Course Description

This course in New Testament exegesis focuses on your ability to perform close reading of Scripture, paying particular attention to the knowledge and skills which are most directly related to work in the Greek text. Our focus will be on the letter to the Ephesians but we will also study a selection of other passages from the New Testament.

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. MDiv: The student will be prepared to effectively lead in a variety of Christian communities. MAR: The student will be equipped to apply scholarship to the life of the church in his or her chosen theological discipline. STM: The student will be equipped to successfully pursue further independent research and post-graduate study in his or her chosen theological discipline.

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, and for scholarly work from a classic Anglican perspective (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 each connected to the course requirements described below:

1. To become more fluent in Greek, in particular through study of morphology and grammar, and through practice reading passages with care.
2. To become more proficient in basic exegetical skills, especially grammatical and discourse analysis, and to be able to practice basic textual criticism.
3. To develop and tailor practical ways of using the Greek New Testament both in personal life and in ministry, including familiarity with key resources such as NA²⁸, BDAG, and Blass-Debrunner-Funk.

**Textbooks**

There are three *required* texts for this class:

   - Note: You must have access to this particular edition, not a substitute, since we will be looking at the apparatus in some detail.

The following textbook is one to which you will need access, but each student is not required to purchase it:


**Course Requirements**

The requirements for this class, about which I will say more on the first day of class, are as follows:

1. Weekly vocabulary quizzes.
2. Weekly translation (etc.) assignments.
4. A final “commentary-style” paper (20 pages, 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, not counting the bibliography), with a homiletical and/or devotional reading appendix.

I will explain each of these assignments in more detail as the course gets underway.

**General Approach**

This course will be challenging because it will involve great attention to grammatical and syntactical detail. Our time together via video conference will include some lecture, but, since this is a “tools course,” much of our time will be spent working together on skills and specimens. You will have opportunity to increase your knowledge and to hone your
skills and use them to explore the treasures found in the Greek New Testament. You will gain proficiency in recognizing and explaining Greek forms, analyzing the grammar and logical construction of passages from Ephesians and elsewhere, and integrating your study with a final large-scale essay.

**Course Evaluation**

Final grades for the course will be calculated as follows: The vocabulary quizzes will count for 25% of your grade, the regular assignments for 45%, and the final paper for 30%. Final grades may be raised or lowered on the basis of class attendance, participation, and/or tardiness of work.

Your written work will be evaluated according to the following criteria: clarity and charity of thought and expression, accuracy of information, and breadth and depth of discussion. I will use letter grades or their equivalent to mean the following:

B (80-89): The thought and expression are clear and the information is accurate. The discussion is broad and deep enough to indicate a solid understanding of the issue. By “broad” I mean that sufficient aspects of the topic are covered, and by “depth” I mean that enough supporting and illustrating material is offered to flesh out the basic thought.

C (70-79): The material shows an adequate grasp of the topic, but at points the discussion is unclear, inaccurate, narrow or shallow.

D (60-69): The material shows something close to an adequate grasp of the topic but is notably defective according to one or more of the criteria.

F (below 60): The material does not indicate that the student has an adequate grasp of the topic, or it is severely defective according to the criteria.

A (90-100): The material is exceptional. Usually this means that it is not only clear and accurate but also develops the topic in breadth and depth beyond what is necessary for a good understanding of it. Such material is often, though not always, marked also by creativity, exceptional insight, and/or relatively extensive research.

The school’s grade scale is as follows: A = 100-95; A- = 94-90; B+ = 89-87; B = 86-83; B- = 82-80; C+ = 79-77; C = 76-73; C- = 72-70; D = below 70; F = below 60.

**Schedule**

To be announced.