

## **GL 714 Biblical Greek: Advanced Concepts**

GCTS Spring Semester, 2011

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Office Hours: Thursdays 10:30-11:30, 5:00-6:00 and by Appointment

### **I. Purpose of the Course**

The primary purpose of this course is to develop further the exegetical skills that have been acquired in the basic Hebrew and Greek-language sequence, Interpreting the NT, and Intermediate Greek. These prior courses or their equivalent are thus a prerequisite, without which credit cannot be given for this course. To this end, the course will probe key lexicographical and syntactical questions raised by the Koine of the NT and their exegetical/theological payoff, especially in view of some of the central issues currently raised in the contemporary discussion. Various passages from the NT will provide the laboratory in which we will work.

### **II. The Structure of the Course**

Advanced Greek grammar is embedded exegesis. Moreover, advanced grammatical concepts are often found in contested texts in which theological evaluation also plays a role. Thus, a study of grammar beyond the basics involves an analysis of the interrelationship between lexicography, syntax, and rhetorical analysis. This course thus focuses on learning how to ask and answer grammatical questions in order to facilitate our understanding of the text. To do so, the student will be required to work both in the Greek text and in relevant secondary literature.

Hence, being analytical in nature, the course is built around daily assignments. The "typical" class session will be devoted to discussing together your work for that day. Most often the work assigned will revolve around 1) an analysis of an assigned passage by diagramming it; 2) reading the related, assigned reading for that day; and 3) reading any related material from Wallace's grammar.

### **III. Textbooks**

1. It is assumed that all students will have access to the following:
  - a. W. Bauer, et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, 2nd. ed., Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1979.
  - b. *Novum Testamentum Graece*, eds., E. Nestle and K. Aland, 27th. ed., Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibel Stiftung, 1979, etc.
  - c. Daniel B. Wallace, *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.
2. In addition, the following textbooks are required:
  - a. Stanley Porter, *Idioms of the Greek New Testament*, Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2nd. ed., 1994

- b. Constantine R. Campbell, *Basics of Verbal Aspect in Biblical Greek*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008
- c. Preston Sprinkle, et al., eds, *The Pistis Christou Debate*, Peabody: Hendrickson, 2010
- d. Various articles as indicated in the syllabus (see CAMS).

#### IV. Course Requirements

1. Each student will be responsible **to turn in diagrams** of the passage assigned for that week and **to take weekly quizzes on the Greek text!**
2. Each student will be responsible **to read** the assigned secondary literature and **to take weekly quizzes on the reading.** I reserve the right to add additional reading to the syllabus as need arises, which will be determined by issues encountered in class.
3. Each student will be responsible **to study** the relevant passages from **Wallace** and **to turn in summary notes** from one's analysis.

Late work will only be accepted with penalty. The success of this course depends on your preparation *before* class. I will presuppose that you are coming to class not to listen to me, but to wrestle with the text together with others who have invested time and energy in the hard work of understanding an author's original intention. There is no final exam in this class.

#### V. Grading

Your grade will be determined on the basis of your 1) Diagrams (25%); 2) Greek Quizzes (25%); 3) Reading Quizzes (25%); and 4) Summary Notes (25%).

The emphasis of this course thus falls on your preparation for our class time together. One does not ultimately learn exegetical method best by listening to others expound the text, though good role models play an important part in the process. Rather, the more you try to exegete texts yourself, the more you will learn, if guided by sound principles and monitored along the way. The structure of this course is designed to enable you to do just that.

#### VI. Proposed Daily Schedule and Assignments

Day One:	Introduction to the Course
Feb 3rd	Lexicography: θριαμβεύω (2 Cor 2:14); καταργέω (2 Cor 3:7-18) φύσις (2 Pet 1:4) Idioms: καὶ εὐθὺς (Mark)
Day Two:	J. P. Louw, <i>Semantics of New Testament Greek</i> , pp. 1-21, 47-66
Feb 10th	οὕτως (John 3:16) Gundry, Robert H. and Russell W. Howell. "The Sense and Syntax of John 3:14-17 with Special Reference to the Use of Οὕτως . . . ὥστε in John 3:16." <i>NovT</i> 41 [1999]: 24-39 TEXT: John 3:14-18.

Day Three: ἐὰν μὴ (Gal 2:16)  
 Feb 17th Das, A. Andrew, "Another Look at *EAN ME* in Galatians 2:16," *Journal of Biblical Literature* 119 (2000) 529-539  
 Hunn, Debbie, "*EAN MN*' in Galatians 2:16: A Look at Greek Literature," *Novum Testamentum* 49 (2007) 281-290  
 Verbs I: Porter, *Idioms*, pp. 20-49  
 TEXT: Gal 2:15-17

### Reading Week

Day Four: Πίστις Χριστοῦ  
 March 3rd Sprinkle: Porter and Pitts (pp. 33-53); Seifrid (pp. 129-146); Caneday (pp. 185-205); Matlock (pp. 73-89)  
 Extra Credit: Harrisville, Roy A., III, "Before *PISTIS CHRISTOU*: The Objective Genitive as Good Greek," *Novum Testamentum*, 2006.  
 TEXT: Gal 3:21-26

Day Five: Colwell's Rule (Wallace, pp. 256-270)  
 March 10th Granville Sharp Rule (Wallace, pp. 270-290)  
 Verbs II: Porter, *Idioms*, 103-114  
 Buist Fanning, "Approaches to Verbal Aspect in New Testament Greek: Issues in Definition and Method," in *Biblical Greek Language*, 46-62  
 TEXT: 2 Pet 1:1-2; John 1:1-3

Day Six: "In Christ": Wedderburn, "Some Observations of Paul's Use of the  
 March 17th Phrases 'In Christ' and 'With Christ,'" *JSNT* 25 (1985) 83-97  
 Verbs III: Porter, *Idioms*, 139-180 (cf. esp. p. 159!)  
 TEXT: Concordance Study – Pick 5 Uses!

### Reading Week

Day Seven: Verbs IV: Campbell, *Verbal Aspect*, pp. 11-52  
 March 31st Chrys C. Caragounis, *The Development of Greek and the New Testament*, pp. 65-92, 261-278 (closed reserve)  
 The Question of Deponent Verbs: Bernard Taylor, "Deponency and Greek Lexicography," in *Bib. Greek Language . . .*, pp. 167-176  
 TEXT: Gal 5:4-6; Mark 1:14-15

Day Eight: Verbs V: Campbell, *Verbal Aspect*, pp. 55-133  
 April 7th TEXT: Your Pick of a Key Illustration from the Reading!

Day Nine: Verbs VI: Porter, "Defense of Verbal Aspect," in *Bib. Greek Language*, pp. 26-45; Fanning's *ETS* Review of Campbell  
 April 14th TEXT: TBD!

Day Ten: G. K. Beale, "Solecisms in the Apocalypse as Signals for the Presence of  
April 21st Old Testament Allusions: a Selective Analysis of Revelation 1-22," now  
in *John's Use of the OT in Revelation*, pp. 318-355  
TEXT: TBD!

## **VII. The Course and the Master of Divinity Goals**

GL 714 is designed to meet the goals of the M.Div. degree in the following ways:

1. To gain competency with the biblical languages in order to develop exegetical and hermeneutical skills using the Hebrew text of the Old Testament and the Greek text of the New Testament (1): Every assignment is intended to meet this goal as its primary objective.
2. To develop skills appropriate for church leadership as a pastor, teacher, counselor, evangelist, chaplain, church planter, missionary or other role as a leader (3): The centrality of the Bible for ministry is underscored and strengthened by this course.