Basic Greek II, GL501CA

Gerry Wheaton
gwheaton@gordonconwell.edu

Course Dates

- Spring term: Jan 19 – May 7, 2016
- Weekend sessions (on campus, Fridays from 6:30-9:30 pm; Saturdays from 9am-4pm):
  Feb 12-13, Mar 11-12, Apr 15-16

Course Description

This is the first semester of a year-long introduction to Hellenistic (Koine) Greek, with special emphasis on the language of the New Testament. This semester we focus on the basics of Greek grammar, morphology, and vocabulary. We do this by working through William Mounce’s *Basics of Biblical Greek: Grammar* (3d. edition). Next semester, after we finish Mounce’s grammar, we will explore more advanced topics in Greek syntax and discuss other issues related to the exegesis of the New Testament. We will spend as much time as possible reading, translating, and discussing New Testament texts. Our ultimate goal is to become more careful, faithful, and diligent readers of the New Testament for the sake of God’s kingdom. One very important step in that direction is learning to read the New Testament in its native language.

Course Objectives

1. To gain an introductory understanding of the grammar and vocabulary of the Greek language at the time of the writing of the New Testament.
2. To apply these skills to reading, translating, and interpreting Greek texts, especially the New Testament.
3. To become more diligent and exact students of the New Testament Scriptures in the original languages in order to serve faithfully as ministers of the Gospel.
Course Texts


Recommended texts

We will discuss these in class where I will recommend that those students who wish to purchase Bible software should purchase the electronic editions of the following two texts with their software.


Course Format

As noted above, although we will only meet in person three weekends during the semester, this is a web-enhanced course. **Weekly work online is required.** Be sure to have a good internet connection. If you have any trouble accessing your gordonconwell.edu email or Sakai contact IT right away at helpdesk@gordonconwell.edu.
Late Assignments:

Accommodations for late homework and quizzes will only be made for grave extenuating circumstances (e.g., a birth, death, illness, etc.).

Grading

- 20% - Workbook Homework (Every week)
- 30% - Quizzes (I will drop your lowest quiz grade)
- 20% - Midterm (Week of Feb 29)
- 30% - Final Exam (Week of May 1)

Weekly Workload

Each week you will have a number of different tasks to complete, including reading, studying, doing exercises, and taking quizzes. I will elaborate on these tasks at the start of the course. For planning purposes you should plan to devote ten hours each week (the seminary standard) to work for this course.

It is imperative that you be faithful in completing the weekly assignments. A language cannot be learned in a few weekends; you must pace yourself and spend time working on Greek 6 days/week (one—and only one—day off each week is important). Failure to do so will cause you to quickly fall behind and become overwhelmed by the amount of work necessary to catch up with the rest of the class!

Email and office hours

If you live close to campus and would like to stop by my office to discuss questions from the course please email me and we will find a time that fits both of our schedules. Prompt response to email is a matter of importance to me. At the same time, I cannot reply to every email immediately. I will be grateful for your understanding if it takes more than 24 hours to reply to your note.
Scanning and Sakai:

Scanners:


If you prefer to purchase a portable scanner, the “doxie one” ($159) is easy to use and has received good reviews: http://www.getdoxie.com/product/one/index.html. It is your responsibility to learn to use a scanner and to make sure the images are clear before you upload the PDF into Sakai. Instructions are available online for the scanner you choose.

Sakai:

All students who have been through New Student Orientation and those who have passed IS502 should know how to use Sakai. For a refresher on the basics of Sakai navigation go to the Sakai login page, scroll to the bottom until you see: “Please watch this video on basic navigation in Sakai.” If you need a reminder on how to upload documents into Sakai, go to our course Sakai page > click on the “Help” tab on the left side of the page and search under “upload”. If you need further IT assistance, contact the helpdesk at helpdesk@gordonconwell.edu rather than your professor.

Cancellation of Class

In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all
students registered in the respective course. If the cancelation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the academic calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.

Extension Policy

Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the end date for the semester as noted on the seminary’s Academic Calendar, are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required in this case. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams. However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized end date for the semester must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the stated date. Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.

Course plan

Each week you will (1) read and study a chapter in the book; (2) work on vocabulary (using memrise.com or quizlet.com; more on this below); (3) complete/correct your workbook exercises (again, see below); (4) take a quiz. You will notice below that there are a few weeks in which you must complete multiple chapters (the first week is four chapters, but chs 1-2 involve little work). Usually, however, you will only have to complete one chapter/week. This is a very manageable pace.

Reading the book chapters: While we will devote our weekend sessions to making sure that students have a strong grasp of the material covered between weekend meetings, it is imperative that students work very hard to understand each week’s presentation in Mounce. The chapters are relatively short and the material is presented in decidedly un-academic fashion (i.e., it’s quite accessible). Please clear an hour in your schedule at the outset of every week to read slowly and carefully through the week’s chapter. Only by reading carefully and then reviewing repeatedly the content of each week’s chapter will you be ready to test your knowledge by doing the workbook exercises.
Video lectures: Some students may find the video lectures by William Mounce useful for surveying the material in each chapter. Mounce makes these available for purchase at www.teknia.com (click the ‘Greek’ button at the top of the page and scroll down.) Be advised: These are neither required nor necessary for the course; they simply restate the content of each chapter with only minimal added explanation.

Workbook: Each week you will submit your completed and corrected workbook exercises by 5pm Saturday (homework will be due by the start of class on the weeks we meet on campus). Scan and upload these to Sakai as a PDF (see the section above for scanning options and help with Sakai). Complete and correct your homework as follows:

- Complete homework exercises in your workbook with your textbook closed (that is, treat your homework like a test).
- Correct your homework: When you are done with the homework, correct your assignment using a different color ink than you used for your original work, paying careful attention to what you missed. The answer key to the workbook may be found online at: http://doxa.teknia.com/bbg3_answers.pdf. Review those problem areas in your notes and textbook. Make a note of the grammatical elements you still do not understand after reviewing Mounce. Please email me your questions and I will compile the questions that come in by Thursday morning and treat them in a communique Thurs. pm. Any questions received by email later than Thurs a.m. will be treated the following Thurs. Alternatively, you may visit me in my virtual ‘office hours’ on Thursday afternoons between 2-4pm in Lync (Skype for business in Office 360).
- Upload your corrected homework to Sakai as a PDF.
- Homework assignments will be “graded” strictly on the basis of effort and completion (not accuracy). Do all parsing, warm ups, and translation as assigned in a clearly legible manner. Again, doing your homework in a focused and “paced” manner is how you will solidify what you have read and studied. Take your time, and do not be afraid to make mistakes on paper for the homework.

Weekly Quizzes: You will also have a weekly quiz. The quiz will be posted on Sakai, and you will complete and upload the quiz to Sakai as a PDF by Saturday @ 11pm (again, except for weeks on which we meet).
Memrise.com & quizlet.com: Part of your weekly work is spending time on one or the other of memrise and quizlet. This is a great learning tool to build your Greek vocabulary. Create an account for yourself on one of these sites then search under ‘Mounce Greek’ or ‘Basics of Biblical Greek’ for flashcard sets for each chapter of Mounce. Note that both of these sites have apps for your iphone, droid, etc. – very handy!

Weekly plan

Week 1: Jan 19-23, Mounce ch 20, Fairbairn ch 6
Week 2: Jan 25-30, Mounce ch 21, Fairbairn ch 7
Week 3: Feb 1-6, Mounce ch 22
Week 4: Feb 8-13, Mounce ch 23
Week 5: Feb 15-20, Mounce ch 24
Week 6: Feb 22-27, Mounce ch 25
Week 7: Feb 29-Mar 5, Mounce ch 26, Fairbairn ch 8
Week 8: Mar 7-12, Mounce ch 27
Week 9: Mar 14-19, Mounce ch 28
Week 10: Mar 21-26, Mounce ch 29
Week 11: Mar 28-Apr 2, Mounce ch 30
Week 12: Apr 4-9, Mounce ch 31, Fairbairn ch 9
Week 13: Apr 11-16, Mounce ch 32
Week 14: Apr 18-23, Mounce ch 33
Syllabus Addendum

Academic Standards
Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one’s writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

ADA Policy
The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

Cancellation of Class
In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancelation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the academic calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.

Extension Policy
Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the end date for the semester as noted on the seminary’s Academic Calendar are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required in this case. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized end date for the semester must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the stated date. Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.

Grades
Faculty have six weeks from the course work due date to submit a final grade. Grades are posted on-line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades (unless instructed otherwise). Those
individuals who need an official grade report issued to a third party should put their request in writing to the Registration Office.

**Returned Work**
Submitted hard-copy course work will be returned to the students if they provide a self-addressed and postage-paid envelope with their final work. Work submitted without the appropriate envelope will be destroyed after the grade has been assessed and issued.

**Virtual Writing Center**

Free assistance in writing papers is available to students through the Virtual Writing Center at Gordon Conwell. The Virtual Writing Center is staffed by Gordon Conwell graduates, or writing tutors with specialized knowledge in writing and/or ESL. Generally, this service is available to students who have completed or are currently enrolled in one of the following three classes:

- CT500 (Introduction to Theological Research)
- CO501 (Introduction to Counseling Research)
- IS502 (Theological Research and Writing)

If you enrolled in GCTS before Fall 2008, you were not required to take one of the three prerequisites above, and you may request access to the Virtual Writing Center. Also, ESL writing tutors are available to ESL students even if they are not currently enrolled in a degree program. If you do not meet one of these qualifications, but feel you would benefit from using the Virtual Writing Center, contact us and we will evaluate your status.

Email writingcenter@gordonconwell.edu for more information.