



## Grace Communion Seminary

### BI541 Introduction to Biblical Greek 1

#### Short Syllabus

**Instructor:** Shep Shepherd, PhD

To send a message to the instructor, see Appendix B.

#### Course description

This course introduces New Testament Greek, focusing on nouns and present- and future-tense indicative verbs. Attention will be given to using online Bible-study resources. This course will prepare the student for Introduction to Biblical Greek 2.

This course will require more time than most courses, and it will require *consistent effort* week to week. Plan for about 15 hours each week, for a total of 180 hours.

#### Required textbooks

Mounce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek Grammar*. 3rd edition.<sup>1</sup> Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009. ISBN: 0310287685. 448 pages.  
Amazon price for a new book: about \$31. Third-party price: \$25. This book is designed for a two-semester course; we will use the first half.

Mounce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek Workbook*. 3rd edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009. ISBN: 0310287677. 240 pages.  
Amazon price for a new book: about \$18. Third-party price: \$12.

Strauss, Mark L. *The Biblical Greek Companion for Bible Software Users: Grammatical Terms Explained for Exegesis*. Zondervan, 2016. ISBN: 0310521343. 112 pages. \$11, or \$9. A helpful listing of the uses of

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<sup>1</sup> The second edition is almost the same, so may also be used. The third edition explains the differences: “Chapter 35 has been split into two chapters, ‘half-time review’ sections have been added to every chapter, and new exegesis sections are now included.”

various noun cases, verb voices and mood.

Please obtain these books before the class begins. To find the lowest prices, you may find it helpful to use [www.bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com).

### **Technological requirements**

You must be able to submit workbook homework on the website. This may be done either of two ways:

- 1) Do the homework in your own handwriting, then scan your work as a JPG image or PDF document. In this option, you must have access to a scanner.
- 2) Type your homework in a Word document that will be uploaded to the website. Some of the exercises are in Greek, so *you must be able to type in Greek*. There are two ways to do this:
  - a. In Microsoft Word, use the “insert symbol” feature. In the Insert tab in the menu ribbon at the top of Word, click on “Symbol,” then “More Symbols.” (Or you can use the keyboard shortcut Alt-i, s.)
    - i. Symbol font gives you all the Greek capital and lower-case letters.<sup>2</sup> We do not require accent marks.<sup>3</sup>
    - ii. If you switch the font to Times New Roman, you can scroll down to the Greek alphabet (or change the subset by pressing Alt-u, then g), and you will find a

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<sup>2</sup> Although Symbol font has all the Greek letters, they are not in the correct alphabetical order. For breathing marks (required for words beginning with a vowel), you may use single quote marks, if you get them to curve the correct way. We require breathing marks because they make a difference in transliteration and pronunciation.

<sup>3</sup> We do not require accents, since they were not in the original manuscripts, rarely make a difference in meaning, and add a layer of complexity that frustrates beginning students. Most of us are learning Greek so that we can go from Greek to English, not vice versa, so we do not need to know how to place the accent marks – they are already there. However, accents do make a difference in how we pronounce the word, and students who want to go further in Greek will need to learn them.

- wider array of Greek letters, some with accent marks.<sup>4</sup>
- b. If you type a lot of Greek, Insert Symbol is a slow process. For faster typing, you will need a Greek virtual keyboard. This will enable you to use your normal keyboard to type Greek letters. For example, if you press the “b” key, Word will insert β. For instructions on how to do this in Windows, see Appendix F.<sup>5</sup> You will need to use single-quote marks for breathing marks.

Some students will enjoy the computer details. Others will have technological frustrations on top of learning grammatical terms, a new alphabet, and a new vocabulary. We recommend that you try the Greek keyboard first, and if you can’t get it to work, consider whether the other options will work for you.

### **Optional resources**

It is possible to learn Greek with just the textbooks, if you are diligent. However, it is not easy – languages always require work and memorization. It will require **daily**, consistent effort – cramming does not work well. Generally, younger people pick it up easier, but only if they have self-discipline and initiative. This course will help you stick to a schedule to get the work done. This is not a good semester to take a week-long vacation.

Some people do not learn well with printed resources. Audio and video resources are available, but some are expensive. Here is a survey of some options:

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<sup>4</sup> There are characters for vowels with acute accents. For other accent marks, you will need to use a “combining” character: for a grave accent, use character code 0300; for acute, 0301; for circumflex, 0302; diaresis, 0308; diaresis with acute accent, 0344. A smooth breathing mark is code 0313; a rough breathing mark, 0314. You can type the number, then press Alt-x. The virtual Greek keyboard does not do breathing marks.

<sup>5</sup> Unfortunately, the virtual keyboard does not do breathing marks above initial vowels. For this course, we will accept quote marks if they are curved the right way. With some practice, you will learn the keyboard location of the non-English letters – for example, that u gives you theta (not upsilon), and the terminating sigma is w, etc.

- Mounce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek Vocabulary*. Audio. Zondervan, 2009. On CD and on iTunes. You can get *free* audio vocabulary from [billmounce.com/flashworks](http://billmounce.com/flashworks), and it can be focused on a set range of chapters in the book, but you need some computer knowledge to install the program.
- . *Basics of Biblical Greek Vocabulary Cards*. Zondervan, 2009. \$10. Most people find flash cards helpful. It may be better to make your own, because you will learn as you write them. You can also use the free downloadable program at [billmounce.com/flashworks](http://billmounce.com/flashworks). There are also free flashcards set up on [quizlet.com](http://quizlet.com), as noted in the schedule.
- . *Basics of Biblical Greek Video Lectures*. Bill Mounce.com. <https://billmounce.com/basicsofbiblicalgreek/lectures>. The first five videos are free. \$99 for a flash drive with lectures for every chapter in the book (i.e., for two semesters), \$49 for one year of online access, \$69 for online downloads. Almost everything in the video lectures is also in the book – the main difference is the format. Sometimes it is helpful to get the same information twice. Zondervan also markets these lectures, coupled with a vocabulary program and online workbook exercises, for \$199 each semester.

### **Student learning outcomes**

Through this course, students will be able to...

1. Describe basic elements of Greek grammar and syntax.
2. Describe the Greek noun and pronoun cases and uses.
3. Describe the inflection of present active indicative verbs, present passive verbs, and future tenses.
4. Know the meanings and forms for a basic Greek vocabulary of 227 common Greek words.
5. All outcomes will be assessed by quizzes, workbook assignments, a midterm exam, and a final exam.

This course will NOT enable the student to

- 1) Offer new translation possibilities for verses of the New Testament.<sup>6</sup>
- 2) Present stunning insights into the meaning of the Greek text.<sup>7</sup>

### **Requirements and assignments**

1. **Read the first half of the Mounce textbook.** This semester, we will use the first 20 chapters – only 18 pages each week. Most of the work in the course comes in other areas.
2. **Read most of the Strauss textbook.** See schedule for which pages to read.
3. **Complete the exercises in the workbook.** This semester, we will use the first 20 chapters. The exercises must be turned in on the website each week (to keep you on a schedule). You may do this either by 1) typing (sometimes in Greek) or 2) by handwriting in the workbook, scanning your pages and uploading them to the website.<sup>8</sup> You may also ask questions on this homework. Late work *will be penalized*, because it causes extra work.
4. **Website vocabulary quizzes.** There will be a quiz every week. You may take the quizzes as often as you want, and only the last grade

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<sup>6</sup> If you come up with a translation that can't be found in any of the translations on biblegateway.com, you are almost certainly wrong! Two semesters of study cannot give you that level of expertise or credibility in any language.

<sup>7</sup> Grammatical details are only one part of discerning meaning in the Greek text. Most Greek words have multiple definitions, and proper selection of a definition often requires a feel for the language – a feel that can be obtained only with extensive reading. Further study may give you stunning insights, but the payoff does not come in the first semester, rarely in the second. This introductory course will help you reach a more modest goal: to help you read commentaries and theology books that refer to Greek words, and to prepare you for the next semester of Greek.

<sup>8</sup> An answer key is available on the internet, and you may use it, but **ONLY IF** you write your own answers first, and only if you mark all corrections in red.

counts. Thus the quizzes are a method of review, like vocabulary cards. They are also a method of keeping you on schedule.

5. **Self-discipline.** There is no magic formula for making Greek easy. Some people have a knack for learning languages, but most find it difficult. The key is to work at it every day.

If you have difficulty, if you have questions, it is your responsibility to ask for help. This is generally done on the GCS website forum, so other students can see the discussion and benefit from it. We will also keep track of your progress and will contact you if you lag behind. This is not because we like to nag, but because we want you to succeed!

6. **Two proctored exams.** There will be a mid-term exam to check your progress, and a final exam. These exams are NOT open-book. You are not allowed to consult any books or notes – we want the basic information to be in your head. These exams will be proctored, so we can verify that you are the one who has learned the material. See proctoring instructions in Appendix E (page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**).

### Assignments, estimated hours, and grade weighting

Assignment	Hours *	Percentage of grade
Reading the textbooks	30	0
Workbook exercises: 4 hours/week	40	25
Vocabulary/paradigm study: 4 hours	40	0
Studying for the quizzes	16	0
Taking quizzes: 2 hours/week	20	25
Studying for the exams	16	0
Taking two exams	6	50
Reading Q&A forum discussions	6	0
Total – about 12 hours each week	174	100

\* This is an estimate for the “average” student. Some students will complete

the course requirements in less total time, and some will take more time.

## Weekly topics and assignments (tentative)

For each unit, each week, read the chapter in Mounce, memorize the vocabulary assigned in the book, and do the exercises in the workbook.

Week	Topic	Assignments
1	Unit 1. The Greek Language Unit 2. Learning Greek Unit 3. Alphabet and Pronunciation Unit 4. Punctuation and Syllabification	Mounce chapters 1-4 Workbook 3-4, Vocabulary quiz for chapter 4
2	Unit 5. English Nouns Unit 6. Nominative and Accusative; Article Unit 7. Genitive and Dative	Mounce 5-7 Vocabulary & quiz Workbook 6-7 Strauss pages 10-11, 20-21, 28-31, 34-35, 46-47, 50-55, 74-75, 92-93
3	Unit 8. Prepositions and εἰμι Unit 9. Adjectives	Mounce 8-9 Vocabulary & quiz Workbook 8-9 Strauss 76-77, 14-15
4	Unit 10. Third Declension Nouns Unit 11. First & Second Person Personal Pronouns	Mounce 10-11 Strauss 86-87 Vocabulary & quiz Workbook 10-11
5	Unit 12. The pronoun αὐτός Unit 13. Demonstrative Pronouns/Adjectives	Mounce 12-13 Strauss 80-81 Vocabulary & quiz

		Workbook 12-13
6	Unit 14. Relative Pronoun	Mounce 14 Strauss 88-89 Vocabulary & quiz Workbook 14 <b>Mid-term exam</b>
7	Unit 15. Introduction to Verbs Unit 16. Present Active Indicative	Mounce 15-16 Strauss 96-97, 78-79, 12-13, 40-41, 70-71 Vocabulary & quiz Workbook 16
8	Unit 17. Contract Verbs	Mounce 17 Workbook 17
9	Unit 18. Present Middle/Passive Indicative	Mounce 18 Strauss 66-67, 48-49 Workbook 18
10	Unit 19. Future Active/Middle Indicative	Mounce 19 Strauss 32-33 Workbook 19
11	Unit 20. Verbal Roots, and Other Forms of the Future	Mounce 20 Workbook 20
12	<b>Final exam must be taken on or before Monday December 4, 2017.</b>	