COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces a select set of advanced concepts in biblical Greek, including consideration of diachronic and synchronic approaches to Greek grammar (the importance of understanding the language at any given time in terms of both historical developments in the history of its use and the systematic relationships between parts of the language system and its usage at that given time), the history of Greek lexicography, discourse features, lexical and verbal aspect and their relationship to questions of tense (and temporal significance) and Aktionsart (the expression of a particular type of event structure) Special attention will be given to the application of these concepts to the interpretation of New Testament texts. (Note that the history of the Greek language, questions of phonology, morphology, poetry, and textual transmission are among issues that will not normally be covered in this course.) This Th.M.-level course is open to M.Div. and M.A. students willing to do Th.M. level work. Prerequisites for this course include a year of basic Greek, NT502 and either Intermediate Greek or at least one course in New Testament exegesis or Greek readings.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Having completed this course:

1. The student will demonstrate an understanding of debates regarding verbal aspect in NT (and Hellenistic) Greek and will have formulated their own initial conclusions on various facets of the subject and understand their implications for the interpretation of NT texts (Mission statements 1 & 2).

2. The student will demonstrate an understanding of and ability to evaluate recent proposals regarding discourse features of NT Greek in the light of their study of NT texts (Mission statements 1 & 2).

3. The student will demonstrate understanding of the history of NT lexicography and the ability to assess lexicographical work and to carry out such work according to the highest standards yet achieved (Mission statements 1 & 2).

4. The student will have developed a greater sensitivity to more subtle features of NT Greek and their contributions to the communication of biblical texts (Mission statements 1 & 2).

5. The student will have gained an overview of the subject area and enjoyed the opportunity to explore more advanced concepts in the study of biblical Greek (Mission statements 1 & 2).
REQUIRED TEXTS


RECOMMENDED TEXTS


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Class attendance and participation.** Although the course will include lectures, as much of our time as possible (depending on the class dynamic) will be spent in professor-led discussions of the readings and their application to NT texts. In any case, each student is expected to contribute to the learning environment through contributions to class discussions (being careful not to monopolize) since we will learn from each other’s questions and observations. Students should be prepared to translate assigned texts and discuss the application of the relevant concepts to those texts. A subjective grade for class preparation and participation (besides asking questions, which are also welcome) will be assigned for class participation at the end of the semester. Note that absence for more than three hours of the lectures will result in a reduction of 1/3 of a letter grade for each 90 minute unit that is missed. Exceptions will be limited to extreme and unavoidable cases (e.g., medical crisis or death in the immediate family).
2. **Levinsohn Notebook.** Each student shall maintain a notebook in which they comment on each section of questions and suggested answers in Levinsohn’s textbook, briefly explaining the extent to which they found the suggested answers clear and/or convincing and why. Do Levinsohn’s chosen criteria in each case seem sound and consistent or arbitrary and/or forced? Why? The notebook should be completed before each section is discussed in class and will be submitted at the end of the semester.

3. **Verbal Aspect paper:** Each student will write a brief (1,250 word) original research paper in which they study the use of a particular NT verb in ancient Greek (within or up to the Hellenistic period) and seek to explain patterns in the uses of tenses/aspects. Explanation will be given in class regarding the types of verbs that might be studied and how the study should proceed.

4. **Linguistic Commentary Paper:** Each student will write a paper on a passage in which they comment on discourse features, questions of lexical and verbal aspect and related issues (e.g., how temporal features are communicated), issues of lexicography, all in the light of the required readings, course lectures and discussions. The paper should be between 15 and 20 pages, double-spaced (except for footnotes), with one-inch margins and size 12 Times New Roman (or equivalent) font.

5. **Final exam:** The final exam will include (among other things) Greek texts and questions regarding the import of concepts discussed in this course for their interpretation.

### COURSE EVALUATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linguistic Comm. Paper:</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Verbal Aspect Paper:</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Levinsohn Notebook:</td>
<td>20% (total)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Prep/Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam:</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
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### ACADEMIC POLICIES

**Due dates**
Due dates for most assignments are indicated in the Course Outline. Late work will not normally be accepted. In unusual circumstances (e.g., grave sickness) the professor may elect to accept late work. Such work will be penalized according to the discretion of the professor in the light of the particular situation. The final paper is due by the seminary deadline for the submission of written work. Only the registration office can give an extension beyond that date.

**Intellectual property rights**
To protect the professor’s intellectual property rights with regard to classroom content, students are asked to refrain from audio and video recording of classes, as well as audio, video, and written publication (including internet posting and broadcasting) or live transmission of classroom proceedings. In cases where explicit special permission is granted to record a session such permission is extended on a temporary use only: Any recording made is for the private use of the student only and is to be deleted/erased within two weeks of the recording.
Internet usage
Students are asked to refrain from accessing the internet at any point during class sessions, unless otherwise instructed by the professor. “Surfing the web,” checking email, and other internet-based activities are distracting to other students and to the professor, and prevent the student from fully participating in the class session.

Cellular Connections
Due to the distracting power of application alerts (whether of news reports, Words with Friends or other apps) cell phones and other equipment cellular connections (e.g., tablets with cellular service) should be turned off (and not merely muted) during class time. Students who have an unusual need to keep a phone on and muted (e.g., a wife nearing time of delivery) should mention the fact to the professor and make sure that application alerts are turned off.

Inductive Study
The final paper must demonstrate the use of the tools/steps/methods taught in NT502 and in this course. A paper that primarily reflects a selection of insights from commentaries or other secondary sources will not be acceptable.

Plagiarism
All use of sources must be properly indicated. Read the document on plagiarism carefully and remember that use of authors’ words is indicated with quotation marks and a footnote and use of their ideas, but not their words, is indicated with a footnote.

COURSE OUTLINE/PROPOSED SCHEDULE (subject to change at professor’s discretion)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings, Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tues. Jan 29</td>
<td>Introduction to course and subject.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tues. Feb 5</td>
<td>Questions of Lexical and Verbal Aspect</td>
<td>1 Cor. 7:10-11, 20-21; 11:6; 15:33-34</td>
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<td>its grammatical tools, the LXX and ancient versions)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Aspect and constraints</td>
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<td>The review of Caragounis by Silva in <em>WTJ</em> (posted online).</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Readings</td>
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Campbell, *Basics of Verbal Aspect in Biblical Greek*  
Ciampa’s notes on verbal aspect and on ancient Greek references to the temporal features of verbs.  
| 4 | Feb 18-22  | Reading Week                               | Work ahead on the Levinsohn readings and notebook entries.               |
| 5 | Tues. Feb 26 | On textual presentation and meaning (differences between our GNT and that of the original readers) | Luke 1:1-4; Heb. 1:1-4; Eph. 1:3-6  
BDF pages 55–69, 239–56 (§102–126, 458–484) – scan for main points (not detailed discussion)  
Conrad, “New Observations on Voice in the Ancient Greek Verb”;  
Pennington, Jonathan T. “Deponency in Koine Greek: The Grammatical Question and the Lexicographical Dilemma”;  
Pennington, “Is Deponency a Valid Category for Koine Greek?” |
<p>| 9 | March 25-29 | Reading Week                               | Work on Levinsohn Notebook and the Linguistic Commentary Paper           |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Tues. April 30</td>
<td>Final examination</td>
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<td>All written work (research paper, text comparison sheets, reading report) due for May graduates by 4:00pm.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>May 6</td>
<td>All written work (research paper, text comparison sheets, reading report) due for non-May graduates (by 4:00pm).</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Select Bibliography**

**History of the Greek Language**


**Discourse Analysis**


**Verbal Aspect**


**Greek (and some Hebrew) Lexicography**


**Greek Grammars**


**Deponency in NT Greek**


Cognitive Linguistics


General Bibliography


See also: [http://www.greek-language.com/Palmer-bibliography.html](http://www.greek-language.com/Palmer-bibliography.html)