GL 501: Basics of Biblical Greek
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Instructor
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Instructor of New Testament

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Office Hours
On Hamilton Campus: by appointment (e-mail for scheduling)

Gordon-Conwell offers technical support during regular business hours. If you have a technical issue, please email helpdesk@gordonconwell.edu; also copy The Instructor. All requests related to the course should be sent to the professor, and/or the Semlink program staff (semlink@gordonconwell.edu).

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Course Description
Students with little or no prior knowledge of Greek study the basic grammar and vocabulary of New Testament Greek. Course comprises plenary lectures, smaller sectional meetings, translation of selected New Testament passages, tutorials, and computer assisted instruction.

Gordon-Conwell Mission
This course satisfies the following institutional learning objectives:

Article 1: To encourage students to become knowledgeable of God's inerrant Word, competent in its interpretation, proclamation and application in the contemporary world. Because the teaching of God's Word is indispensable to the well-being and vitality of God's people, the seminary has a fundamental responsibility to encourage in its students a love for Scripture. The seminary is to teach exegetical skills by which they will be able to apply Scripture effectively.

Article 2: To maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship in the teaching of the biblical, historical and theological disciplines. Theological education, which is properly done within and for the Church, ought to function with rigor and academic integrity. The seminary, therefore, must provide an environment within which teaching and learning can best occur and encourage high levels of scholarly competence and research in its faculty.

Course Learning Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Reproduce the Greek alphabet.
2. Begin establishing a knowledge of Greek words in the Greek New Testament.
3. Identify the noun case system in Koine Greek.
4. Identify and explain foundational grammatical concepts.
5. Identify some basic elements of the Greek verb.
6. Translate basic sentences from Greek into English.
Lesson Topics
Lectures entail the following topics:

Lesson 1: **New Testament Greek**
- Week 1: Course Introduction: Why knowing Greek Matters? The Design of the Course (and the first four chapters of the grammar).

Lesson 2: **The Noun System**
- Week 2: Nominative and Accusative, Definite Article
- Week 3: Genitive and Dative
- Week 4: Preposition and τις; Adjectives
- Week 5: Exam #1
- Week 6: Third Declension
- Week 7: First and Second Person Personal Pronouns
- Week 8: αὐτός
- Week 9: Demonstratives; Relative Pronouns
- Week 10: Exam #2

Lesson 3: **The Indicative Verb System**
- Week 11: Present Active Indicative
- Week 12: Contact Verbs; Present Middle/Passive Verbs
- Week 13: Future Active/Middle Indicative Verbs; Verbal Roots and Other Forms of the Future
- Week 14: Imperfect Indicative

Required Materials


Other Readings and Handouts under "Resources"
Computer with the ability to type in "polytonic Greek" or similar.

Course Requirements - Learning Activities
Achievement of the course objectives will be measured through a variety of assignments and activities as described below. The time spent in the course may vary considerably, depending on how well one is already prepared with a knowledge of the New Testament.

I. **Gathering Information**

**Readings**
You are expected to complete the relevant reading in preparation for the lecture, participation in Study Groups, and Online Meetings. The reading schedule is detailed in the Lessons tool and the Course Schedule.

Readings will come from the Mounce grammar and/or handouts found in the Resources tool, outlined in the Lessons tool and the Course Schedule.

**Lectures**
Each week, you will listen to the appropriate lecture for the week as found in the Lessons tool and outlined in the Course Schedule. The lectures will assume that you have prepared by doing the required reading.

**Conferences**
At three points during the course, you will participate in an online, live conference with The Instructor. The meeting will last for one hour and generally take place before your major exams. The Instructor will respond to pre-submitted questions from students. The questions will be submitted one week prior to the meeting through the SLACK communication tool.

The purpose of these conferences is to offer students the opportunity to discuss any questions related to language, use of language, history of language, etc. This will not be a tutoring session. The Instructor will also use this time to make any necessary announcements.

Students who did not get to ask a question in the earlier conferences will have priority in the latter ones.

Please refer to the course schedule for the exact dates and times.

II. **Testing Your Knowledge**

**Practice Quizzes**
You will be provided with a series of practice quizzes. These are to assist and prepare you for the exams. These quizzes are to be done in a "test format" - meaning, no helps are allowed. They do not need to be proctored and they are not timed. You are encourage to grade your own work by discussing the quizzes in your study group (Information on Study Groups below). You are expected to find the answers after the quiz on your own. A key will be provided the following week.

**Exams**
You will have three exams. The main focus of each exam will be the more recently covered materials, but they are also cumulative. They are weighted 10% of your final grade for the first exam, 20% for the second, and 50% for the final exam. You will have 90 minutes to complete exams #1 and #2, and 2 hours for the Final Exam.

All exams in this course will be proctored. Your proctor must be someone who works for a church or volunteers for a church in an officially recognized capacity (pastor, elder, ministry leader, office administrator, etc.), a library, or a school. Your proctor cannot be a member of your family or a current Gordon-Conwell student. Your proctor must be present throughout the time you are taking the exam.

**Your proctor must have the ability to print, scan, and upload documents.**

The student will need to identify a suitable proctor and submit his/her name and email address to the Semlink office via the proctor registration form before every exam. The Semlink office will then email your proctor login information for your exam so he/she can help you login at the time when you take the exam. Check with libraries in advance for special summer and holiday hours.

**Please submit your proctor information to the Semlink office at least 5 business days before you plan to take the exam.**

Please refer to the course schedule for the exact dates and times.

### III. Demonstrating Further Understanding

Class participation is an important component in this course. Students will find that articulating what they are learning to others in the course is itself a learning exercise. They will also hear what others are finding interesting or struggling over, and they will be able to interact with each other about these matters.

**SLACK Study Groups**

At the start of Week 2, students will be assigned to a specific study group in an application called Slack. You will be invited to create an account for the tool using your GCTS email account. Please look for the email at the end of Week 1. You will be in the same study group for the entire class.

Every week, you are to participate regularly in your Slack study group. Participation includes discussing your weekly workbook exercises and practice quizzes. (Think of these “conversations” as a text messaging group or as Facebook messages.) Students should be responding early and often to these chats, this is not a “one post and done” activity. Setting aside a time in the week to “meet” as a group is recommended, but not necessary.

In the beginning of the week, The Instructor will highlight key ideas to focus on. He will review your discussions during the week (and may offer insight periodically). On the Saturdays of the week, The Instructor will summarize your group’s progress and direct.

The SLACK communication tool is available as a website, and as an app for your iOS, Android, Windows Phones and a desktop app for your Windows computer. Unfortunately, there is no desktop app for MacOS. You can set up the app to notify you when a new message is added to the conversation.

In each study group:

1. In the beginning of each week, generally Mondays, The Instructor will start with a short word of guidance and advice for the week.
2. During the week, the students will discuss their work in the Mounce Workbook and practice quizzes, on helping each other to find the right answers and assist one another.
   - When you are responding to another student, you can identify the user using the @ symbol.
   - Your discussion should center on scholarship, courtesy, and relevance to the topic. To heavily criticize another without thought, or to offer your own answers as if its beyond contest is bad form, and hardly in keeping with one who has faith in Christ. Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. (Phil 4:5).
   - The Instructor may offer insight as needed.
3. At the end of the week, generally Saturdays, The Instructor will summarize and evaluate your group’s interaction. He will also allow access to the Key for that week’s practice quiz.
4. As with all matters of this course, The Instructor reserves the right to stop the chatroom or to redirect it as needed.

### Grading Policy

Your final grade for the course will be computed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>% of Total Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Preparation - Practice Quizzes, Workbook Exercises, Study Group Participation, VoiceThread Introduction</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Reading and Video Lectures Report</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note: These activities may not be required, but are highly recommended. Failure to put in the weekly work required for learning a new language will have a negative impact on your ability to complete your other course requirements.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online Meeting Participation (3 Meetings)</th>
<th>10%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>94-95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>92-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89-91</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>87-88</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>85-86</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>82-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>80-81</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>79</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>76-78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"A" means conspicuous excellence in both content and style; "B" means "exceeding the minimum in both content and style;" "C" means "satisfactory work;" "D" means "passing, but unsatisfactory," and "F" means "course has been failed."

Late work will not be accepted, but partial work will be.

"Conferences" will be graded on an "all or nothing" basis. All other Grading Rubrics can be found in the "Grading Rubrics" folder in "Resources" in Sakai.

Note: For each assignment/exam (unless otherwise indicated), only a grade out of 100 will be given.

Final Note: Your work is expected to reflect graduate level quality. You are highly encouraged to "proofread" all work.

**Other Course Policies**

**Proctored Exams**
All exams in this course will be proctored. Your proctor must be someone who works for a church or volunteers for a church in an officially recognized capacity (pastor, elder, ministry leader, office administrator, etc.), a library or a school. Your proctor cannot be a member of your family or a current Gordon-Conwell student. Your proctor must be present throughout the time you are taking the exam.

**Your proctor must have the ability to print, scan, and upload documents.**
The student will need to identify a suitable proctor and submit his/her name and email address to the Semlink office via the proctor registration form before every exam. The Semlink office will then email your proctor login information for your exam so he/she can help you log in at the time when you take the exam. Check with libraries in advance for special summer and holiday hours.

**Please submit your proctor information to the Semlink office at least 5 business days before you plan to take the exam.**

**Instructor Feedback**
The instructor will attempt to answer questions or messages within 24-48 hours, excluding Sundays. The Instructor will attempt to provide feedback on assignments and post grades in the gradebook within two weeks of submission.

**Late Work**
This course is designed in such a manner so as to encourage the student to spend time each and every day working with the Greek.

Late Work will not be accepted, but partially completed work always will be. In the event that illness (or similar matter) prevents you from doing any work at all during the entire week, i.e., you couldn’t do any other work in any of your classes, work a job, attend meetings, serve in ministries, etc., you can request an extension from The Instructor. (Note: a request does not mean an automatic extension.)

Requests for extension because of traveling (for work, weddings, ministry, or any other reason [other than medical emergency]) will not be considered. Please do not ask.
Requests for extension because of a “heavy week” (at work, school, personal) will not be considered. Please do not ask.

**Netiquette**
Gordon-Conwell does not tolerate disruptive or disrespectful behavior in the online communications in any course. Students should review the netiquette policy in the Student Handbook and on this website: [http://www.albion.com/netiquette](http://www.albion.com/netiquette).

**Additional Seminary Policies**
For additional seminary policies that may pertain to this course, please refer to the Syllabus Addendum.