



## SHORT SYLLABUS

### BI541 Biblical Greek 1

**Instructor:** Mike Morrison, Ph.D.

#### Course description

This course introduces New Testament Greek, focusing on nouns, pronouns, and present- and future-tense indicative verbs.

*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. Most GCS classes have only 10 weeks of lecture. This course has an extra week.*

#### Required textbooks

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

Mounce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek Grammar*. 4th edition.<sup>1</sup> Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019. ISBN: 0310537436. 544 pages. Amazon price for a new book: about \$43. Kindle price, \$42. Third-party price for printed copies: \$36. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> The third edition may also be used, and “very good” used copies are available for less than \$10. Only the fourth edition is available in Kindle format.

Strauss, Mark L. *The Biblical Greek Companion for Bible Software Users: Grammatical Terms Explained for Exegesis*. Zondervan, 2016. ISBN: 0310521343. 112 pages. \$7. A helpful list of the uses of various noun cases, verb voices and mood.

## Technological requirements

You must be able to submit homework on the website. This may be done in several 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 or a good camera.
- 2) Type your homework in a 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 several ways to do this:
  - a. In Microsoft Word, use the “insert symbol” feature. In the menu ribbon at the top of Word, click on “Insert,” then “Symbol,” then “More Symbols.” (Or you can use the keyboard shortcut Alt-n, u, m.)
  - b. Insert Symbol is a very slow process. For faster typing, you need a virtual Greek keyboard. Then you can use an English keyboard to type Greek letters. For example, if you press the “B” key, Word will insert β. Go to <https://www.logos.com/product/53264/original-languages-keyboards-for-windows> and add this product to your cart. You’ll have to create an account (and opt out of their frequent emails), and complete your order to download a virtual biblical Greek keyboard.

## Requirements and assignments

1. **Read the first half of the Mounce textbook.** This semester, we will use the first 20 chapters – only 22 pages each week. Most of the work in the course comes in the workbook, not just reading.
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>2</sup> You may also ask questions on this homework. Late work *will be*

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<sup>2</sup> An answer key may be somewhere on the internet, and you may use it, but

*penalized*, because it causes extra work for the grader, and an erratic schedule will hurt your learning.

4. **Website vocabulary quizzes.** There will be quizzes every week. You may take the quizzes as often as you want, and only the last grade counts. 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 find it easy, but most find it difficult. The key is to work at it every day.

If you have difficulty, or questions, you need to ask for help. This can be 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 online 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.

### **Assignments, estimated hours, and grade weighting**

| <b>Assignment</b>                  | <b>Hours *</b> | <b>Percentage of grade</b> |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 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                        |

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ONLY IF you write your own answers first, and only if you mark all corrections in red.