

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary—Charlotte
GL501CA Basic Greek 1
Syllabus | Fall 2011

Course Instructor: Dr. Joel Harlow (jharlow@gcts.edu | office #213 | 704.940.5838)

Class Meeting Times: Friday Evenings: 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Saturdays: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Sept. 30-Oct. 1; Oct. 28-29; Dec. 2-3; Jan 6-7

Special Notes:

1. GL 501 requires familiarization with Greek alphabet **prior to the first meeting.**

*Your **FIRST TEST** for this course (10% of your course grade) will be on **the alphabet on Saturday morning of the FIRST WEEKEND (Oct. 1)!***

Therefore, you must study the first 3 chapters of Mounce's textbook, along with either:

- "Introduction, #3 – Alphabet & Pronunciation" from Mounce's website
<http://www.teknia.com/greek-alphabet/greek-alphabet>
- or do Chapter 1 of the optional NT Greek Tutor CD (all of LEARN [except vocab] and all of DRILL; you may skip EXERCISE).

2. Even though our first weekend together is not till October, I **highly recommend** you get started on vocabulary words right away! Besides all the other material you must learn you'll have an average of **16 new Greek words** to learn every week.

The Sakai site contains MP3s of all vocabulary words for the whole semester. I suggest you get started with chapters 4 and 6 right away.

We **WILL** hit the floor running!

I. Course Description

An introductory study concentrating on frequent vocabulary and a basic analysis of the grammar and syntax of New Testament Greek (Mounce, chaps. 1-20).

II. Relationship to the Curriculum (or *Why Study Greek, anyway?!?!?!?*)

As stated in the Gordon-Conwell [mission statement](#), we at the seminary....

- ... believe that God's redemptive work is "understood through the biblical Word and mediated by the Holy Spirit." We hold, then, that the writers were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write the Scriptures **in Hebrew and Greek** (not English!). Consequently, the best understanding of God's self-disclosure—through His inspired Word—is gained by the study of Scripture in the languages through which HE chose to reveal Himself. And we argue that studying the original languages of Scripture best equips us to be one who "correctly handles the word of truth" (2Tim 2:15, NIV).

- ... strive to develop students in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship, who are competent in the interpretation, proclamation and application of God's Holy Word in the contemporary world. And we are convinced that this is impossible without studying the original languages of Scripture.

Greek is a prerequisite for NT exegesis and preaching courses. Consequently, Greek is required of all degree students at Gordon Conwell, except the Master of Christian Counseling, Master of Christian Leadership, and the Master of Arts in Religion.

III. Course Outcome and Objectives.

The outcome or goal of Greek 1 is that a student who successfully completes this course will be able to translate—with considerable assistance—a narrative passage from the New Testament.

Briefly, the skills requisite for this outcomes are:

1. To recognize 225 Greek vocabulary words
2. To parse, translate, and analyze the Greek noun system—including pronouns, prepositions and adjectives
3. To parse, translate, and analyze the present and future forms of the Greek verb
4. To articulate in a reaction paper [see below], from concrete examples, that even a basic understanding of Greek is an invaluable tool for the competent interpretation, proclamation, and application of God's Word in the contemporary world

III. Course Textbooks and Resources

Required:

- Mounce, W. (2009). Basics of Biblical Greek: Grammar (3rd ed.). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
 - ISBN 9780310287681
- Mounce, W. (2009). Basics of Biblical Greek: Workbook (3rd ed.). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
 - ISBN: 9780310287674

Recommended:

- Greek Tutor [CD-ROM]. (1996). Omaha, NE: Parsons Technology. (PC only, XP or earlier)
 - ISBN 9781572641587
 - Available from the [GTCS online bookstore](#).
 - **NOTE:** While this program is *very* dated (1995) it is incomparable in its usefulness. So if you have Windows XP or older, this is **WELL WORTH** the \$30!

Dr. Hildebrandt also has many web resources for the study of Greek. See...

- Audio files for *Mastering NT Greek*
http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/Ted_Hildebrandt/New_Testament_Greek/00-GreekAudioPage.htm

- A text and workbook version of *Mastering NT Greek*
http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/ted_hildebrandt/New_Testament_Greek/Text/MNTGTextbokWorkbook/MNTGTextbokWorkbook.html
- Animated videos for *Mastering NT Greek*
http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/ted_hildebrandt/New_Testament_Greek/Video/00-GTLearnVideos.html
- Mounce, W. (2005). *Biblical Greek: Get an A Study Guide* (chart). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
 - ISBN 9780310262947

IV. Course Requirements and Grading

Prior to the first class:

Prior to the first class students are expected to work through the first 3 chapters of the textbook, supplementing with either Mounce's web site, or—if your computer is compatible—with the *Greek Tutor* CD program, as noted above.

The first course exam (10% of your grade), covering the alphabet, will be given in the **Saturday AM of the first weekend.**

Enrolled students will be given access, via Sakai, to a self-grading exercises for this first exam at least one week prior to the first class meeting.

Attendance

Attendance is required for all class meetings in GL501.

Workbook Exercises

Students are expected to complete **ALL** the exercises in the Workbook. Mastery of the course material without doing all workbook exercises is well beyond the ability of the vast majority of students. Moreover, after a decade of teaching Greek to seminary students I'd estimate that over 95% of all students who struggle in Greek *have not done all* the workbook exercises.

The workbook exercises are not to be turned in as homework. Students must take the initiative of working through the workbook, checking their answers, and contacting the teaching assistant or professor for help with any problem areas.

The Sakai website will contain a hyperlinked answer key for all the workbook exercises. Dr. Mounce also has the answers to the workbook on his website (<http://www.teknia.com/basicsofbiblicalgreek/resources>).

Students are expected to have completed all workbook exercises *prior to each class meeting*, and to be prepared to discuss the workbook exercises when called upon in class.

Time Commitment

After many years of teaching Greek it is obvious that the single biggest mistake students make in Greek study is to underestimate the time needed to master the material.

Most weeks students who wish to master the material should expect to spend about eleven hours per week studying Greek (2.5 hours per class period and 8.5 hours studying and taking the weekly quiz)—*excluding studying for and taking exams*. During exam weeks students can expect to spend another three to five hours studying and taking exams.

Below is a layout of the course by “modules,” following Mounce’s text—including major topics covered, assignments, and estimated hours needed to read, learn, practice, study, and be tested on the material.

Module	Topics	Assignments	Estimated Hours
1	Alphabet and Pronunciation (chaps 1-4)	• Exam 1 (first night!) • Quiz 1	13
2	Intro to the Noun System (chaps 5-9)	• Quizzes 2-3 • Exam 2	51
3	Rest of the Noun System (chaps 10-14)	• Quizzes 4-5 • Exam 3	51
4	Intro to the Verb System (chaps 15-20)	• Quizzes 6-8 • Reaction Paper	63
	<i>Prep for cumulative Final Exam</i>	• Final Exam	10
TOTAL ESTIMATED HOURS			188

In total, a student who wishes to master the material for Greek 1 should expect to around 190 hours over the fall semester.

Grading

Quizzes (10%)

There are 8 quizzes (in Sakai) covering material discussed in class for selected weeks. The quizzes will consist of vocabulary, translation, and short answer / fill in the blank, or matching.

Exams (85%)

There are four exams for this course. ALL exams will be cumulative in nature. See the course outline below for scheduling. The point values for the exams are as follows:

- Exam 1 (10%)
- Exams 2 and 3 (20% each)
- Final Exam (35%)

Reaction Paper (5%)

Students will write a reaction paper which expresses—in concrete examples from class, exams, or assignments—how having even a basic understanding of Greek is an invaluable tool for the competent interpretation, proclamation, and application of God’s Word in the contemporary world.

The paper is **not to exceed 3 pages**, double-spaced. A rubric will be provided in Sakai to guide students concerning this assignment.

Grades

Letter grades for all work have the following numerical guidelines:*

A	95-100
A-	92-94
B+	89-91
B	86-88
B-	83-85
C+	80-82
C	77-79
C-	74-76
D	70-73
F	Below 70

All Incompletes (I) and Withdrawals (W) must meet the deadlines and guidelines of the Registrar’s office.

*These grading standards are higher than normal for a very simple but important reason: ***You will never be able to use Greek well unless you build a strong foundation.***

Everything you are expected to master this semester is assumed in the courses that follow.

VI. Course Administration

Sakai

This course has a Sakai site at <https://sakai.gcts.edu/xsl-portal/>. Click on the **GL 501 CA FA-11** tab. Students are expected to read the week’s course material and my corresponding supplementary material *before coming to class* every week. The class *will not be* primarily lecture. We will talk about the more difficult parts of the material for about the first third of the class, but the bulk of our time will be discussing together the workbook exercises and biblical passages in Greek.

Due Dates and Late Penalties

The due dates for quizzes, tests, and exams are listed in section VII. There will be a penalty of **5% per day** on all late work.

Assistance

You may reach me by email most any time (jharlow@gcts.edu). I will usually answer you the same day—unless I'm extremely busy, ill, or do not have access to email. Responding to student questions is a **top priority** for me as your instructor.

My normal office hours (#213) are Tuesday afternoons, from 5:00 until class starts, and Fridays when our class meets from 4:00 till Chapel begins. My office number is 704.940.5838.

Know that I am available other times by appointment. I will do *everything I can* to help you learn Greek. So don't hesitate to call or email (jharlow@gcts.edu) me for help with the material!

VII Course Outline for GL501

NOTES:

1. **ALL** quizzes and exams are due by **NOON** on the due date.
2. Students are to study a given weekend's material and do the exercises **BEFORE** coming to class. We will be discussing, reviewing, and practicing the assigned material each class meeting—**NOT** introducing the material!

Fri/Sat 9/30-10/1 **Class: Discuss / Review — Mounce 1-3; Introduce 6-7 (Exam1 in class!)**
Wed 10/5 Quiz 1 Due (Mounce chap 6)
Wed 10/12 Quiz 2 Due (Mounce chap 7)
Wed 10/19 Quiz 3 Due (Mounce chap 8)
Wed 10/26 NOTHING DUE ☺

Fri/Sat 10/28-29 **Class: Discuss / Review — Mounce 6-8; Introduce 9 thru 12**
Wed 11/2 **EXAM 2** Due (Mounce chap 6-9)
Wed 11/9 Quiz 4 Due (Mounce chap 10)
Wed 11/16 Quiz 5 Due (Mounce chap 11-12)
Wed 11/23 NOTHING DUE ☺

Fri/Sat 12/2-3 **Class: Discuss / Review — Mounce 13-14; Introduce 16-18**
Wed 12/7 **EXAM 3** Due (Mounce chap 10-14)
Wed 12/14 Quiz 6 Due (Mounce chap 16)
Wed 12/21 Quiz 7 Due (Mounce chap 17)
Wed 1/4 Quiz 8 Due (Mounce chap 18)

Fri/Sat 1/6-7 **Class: Discuss / Review — Mounce 16-18; Introduce 19 & 20**
Wed 1/11 NOTHING DUE ☺:
DO WORKBOOK 19-20 & STUDY FOR FINAL

;;;Monday 1/16!!!

FINAL EXAM Due (thru chap 20)

Greek 2 meets for the first weekend on January 20-21