Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary ~ S. Hamilton  
NT 611: Exegesis of Matthew (Spring, 2013)  
Mark A. Jennings

Class Time: Tuesdays, 2:00 – 5:00  
Class Dates: January 29-April 30, 2013 (13 class meetings)  
Reading Week: Feb 18-22; Mar 25-29

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Office hours: TBD

Course Description

This course is an exegetical study of the Greek text of the Gospel of Matthew with special attention to its overall narrative structure, language, and theology. A typical session will include translation, discussion, and lecture. Some attention will be given to Matthew’s relationship with the other Gospels, but the primary focus of this course will be what the Matthew was inspired to write. Each student will be expected to employ all the exegetical tools at their disposal to better interpret the original intent of the Gospel. Finally, significant portions of each class will be devoted to discussing what our exegesis means for the church, for discipleship, for obedience of faith, for ministering etc. In other words the exegesis of Matthew (or any Biblical text) is never the end in itself, but is the essential preparatory step of listening that is necessary for proclaiming the truth revealed in God’s Word.

I am teaching under three working assumptions:

(1) You desire to know the authorial intent because you hold it to be the inspired, inerrant Word of God.  
(2) You desire to teach and preach the Word of God in service to the church. (This “service” can take many forms.)  
(3) You agree to be taught by me and will do the required work necessary to benefit from the teaching.

Objectives

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Articulate the contemporary issues surrounding the interpretation of Matthew, especially the views of Osborne, Pennington and one additional affirmed scholar. (Art 1-2 of GCTS Mission)  
2. Understand Matthew’s Greek through a concentrated grammatical study of the five Matthean discourses: Matt 5-7, 10, 13, 18, and 24. (Art 1-2 of GCTS Mission).
3. Translate into accurate and idiomatic English any portion of Matthew. (Art 1-2)
4. Deeply examine and consider a particular passage, utilizing all the appropriate exegetical methods. (Art 1-2 of GCTS Mission)
5. Articulate personal conclusions based on sound exegesis regarding the overarching message and purpose of the Gospel whole as well as individual sections. (Art 1-3)
6. Consider the importance of this Gospel to one’s faith and understanding of who Christ is. (Art 3-6 of GCTS Mission)
7. Consider how the Gospel of Matthew informs our understanding of salvation, the church, our ministry, discipleship, etc. (Art 3-6 of GCTS Mission)

**Texts**

**REQUIRED**

- **Greek New Testament (NA27/28 or UBS4)**

  
  NOTE: Make sure it is the paperback from Baker and not the hardback (which is much more expensive).


  
  o NOTE: Email the professor no later than June 22 informing him of your selection.

*Other readings may be assigned*
**Requirements**

1. A Greek Competency Quiz is required of every student who has gone more than a year from taking Greek 2 or Greek exegesis class. The quiz is to be coordinated with the Registration office. See Instructor if this applies to you.

2. You are to be prepared each day to translate and discuss the Greek “Topic” text assigned for that day. Each student will be reading the Greek, translating, and discussing every class. Each student is allowed a “½ class” off from translating. Additional unpreparedness may result in the reduction of your final grade.

3. You will be expected to read the entire Gospel of Matthew in your native language before the second week of class.

4. Attendance at every class is expected. Failure to attend class will impact your final grade. Besides, who wants to miss class? How often will you get a chance to meet weekly with your peers and drink deeply from the Gospel of Matthew?

5. You are to read all of Osborne. You are to read the relevant sections of your “second commentary” that correspond with the “topic texts.” Recommendation: Read Osborne before class and your second commentary just after class. Any “extra assigned readings” must be read before class.

6. You are to write a Book Review of Pennington’s *Heaven and Earth in the Gospel of Matthew*. See Book Review Assignment Details.

7. You are to write ONE Exegesis Paper of 4500-6000 words (strictly enforced) in which you systematically analyze a complete passage (from an approved section) of the Greek text in the Gospel of Matthew. Due dates vary depending on passage selected. See Exegesis Paper Assignment Details.

8. You are to complete a Translation Notebook on Matt 5-7, 10, 13, 18, and 24. See Translation Notebook Assignment Details.

9. You are to write a Devotional Study of the Passion and Resurrection Narrative (Matt 26-28). See Devotional Study Assignment Details.
Grade Components

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<th>Grade Components</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greek Competency Quiz</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exegesis Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Translation Notebook</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devotional Study</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
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<td>Reading Report</td>
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Final semester letter grades will be assigned as follows:

- A 93% and up
- A- 90
- B+ 86.6%
- B 83.3%
- B- 80
- C+ 76.6%
- C 73.3%
- C- 70
- D+ 66.6%
- D 63.3%
- D- 60
- F below 60

A Brief Word Regarding Translations for Class

The purpose of this course is not simply to teach Greek grammar but to interpret the New Testament from the Greek text. It is assumed that each student prior to class session will have translated the assigned text. Students will be called upon each class to translate and field questions regarding the assigned text. When we are discussing translations in class – it is to be done with a “hard copy” of the Greek New Testament – not an electronic copy. NO EXCEPTIONS. Failure to translate the assigned text (or at least to make a serious attempt) before class renders you ill prepared to sufficiently contribute. On those occasions where “life happens” and you must choose between doing all the assigned reading or doing your translation work, the latter should always take precedence (with the assumption you will “catch up” on your reading at the first possibility). Each student is allowed to take a “1/2 class off” from translating.

In the event that you are unable to translate all of the assigned text for the day, you are to notify the instructor before class of how much you did translate. If you fail to show up for class, it will be assumed that you did zero translation for that day. (If you did do some translation in preparation but were unable to make the class – please email me how much of the text you did translate). Naturally a failure to translate will impact your participation evaluation.

The reward of continually translating occurs in the effort. Therefore do not feel the necessity for a perfectly dynamic translation. Rough patches can be cleared up. This is part of what the class discussion is to accomplish. Also resist the temptation to do your translating work with
contemporary Bible or computer software on hand. What good does it do to show that you can “copy well” or move your computer mouse? I encourage you to use a lexicon and grammar and find your own translating mind.

A Brief Note on Intellectual Property Rights

No audio or video recordings are allowed. Furthermore no publication (audio, video, written) or live transmission of classroom proceedings will be permitted. Any requests for such privileges must be made in writing and must receive written approval from the instructor.

A Brief Note Regarding Internet Usage

Please do not access the internet (email, apps, websites, etc.) for non class-activities during class. This can be extremely distracting to all parties – and quite frankly it is unbecoming to do so. Exceptions may be made on occasion.

Regarding Extension Requests:

An extension of time for an assignment will be rarely granted. But, if an unavoidable (as determined by me) circumstance occurs that delays the submission of an assignment, the student may request an extension from me. ALL EXTENSIONS MUST BE APPROVED BY ME BEFORE BEING REQUESTED OF THE REGISTRAR. APPROVED REQUESTS BY THE REGISTRAR DOES NOT INDICATE APPROVAL BY ME.

Any student requesting a “last-minute” extension (with 1-week of deadline) will be required to demonstrate the work done on the assignment prior to the extension request. An extension request may not be granted, even in the event of an “unavoidable last-minute circumstance” if an appropriate amount of progress (determined by me) on the assignment has not been made.

A Final Note

It is my prayer that through this study of Matthew the Holy Spirit will guide your mind and illumine your heart, that your love will abound more and more in knowledge and deep insight, so that you may be able discern the more excellent matter and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ (Phil 1:9-11). Let us come together in full humility, full of joy, crying out in prayer that our Sovereign Almighty might be pleased to reveal Himself to us in the study of His Holy Word.
# Course Schedule  
(subject to instructor’s revision at any time)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings/Notes</th>
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| Jan 29  | Part 1: Course Overview; Proficiency Quiz \  
Part 2: Introduction of Matthew; Matt 1:1-18a | Read all of Matthew in your native language; Osborne – 21-48. Recommend: TBD |
| Feb 5   | Part 1: Matt 1:18-2:12 \  
Part 2: Matt 2:13-22 | GNT; Osborne; 2nd Commentary Recommend: TBD  
**Due:** Notification (via email) of 2nd commentary |
| Feb 12  | Part 1: Matt 3:1-17 \  
Part 2: Matt 4:1-17 | GNT; Osborne; 2nd Commentary Recommend: TBD |
| Feb 19  | READING WEEK                                                          | Finish Pennington |
| Feb 26  | Part 1: Discuss Pennington; Matt 5:1-12 \  
Part 2: Matt 5:17-33 | GNT; Osborne; 2nd Commentary Recommend: TBD  
**DUE:** Pennington Book Review |
| Mar 5   | Part 1: Matt 6:1-18 \  
Part 2: Matt 7:1-12, 21-29 | GNT; Osborne; 2nd Commentary Recommend: TBD |
| Mar 12  | Parts 1 and 2: Matt 8 | GNT; Osborne; 2nd Commentary Recommend: TBD |
| Mar 19  | Parts 1 and 2: Matt 10 | GNT; Osborne; 2nd Commentary Recommend: TBD |
| Mar 26  | Reading Week                                                          | Be “up to date” on Translation Notebook. Catch up on “non-topic” Osborne reading. |
| April 2 | Parts 1 and 2: Matt 13 | GNT; Osborne; 2nd Commentary Recommend: TBD  
**DUE:** Exegesis Papers from Matt 8-9,11-12 |
| April 9 | Part 1: Matt 16 \  
Part 2: Matt 17:1-13 | GNT; Osborne; 2nd Commentary Recommend: TBD |
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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Reading Material</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Parts 1 and 2: Matt 24</td>
<td>GNT; Osborne; 2nd Commentary</td>
<td>DUE: Exegesis Papers from Matt 16-17</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td><strong>Written Work Due for Graduates</strong></td>
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<td>DUE: Exegesis Papers from Matt 19-23</td>
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<td>April 30</td>
<td>Part 1: Matt 27:32-56 Part 2: Matt 28; Theology of Matthew</td>
<td>GNT; Osborne; 2nd Commentary</td>
<td>DUE: Translation Notebook; Exegesis Papers from Matt 25-26</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>Last day to hand in written-work (by email at 5:00 PM)</td>
<td>DUE: Devotional Notebook; Exegesis Papers from Matt 27-28; Reading Report Due</td>
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