Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary  
NT 611: Exegesis of the Gospel of Matthew  
Professor: Dr. Roy E. Ciampa

Fall 2010  
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Office hours are posted online. See:  
http://www.viceregency.com/OfficeHours.htm  
(If these hours do not work for you please arrange an appointment by e-mail.)

Course Description
An analysis of the Greek text of the Gospel of Matthew with a focus on reinforcing the students’ ability to use the Greek language. Special emphasis will be given to the Jewish backgrounds and theology of the Gospel and to the use of Scripture within it. The question of contemporary contextualization will also be addressed.

Course objectives
1. The student will grow in his or her ability to read, translate, and faithfully interpret the Greek text of the Gospel of Matthew (Articles 1-2 of the GCTS Mission Statement).
2. The student will grow in his or her understanding of, and ability to appropriate, the theological and pastoral resources of the Gospel of Matthew and his or her ability to think critically and biblically about the issues raised by Matthew’s Gospel (Articles 1-4 of the GCTS Mission Statement).
3. The student’s life, theology and ministry will be more significantly informed by the transforming message of the Gospel of Matthew (Articles 3-4 of the GCTS Mission Statement).

Course emphases
1. Close attention to the Greek text of Matthew (especially chapters 1-7 and 24-28) and to issues relating to the translation of the Greek text.
2. Attention to the narrative genre of the Gospel of Matthew and the manner in which the message of Matthew’s Gospel unfolds as the narrative develops.
3. A reading of Matthew that is informed by the Jewish and scriptural background that would have been familiar to the original readers.

Required texts

Recommended texts:  


**Course requirements and evaluation**

The course will meet on Wednesdays from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM and will work its way through the Gospel of Matthew, dealing with various kinds of exegetical, theological and practical issues as they arise. Although the structure, argument and theology of Matthew’s Gospel as a whole will be treated, time constraints will require that in-depth treatment will be limited to selected texts. We will focus especially on the beginning and end of the gospel narrative and on parts of the Sermon on the Mount, some parables and the apocalyptic discourse.

*A Greek Competency Quiz* is required of every Greek exegesis class. *Only those who receive a passing grade on this quiz will be allowed to remain in the class.* The quiz is prepared by the director of the GCTS Greek language program and will be given the first class hour. It may include translation, parsing, identification of syntactical functions, and other grammatical questions. See blackboard for a sample test. The best way to review is to visit [www.analytikon.org](http://www.analytikon.org).

1. In preparation for each class period the student should:
   a) Analyze and translate the assigned Greek text, using whatever tools are required (I encourage you to review forms and paradigms as necessary. Students may wish to consult one or more of the following aids: *A Reader’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* by Sakae Kubo (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975); *A Grammatical Analysis of the Greek New Testament* by Max Zerwick and Mary Grosvenor (Rome: Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1993); *The Linguistic Key to the New Testament* by Fritz Rienecker and Cleon L. Rogers (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980). Read the sections of the commentaries by Garland and Turner that deal with the indicated passage (and prepare your study-guide). You may find the [www.zhubert.com](http://www.zhubert.com) site helpful (e.g., [http://www.zhubert.com/bible?book=Matthew&chapter=1&verse=1&endbook=&endchapter=1&endverse=99](http://www.zhubert.com/bible?book=Matthew&chapter=1&verse=1&endbook=&endchapter=1&endverse=99)).
   b) Read any other required bibliography indicated in the syllabus for that class period.

   Note: You are always expected to come prepared to be an informed participant in discussions regarding the issues raised by the passage at hand. You are responsible for all the assigned translation and reading regardless of how much is covered in class.

2. You are to record your personal translation (not someone else’s and not an amalgam of published translations) of the selected texts from Matthew’s Gospel provided in the "Translation Notebook" provided by the professor. Along with your translation you should record whatever lexical, grammatical or syntactical notes you would need to explain your translation in class (these are not to be transferred through any cut-and-paste method). You should come to class prepared to work from your lexical notebook and an unmarked Greek New Testament. In the translation notebook you are also to indicate the basic syntactical function of each participle in the following ways:
   a. Circle all participles.
   b. In the case of adverbial participles and genitive absolutes you are to circle the verb of the main clause which is modified by the participle clause and draw an arrow from the
participle to the verb of the clause it modifies. Also above the participle you are to write the abbreviation for the function you see it playing according to the following list. See Daniel Wallace, *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*, for further explanation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ptc/clause Function</th>
<th>Abbrev</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temporal</td>
<td>Temp</td>
<td><em>When he entered</em> the room he smelled the food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manner</td>
<td>Mann</td>
<td>She went away <em>grieving</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Means</td>
<td>Ms</td>
<td>He stays fit <em>exercising</em> daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cause</td>
<td>Cause</td>
<td>She fell asleep, <em>being exhausted</em>,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condition</td>
<td>Cond</td>
<td>It is OK to do it at work, <em>having permission</em> from one’s boss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concession</td>
<td>Cncss</td>
<td><em>Leaving</em> on time he still arrived late.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td>Purp</td>
<td>She asked the question <em>testing</em> their knowledge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result</td>
<td>Rslt</td>
<td>He fell down, <em>hurting</em> his knee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendant Circumstance</td>
<td>AtCir</td>
<td><em>Taking</em> him aside she explained his options.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect Discourse</td>
<td>InDisc</td>
<td>He heard the classes <em>being-cancelled</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complementary</td>
<td>Comp</td>
<td>She stopped <em>listening</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periphrastic</td>
<td>PPhras</td>
<td>He is <em>running</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redundant (Pleonastic)</td>
<td>Redun</td>
<td><em>Answering</em>, she said….</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genitive Absolute</td>
<td>GenAB</td>
<td>While he <em>was doing</em> this, a stranger came up to him.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c. In the case of adjectival participles you are to circle the substantive which is being modified by the participle and draw an arrow from the participle to that substantive.

d. In the case of substantival participles you are to circle the article (if there is one) and draw an arrow from the participle to the article. If there is no article with the substantival participle you are to simple leave the participle circled (and skip the arrow).

The first page of the translation notebook provides a few examples. All participles have been underlined in the texts drawn from the first 12 chapters of Matthew. After that you might locate them yourself.

2. You will write an **exegesis paper** of 12-15 pages in which you systematically analyze a complete passage in the Gospel of Matthew in the light of its literary form and context, its relationship to other synoptic parallels, its grammar and syntax, its semantic (i.e., DA) or narrative structure, its biblical-theological context and use of important words and concepts, its exegetical idea and key themes and its relevance in the original context and in our own. This paper should reflect the training provided in NT 502 (Interpreting the New Testament). It should reflect both inductive study of the text and knowledge of a wide variety of secondary literature (lexicons and other reference works, academic commentaries and journal articles). See the course schedule for due date and late penalties. Please staple the paper together and refrain from using paper clips or special covers, etc. Also please attach the Exegesis Paper Evaluation Form (found in the following pages) to the back of your paper before stapling it together. Before beginning your exegesis paper be sure to study the attached document about plagiarism and how to avoid it.

For more orientation and help with your exegesis see [http://www.viceregency.com/](http://www.viceregency.com/) and the resources found in the links provided there (especially on these pages):

- [http://www.viceregency.com/ExegesisOrientation.htm](http://www.viceregency.com/ExegesisOrientation.htm)
- [http://www.viceregency.com/FootnoteBib.htm](http://www.viceregency.com/FootnoteBib.htm)
Commentaries you should be sure to consult and refer to in your exegesis paper include those by France (NICNT), Nolland (NIGTC), Turner (BECNT), Keener (Eerdmans), Davies & Allison (ICC, 3 vols.), Hagner (WBC, 2 vols.), Harrington (Sacra Pagina), Carson (EBC), and Blomberg (NAC). Journal articles, lexicons, theological dictionaries, monographs, and advanced Greek grammars should also be consulted and referenced.

NOTE: Please include your box number on any work submitted. Papers without box numbers will be retained in my office until you pick them up. Papers that are not retrieved from my office will eventually be thrown out.

Note: Students who have earned an A- or better on at least two different GCTS NT exegesis courses prior to taking this course may opt to write a 10-14 page paper investigating a key theme, exegetical or theological issue in the Gospel of Matthew (or for which the Gospel of Matthew plays a major role). Students should verify their candidacy to write such an alternative paper by presenting a GCTS transcript or having the registration office confirm the grades in the prior NT exegesis courses. Such an alternative paper will defend a thesis statement, reflect careful study of both primary sources (including competency in at least the Greek language and exegesis) and secondary literature and will explain and judge between differing exegetical and theological options that have been discussed in the past.

3. There will be a final exam dealing with issues raised in the readings, class lectures and discussions. It is to be taken without the use of any helps (including a Bible).

4. You will prepare a study-guide (exam questions) based on Turner’s commentary. The study guide will consist of one question (multiple choice or true/false) per Roman-numeral section of his commentary (22 questions total). The page of the commentary where the answer can be found and the correct answer should be given. The study guide is due on the last day of class.

Your grade will be determined by four (4) elements: 1) your lexical/exegetical notebook (30%); 2) your 12-15 page exegesis paper (30%); 3) your study guide (5%); and 4) the final exam (35%).

Note: As per the seminary catalog’s statement regarding 600-level courses, “Competence in Greek is required in all aspects of a course for a passing grade.” Also, no passing grade will be given 1) If either the exegetical notebook or the exegesis paper is not turned in or is not essentially complete.

Translation Notebook 30%
Exegesis paper 30%
Final exam 35%
Study guide 5%
100%

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.

Proposed Schedule (subject to the professor’s revision at any time)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Sept 15</td>
<td>No class (we will start a week late)</td>
<td>Prepare for Greek proficiency test, watch the film Dead Poets Society and get ahead on the readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Sept 22</td>
<td>Introduction to the course</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. Sept 22</td>
<td>Proficiency exam</td>
<td>Start reading Wiarda, Interpreting Gospel Narratives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Sept 22</td>
<td>On interpreting Matthew</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Oct 6</td>
<td>Matthew 3</td>
<td>GNT, Commentaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Oct 6</td>
<td>Matthew 4</td>
<td>GNT, Commentaries, Recommended: Watch the film The Final Cut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 11-15</td>
<td>Reading Week: NO CLASSES (complete the book by Powell before reading week and use the week to work on your exegesis paper)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. Oct. 27</td>
<td>Matthew 5:38-48</td>
<td>GNT, Commentaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. Nov 3</td>
<td>Matthew 6:19-34</td>
<td>GNT, Commentaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Nov 3</td>
<td>Matthew 7:1-12</td>
<td>GNT, Commentaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 8-12</td>
<td>Reading Week: NO CLASSES (work on exegesis paper)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Nov 17</td>
<td>Matthew 7:13-29</td>
<td>GNT, Commentaries; complete Piper, What Jesus Demands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Nov 17</td>
<td>Matthew 8</td>
<td>GNT, Commentaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Nov 24</td>
<td>Matthew 9-10</td>
<td>GNT, Commentaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Nov 24</td>
<td>Matthew 11:1-16:12</td>
<td>GNT, Commentaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Nov 20</td>
<td>NO CLASS (work on exegesis paper)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. Dec 1</td>
<td>Matthew 16:13-25:46</td>
<td>GNT; Commentaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Dec 1</td>
<td>Matthew 26-27</td>
<td>GNT, Commentaries, Watch the film The Passion of the Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Dec. 8</td>
<td>Matthew 28</td>
<td>GNT, Commentaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>------------</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 15-17</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>(date and time to be determined by the registration office).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 21</td>
<td>Last day to submit written work</td>
<td>Exegesis Paper and Translation Notebook due before the end of this day.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Those graduating in January must submit all work by December 10.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Books on Reserve for NT611: Exegesis of Matthew

Notes: 1) Several of these and other monographs are accessible online as GCTS Netlibrary resources;  
2) You will find other monographs on Matthew’s Gospel on the circulating shelves at BS2575.2 and more on the parables at BT375.2  
3) Be sure to check for reviews of any monograph at, e.g., the Review of Biblical Literature (http://www.bookreviews.org/search_now.asp)

BS2585.2 .B38 1994

BT198 .B33 2002

BT375.2 .B54 1990

BS2440 .B672 2002

BS680.R365 B83 2002

BS2575.2 .C43 2000

BS2575.2 .C45 1992

BS2575.52 .F67 2004

BS2575.2 .H68 1990

BT375.2 .H78 2000
   BS2575.2 .K49

   BS2575.2 .K58 1993

   BS2575.6.P687 K87 1996

   BS2575.2 .L36 1998

   BS2575.2 .N68 2003

   BS2575.52 .O44 2006

   BS2575.2 .P68 1995

   BS2575.2 .P79

   BS2575.6.J44 S35 1994

   BT431.S46 M37 1985

   BS2575.2 .S49 1996
BS2555.2 .G67 2005

BS2575.2 .W39 1990

BS2575.2 .W55 1995

BS680.S17 Y363 1997