

FALL TERM 2017
COURSE SYLLABUS
Department: Biblical Studies
Course Title: Greek 1
Course Number: BL 651
Credit Hours: 3

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is part of a two course sequence providing an introduction to Koine Greek. We will use an inductive method that introduces the material to be learned as it occurs in the passages we are reading. The goal is to learn to read Greek, moving toward fluency one passage at a time.

I am excited about this course because it gives you a chance to gain the knowledge and skills needed to begin reading texts in Greek, especially the Greek New Testament. The training offered in this course has the potential for deepening your understanding of the New Testament, your ability to use the best reference tools, and your encounter with God through His word.

Most students come to Greek with apprehension, but they find that it is doable, even enjoyable at times. While it takes a lot of time and effort to learn any language, this course is designed to get you into the text itself quickly. In this way you will soon begin to benefit from engaging the text in the Greek and see the value of knowing Greek. You will begin to experience for yourself that the effort is worth it, and that you can do it.

II. CURRENT TEXTS:

Rodney A. Whitacre, *Koine Greek: A Direct Reading Approach*. 3 volumes.

- This textbook is in draft form. It is available only through the Trinity bookstore. All that you need for the first semester is contained in these three volumes, along with handouts in class and some videos on YouTube.

III. COURSE OUTLINE

A. Objectives

The general set of outcomes Trinity desires for each of our graduates includes the following:

1. The student will recognize and identify the biblical theology evident in the course work.
2. The student will be able to articulate an Anglican understanding of biblical, historical, systematic, and pastoral theology.
3. The student will be able to effectively communicate the Christian message to a diversity of people in order to advance the mission of God.
4. The student will be prepared to effectively lead in a variety of Christian communities.

This course is one of the foundational courses preparing students to understand the Bible and biblical theology, thereby grounding this curriculum as a whole (Outcome 1). Such attention to biblical theology is at the heart of a classic Anglican approach to Scripture (Outcome 2; see Article XX of *The XXXIX Articles of Religion*), and an understanding of the Bible is a pre-requisite for both effectively communicating the Christian message and offering effective leadership (Outcomes 3 and 4). So this course contributes to each of these general outcomes in a preparatory way through the following specific objectives, which are connected to the course requirements described below:

1. To learn how to read Koine Greek through familiarity with its morphology, syntax and vocabulary.
 - Assessed through daily quizzes and a final exam.
2. To begin to learn how to study and reflect on passages in Greek through an introduction of select elements of exegesis and examples of reflection/meditation.
 - Informal assessment through class discussion.

Along with these objectives related to knowledge and skill that will be assessed through your written work, I have other objectives in mind that are worth mentioning, even though I will not try to assess your development in these areas. Seminary education is not just a matter of growing in knowledge and skill, but also in one's relationship with God and one's Christian character as a disciple of Jesus. I pray that your work in this course will promote such growth.

1. An increased delight in the truth and beauty of the Scriptures.
2. An increased experience of God's love and an increased love for God.
3. An increased commitment to detailed and careful study of the Scriptures.

B. General Approach

Our time in class will include some lecture, but, since this is a "tools course," much of our time will be spent working together on specific details of the language to be learned and how those details are used in reading Greek. This course is challenging because it involves great attention to detail. This material cannot be skimmed.

The textbook is designed to be useful for people studying Greek on their own, as well as those studying together in a course. Accordingly, the textbook contains a great deal of explanation and you should study it carefully. Along with careful personal study, I strongly encourage you to form study groups to help one another sort out the material week by week. Our time in class will be spent clarifying any details that are not clear, along with further practice related to the material covered and exploring the passages as time permits.

C. Course Requirements

1. **Class Attendance.** Since this is a tools course, class attendance is especially important. If you must be absent you should make arrangements with a fellow student to get notes and handouts from the class. Arrangements must also be made to make up quizzes missed.
2. **Preparation for Class.** Preparation for each class is essential since this material accumulates quickly if you fall behind.
3. **Daily Quizzes.** These quizzes cover the memory work and details related to the readings. They are 80% of your grade.
4. **Final Exam.** This exam is cumulative for the course, including some memory work along with translation and explanation of the passages studied. It is 20% of your course grade.
5. **STM Requirements.** Since this is a basic language course there are no extra assignments for STM students.

D. Course Evaluation

Daily quizzes..... 80%
Final exam..... 20%

Late work will normally be marked down. Final grades may be raised or lowered on the basis of class attendance and/or participation.

Samples of student work may be used as part of an on-going assessment of courses and degree programs. Students names will be removed from any work used for this purpose.

All work must be turned in by midnight, December 22, 2017. I cannot receive material after this date unless you have arranged with the Registrar and the Academic Dean for an Incomplete, which includes submitting a form and paying a fee. Incompletes are usually granted only for critical reasons, not for time management difficulties. For those who do take an Incomplete, the deadline for incompletes (2 February, 2018) is absolute, though if need be you can petition the Academic Dean for an extension in the case of a medical emergency.

IV. CLASS SCHEDULE

We will spend the first several weeks getting an overview of the Greek language, using the first three chapters in Volume 1 of *Koine Greek: A Direct Reading Approach (KG)*. This will give us a large scale map, which we will then fill in as we read our passages. We will begin our reading with Matthew 5:3 on September 29th, using the material in Volume 2 of *KG*. As we move through our readings the amount of material to be learned varies from verse to verse. So some days we will cover only one verse, while other days we will cover two or more.

Sept. 5 – <i>KG</i> , Vol. 1, ch. 1	Oct. 31
Sept. 8 – <i>KG</i> , Vol. 1, ch. 1	Nov. 3
Sept. 12 – <i>KG</i> , Vol. 1, ch. 2	Nov. 7
Sept. 15 – <i>KG</i> , Vol. 1, ch. 2	Nov. 10
Sept. 19 – Quiet Day	Nov. 14
Sept. 22 – <i>KG</i> , Vol. 1, ch. 3	Nov. 17
Sept. 26 – <i>KG</i> , Vol. 1, ch. 3	Nov. 21
Sept. 29	Nov. 24 – Thanksgiving Break
Oct. 3	Nov. 28
Oct. 6	Dec. 1
Oct. 10	Dec. 5
Oct. 13	Dec. 8
Oct. 17 – Reading Week	Dec 12
Oct. 20 – Reading Week	Dec 15 – Review
Oct. 24	Final Exam
Oct. 27	

December 22

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