – basic translation exercises; vocab

Spring Break/Holy Week

(Warning: It would be very unwise to take two weeks off your study of Greek. Please use this time to review what you've learned and continue to practice your reading.)

Week 8 (Apr. 9)

Read D12 and D13

Review

Third declension adjectives

Third declension pronouns

Understanding verbs

Quiz 7 – third declension nouns; basic translation; vocab

Take-home translation due

Week 9 (Apr. 16)

Read D14 and D15

Present indicative verbs

Middle and passive voice

Quiz 8 – third declension; translation; vocab

Week 10 (Apr. 23)

Read D16

Imperfect verbs

Quiz 9 – parsing; translation; vocab

Week 11 (Apr. 30)

Read D17

Aorist verbs

Quiz 10 – parsing; translation; vocab

Take-home translation due

Week 12 (May 7)

Read D18 and D19

Second aorist verbs

Future verbs

Quiz 11 – parsing; translation; vocab

Week 13 (May 14)

Read D20

Perfect and pluperfect verbs

Quiz 12 – parsing; translation; vocab

Week 14 (May 21)

Final exam

School Policies

(Please see MTSO Student Handbook for sections providing policy details.)

ADA—MTSO seeks to remove barriers to inclusion in its learning communities. Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a documented disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs at the beginning of the semester. Please contact the Director of Student Services to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Any accommodation must be agreed upon prior to the due date of the affected course requirement.

Class attendance—Regular attendance is expected in all classes. During unavoidable absences, students are responsible for missed work. An excessive number of absences may result in grade reduction or course failure, despite successful completion of all assigned work. In most cases, a student will not be allowed credit for a course if he or she is absent for 25% of the class sessions.

Electronic Devices—Turn mobile devices off or “vibrate only” during class. Browsing the Internet or engaging in email or social network conversations during class is discouraged. Instructors have the right to impose grading penalties for disruptions due to electronic devices.

Human Subjects Research—Research by MTSO faculty, students, or affiliated personnel that collects non-public information from and/or about living individuals or contemporary organizations/groups for purposes of publication or public presentation (including class assignments) must be approved by the Human Subjects Research Committee. MTSO faculty, students, or affiliated personnel should err on the side of caution and apply for committee approval of any activity that may fit this description.

Inclusive Language—In accordance with MTSO’s policy on inclusive language, all students are expected to use gender inclusive or gender neutral language in their writing and in the classroom discussions when referring to human beings.

Incompletes—To receive a course grade of Incomplete, students must submit the petition form from the Registrar with all signatures to the Dean’s Office before the last day of regularly scheduled classes. See Student Handbook for intensive term deadlines. Any petition submitted without a due date for outstanding work will be denied. If work is not complete by the due date the Registrar will record the grade of F for the course.

Pass/Fail—The decision to exercise this option must be made before the end of the second week of the course by completing the appropriate form available through the Registrar. To receive a grade of "pass" the student must do at least the equivalent of C minus work in the course.

Plagiarism—Plagiarism is a serious matter of academic, professional, and personal integrity. All students at the Masters level are expected to understand the requirement to provide attribution when the work of others is used. Students are also expected to be familiar with and understand the school’s policy on Academic Misconduct found in the Student Handbook. If a student has questions about attribution, citation, and how to avoid plagiarism they should consult the course instructor, the school’s writing instructor, or library staff. When in doubt it is better to provide attribution even if one is uncertain about the proper citation form. Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct that results in disciplinary actions per the Student Handbook that may range from failing an assignment or course to expulsion.