

**NTS 5501 DL/Biblical Greek I**  
**ASHLAND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
Fall Semester, 2020  
Online Course  
Synchronous Sessions: Monday Evenings, 7-9 pm  
David A. deSilva, Ph.D.  
Trustees' Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Greek  
[ddesilva@ashland.edu](mailto:ddesilva@ashland.edu)

## **I. Course Description**

This is the first of a two-course sequence that trains students to use the original language of the New Testament competently for preaching, teaching, and study. Emphasis is placed on how the language works. Students are taught the principles of Greek grammar, a basic vocabulary, how to read the Greek New Testament, translation strategies, and the basic exegetical skills appropriate to the stages of their facility in the language.

## **II. Student Learning Outcomes**

As a result of successful completion of this and the follow-up course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate critical and faithful interpretation and responsible use of Scripture in appropriate ministry and professional settings, specifically:

1a. Demonstrate the ability to apply the foundations of Greek grammar and syntax to reading and translating the Greek New Testament.

1b. Apply foundational concepts of Greek grammar, syntax, and lexicography to basic exegetical tasks and to the analysis of translations of the Greek New Testament.

2.-6. Not assessed in this course.

## **III. Course Requirements**

### **A. Textbooks and Other Materials**

1. Croy, N. Clayton. *A Primer of Biblical Greek*. Second edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011. ISBN-10: 0802867332 ; ISBN-13: 978-0802867339.

2. Jackson, Paul N., ed. *Devotions on the Greek New Testament, Volume Two: 52 Reflections to Inspire and Instruct*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2017. ISBN-10: 0310529352; ISBN-13: 978-0310529354. Note: this book will be available by the end of October 2017 and will be used into Biblical Greek II.

3. Your choice of a Greek New Testament (you do not have to purchase this immediately – we will have a chance to talk about the options in class):

a. *Nestle-Aland Novum Testamentum Graece, 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> edition*.

This is the premier edition for study of the NT, including, as it does, very helpful marginal references to OT and NT quotations and allusions and the most complete data on manuscript witnesses to variant readings. There are regular and large-print editions, editions with or without mini-dictionaries. Please choose the one that most appeals to you.

b. *The Greek New Testament, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> revised edition*. Ed. Barbara and Kurt Aland.

A solid alternative to the *Nestle-Aland* edition. Rather than providing the extensive text-critical information, this edition notes the major variants and lists manuscript witnesses to each.

**Note: If you have Bible software** that includes one of these Greek New Testaments or its equivalent (BibleWorks or Logos have good Greek texts), you would not *need* to own a print edition for Biblical Greek I or II. The printed editions do have additional aids that can prove useful for the long haul, particularly in regard to their text-critical apparatus.

4. Recommended/Optional: Black, David A. *It's Still Greek to Me: An Easy-to-Understand Guide to Intermediate Greek*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1998. ISBN-10: 0801021812; ISBN-13: 978-0801021817.

5. Recommended/Optional: Huffman, Douglas S. *The Handy Guide to New Testament Greek: Grammar, Syntax, and Diagramming*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2012.

## **B. Attendance**

“According to the *Student Handbook*, attendance at all class sessions is expected, unless the professor has been notified in advance and has approved the absence. Students should be on time and should stay through the duration of all classes. Any student missing more than six class hours (2 weeks) will be required to do additional work, receive a lower grade, audit or withdraw from the class, or be penalized otherwise at the discretion of the professor.”

In an online course, “attendance” translates into “diligent engagement of the week’s lectures, group work, discussion forums, synchronous sessions, and other venues for attaining the learning outcomes” each week. One of the benefits of an online format is that, generally, such engagement can be worked in around the other facets of life, even the smaller emergencies that life throws our way.

### C. Assignments/Assessment of Student Learning

1. Class engagement, involving conscientious viewing of lectures, study of the textbooks, regular preparation of homework and other exercises devised by the instructor, and participation in synchronous class session.
2. Periodic quizzes to measure student learning and diagnose weak points.
3. Midterm and final examinations to measure student learning.

### D. Calculation of Grade and Connections with Learning Outcomes

<i>Assignments</i>	<i>Learning Outcomes</i>	<i>Percent of Final Grade</i>
Class Preparation and Engagement, including quizzes	1a, 1b*	25%
Midterm Exam	1a	25%
Final Exam	1a, 1b	50%

## IV. Course Schedule

The following represents our *tentative course schedule*. The professor reserves the right to make adjustments and additions to facilitate successful attainment of the learning outcomes.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date(s)</i>	<i>Lecture/Topic</i>	<i>Readings/Assignments</i> (assignments are to be completed prior to the <i>next</i> synchronous session)
	SUMMER	Pre-class preparation <i>(it is really important to start getting the rudiments down prior to the first class)</i>	1. Learn Greek alphabet 2. Learn to sound out Greek words 3. Review English grammar. See lecture and PowerPoints on course site. (Also Black, 19-42)

1	Week of August 31	The Alphabet and Pronunciation; Present Active Indicative Verbs  Monday 8/31 synchronous session: check-up on pre-class work; orientation to work for weeks 1 and 2.	Croy, lessons 1 and 2 (Black, 91-103) <i>Note: for each and every lesson this semester, students will prepare all the "Practice and Review" exercises (both Greek to English and English to Greek), as well as selections from the NT and LXX sets of exercises (TBA). Students will also work to memorize the relevant paradigms and the vocabulary for each chapter.</i>
2	Week of Sept. 7	First and Second Declension Nouns  Monday night (9/7): Labor Day, no class	Croy, lessons 3 and 4 (Black, 43-56)
3	Week of Sept. 14	Adjectives; More Nouns; Prepositions  Monday night session	Croy, lessons 5 and 6 (Black, 75-90)
4	Week of Sept. 21	"To Be"; Various Pronouns  Monday night session	"Noun Cases and Exegesis"; Croy, lessons 7 and 8
5	Week of Sept. 28	Present Middle and Passive Indicative Verbs; Imperfect Active Indicatives  Monday night session	"Prepositions and Exegesis"; Croy, lessons 9 and 10
6	Week of Oct. 5	Imperfect Middle and Passive; Future Active and Middle  Monday night session	"Is Deponency a valuable concept?" Croy, lessons 11 and 12
7	Week of Oct. 12	Aorist Active and Middle Indicatives  Monday night session	Croy, lessons 13 and 14
8	Week of Oct. 19	Review  Monday night session	Periodic Exercises on lessons 1-8 and 9-14
9	Week of Oct. 26	Midterm Exam Monday night session	Work on <b>Midterm Exam</b> (on lessons 1-14), <b>due Saturday, Oct. 31, by 9 a.m.</b>

10	Week of Nov. 2	Perfect Indicatives; Aorist Passive Indicatives  Monday night session	Croy, lessons 15-16 (Black, 104-112)
11	Week of Nov. 9	More Nouns; Participles (1)  Monday night session	Croy, lessons 17-18 Jackson, TBA
12	Week of Nov. 16	Participles (2)  Monday night session	Croy, lessons 19-20 (Black, 121-126) Jackson, TBA
13	Week of Nov. 23	Monday night session (check- up on work from week 12)  (Thanksgiving Week)	Periodic Exercises on lessons 15-20
14	Week of Nov. 30	Contract and Liquid Verbs  Monday night session	Croy, lessons 21 and 22 Jackson, TBA "Participles and Exegesis"
15	Week of Dec. 7	Monday night session (review)	<b>Work on Final Exam</b> (lessons 1-22).
16	Week of Dec. 14	"Exam Week"	Complete work on <b>Final Exam</b> ( <b>due Thur., Dec. 17, by 9 a.m.</b> )

## V. Recommendations for Lifelong Learning

For students completing Biblical Greek I, there is only one legitimate recommendation to be made: *Take Biblical Greek II* to continue your introduction to the grammar and syntax of Biblical Greek and its pertinence to points of exegesis of the New Testament, and to practice reading extended portions of biblical Greek and thinking about how reading these texts in Greek informs our exegesis and interpretation of the texts.

## VI. Seminary Guidelines

### A. ATS Academic Integrity Policy

Ashland Theological Seminary expects each student to uphold the Seminary's core value of academic excellence by contributing to an environment that is both challenging and supportive. In such an environment a student will neither seek nor offer improper assistance. All students have an obligation to be forthright in their academic endeavors and to respect ethical standards. The work that one submits for academic evaluation must be one's own, unless an instructor expressly permits certain types of collaboration. Academic integrity requires that each student will

use one's own capabilities to achieve one's fullest potential and will neither offer nor accept aid that is not in keeping with regularly accepted standards of academic integrity. Failure to conform to this conduct shall constitute academic dishonesty. The full Academic Integrity Policy statement may be found in the *Student Handbook*.

### **B. Seminary Writing Consultation Service**

The Seminary Writing Consultation Service can help you brainstorm, draft, and revise your writing assignments in your graduate Seminary classes. Masters and doctoral qualified Consultants can advise you online or in person.

**To schedule an appointment**, visit [Writing Center Online](#) and select "Online and Graduate" from the schedule menu.

### **C. Accessibility Resources and Accommodations**

It is Ashland University's goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on a disability, please contact the Student Accessibility Center at [419-289-5904](tel:419-289-5904), or send an email to [dservices@ashland.edu](mailto:dservices@ashland.edu). The Student Accessibility Center office and the course instructor will work together in order to establish accommodations and to meet your learning needs.

### **D. ATS Grading Scale**

Grade	Quality	Percent	Description
A	4.0	97-100	Superior achievement of course objectives, diligence and originality, high degree of freedom from error, outstanding evidence of ability to utilize course knowledge, initiative expressed in preparing and completing assignments, positive contributions verbalized in class.
A-	3.7	92-96	
B+	3.3	89-91	
B	3.0	86-88	Good work submitted, commendable achievement of course objectives, some aspects of the course met with excellence, substantial evidence of ability to utilize course material, positive contributions verbalized in class, consistency and thoroughness of work completed.
B-	2.7	83-85	
C+	2.3	80-82	
C	2.0	77-79	Acceptable work completed, satisfactory achievement of course objectives, demonstrating at least some ability to utilize course knowledge, satisfactory class contribution.

C-	1.7	74-76	
D+	1.3	71-73	
D	1.0	68-70	Passing but minimal work, marginal achievement of course objectives, poor performance in comprehension of work submitted, inadequate class contributions.
D-	0.7	65-67	
F	0.0	Below 65	Unacceptable work resulting in failure to receive class credit, inadequacy of work submitted or of performance and attendance in class.

## VII. Selected Bibliography or References

Students wishing to consult alternative or fuller presentations of the grammar and syntax beyond the principal textbooks may find one or more of the following resources helpful:

Black, David A. *It's Still Greek to Me: An Easy-to-Understand Guide to Intermediate Greek*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1998.

Blass, F., A. Debrunner, and R. Funk. *Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961.

\*Huffman, Douglas S. *The Handy Guide to New Testament Greek: Grammar, Syntax, and Diagramming*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2012.

Kostenberger, Andreas J., Benjamin Merkle, and Robert Plummer. *Going Deeper with New Testament Greek*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2016.

Long, Gary. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Greek: Learning Biblical Greek Grammatical Concepts through English Grammar*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.

Strauss, Mark L. *The Biblical Greek Companion for Bible Software Users: Grammatical Terms Explained for Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.

\*Wallace, Daniel B. *The Basics of New Testament Syntax*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

Zerwick, Maximilian. *Biblical Greek. Illustrated with Examples*. Rome: Biblical Institute Press, 1963, 1994.