



**COVENANT BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

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INFORMED SCHOLARSHIP • PASTORAL HEART

NT11 • Elementary Greek Grammar I

Prof. Timothy L. Decker, Ph.D.

Professor of Biblical Languages

3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Dr. Timothy Decker

Date: Fall 2024

Course Description

Greek I is a three-credit course that opens an entirely new world to the student of Scripture. While it must be understood that mastering this language does not settle all interpretive and theological problems, it does aid in understanding the New Testament more accurately. Therefore, it is vital that pastors and teachers engage with the original language of the New Testament. To this end, this course introduces the basic grammar and vocabulary of New Testament Greek, preparing the student to translate, exegete, interpret, and communicate that text for the benefit of the Church.

Educational Objectives

The instructor will guide students toward achieving a basic grasp of the Koine Greek language. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate ability to identify and parse Greek nouns and adjectives of the first, second and third declensions.
2. Demonstrate ability to identify basic Greek grammatical forms, including adjectives, pronouns (personal, demonstrative, and relative), and the article.
3. Demonstrate ability to identify, parse, and conjugate verbs in all six tense-forms of the indicative mood.
4. Demonstrate the ability to identify basic syntactic functions of the various Greek grammatical forms listed above.
5. Demonstrate ability to sight-read clauses and brief Greek sentences with verbs in the present and aorist tense.
6. Demonstrate ability to recognize and translate Greek vocabulary terms that appear frequently in the New Testament and other early Christian texts.

Required Course Texts (4 Texts):

Merkle, Benjamin and Robert L. Plummer. *Beginning with New Testament Greek*. Nashville: B&H, 2020. ISBN: 978-1433650567.

Merkle, Benjamin and Robert L. Plummer. *Greek for Life: Strategies for Using Greek in Ministry: Strategies for Learning, Retaining, and Reviving New Testament Greek*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2017. ISBN: 978-0801093203

Novum Testamentum Graece: Nestle Aland 28th Edition.

Danker, Frederick William, ed. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago, 2000. [BDAG] ISBN: 0-226-03933-1. [NOTE: It does not have to be the 3rd edition. You may get any edition you can find or would like to purchase. However, I would encourage you to buy a used copy of the 2nd edition on Amazon since you can get it for MUCH cheaper than the new 3rd edition.]

Course Requirements

Teaching Strategies: Language acquisition requires the accumulation of various vocabulary and grammar skills. To assist the student in these tasks, the professor will present aspects of Biblical Greek grammar during class and students will practice these skills in class. The professor may also assign extra practice exercises as well as occasional drill sheets to be done outside of class, to be corrected using an answer key before the next class meeting, and to be reviewed in class. In addition, with each textbook chapter the professor will assign vocabulary words to memorize to be utilized in translation and grammar exercises. Weekly grammar/vocabulary quizzes based on each textbook chapter will facilitate the acquisition of new words and the application of grammatical concepts.

Note on Vocabulary Memorization: For nouns, students must learn the article that accompanies the noun (so they will know the noun's gender) as well as the noun's genitive form (so they will know its declension pattern). Students may use the vocabulary cards on the Quizlet App or other aids (such as Logos) for study and help in memorization. For verbs, students must learn the principal parts of the verb. [This information will not make sense right now, but it will once we get into the appropriate chapters.]

Assessments:

1. Students will demonstrate their ability to translate *Koine* Greek sentences and to parse assigned words through the various homework exercises, tests, and exams. Occasionally there will be drill sheets that are designed for you. At the conclusion of each lecture period, exercises for each lesson will be specified.
2. Students will take two major exams this term in which they will demonstrate their knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, and their ability to translate Greek phrases and sentences. The dates for these examinations are given below and will usually be due a week later.
3. In addition to these major exams, students will demonstrate their knowledge of *Koine* Greek vocabulary, grammar, and translation over 4 tests. (You cannot acquire a second language by

“cramming” at the last minute; regular, systematic study is required!) Tests will be posted on the Pathway and will usually be due before the start of the following class period.

4. Regular Vocab Quizzes will be given throughout the semester and to be taken on Pathway. They will consist of “fill in the blank” as well as any other extra material the Professor deems helpful to add. You must read the directions carefully on Pathway to ensure your answers are processed correctly.

5. The homework will not be graded for its accuracy, but its completion (or after at least 30 minutes of work on it) will be part of your participation grade. Therefore, homework will always be accepted even if it is turned in late. Keep in mind that unless you are doing the exercises and the drill sheets, you will be hard-pressed to pass the tests and exams.

6. Please read the following section from the Merkle/Plummer Grammar **PRIOR** to the first day of class: Preface (xix - xxii [stop at “a word to teachers”]); Introduction, and Chapter 1.

Online Students:

For this class we are going to use Zoom as it will allow online students to be able to participate and interact more with the instructor. Learning a new language requires interaction and the ability to ask questions. Hopefully this medium will allow for such engagement. For the first class, try to arrive in the Zoom meeting room early to work out all of the bugs.

Contacting Professor:

You may send the professor a direct message through Pathway, email his personal address, or text messages (or phone call if necessary). However, if questions arise concerning specific assignments, then the student needs to contact the professor in the comments portion of the specific assignment in question.

Attendance:

Without prior approval, your attendance to the live class meetings is required. Students must contact the Professor to request an approved absence. He/she must also watch the recorded lecture later.

Grading Plan:

The course grade will be based on the following grading plan (though this may be changed at instructor’s discretion):

- Vocab quizzes = 15%
- 4 tests = 10% per test
- Midterm = 20%
- Final Exam = 20%
- Participation = 5%

Academic Performance

No student will be deemed to have successfully completed the work in any course who does not achieve a cumulative grade of 75% or above for his course work. The letter equivalents for the percentile grades assigned are as follows:

A – 95-100%	B+ – 87-89%	B- – 80-83%	C – 74-76%
A- – 90-94%	B – 84-86%	C+ – 77-79%	C- – 70-73%

Class Schedule:

We will meet every Monday and Thursday, 6am–7:15am OR 6pm–7:15pm Central. We will discuss the class schedule the first day of class.

[Schedule is subject to adapt as necessary]

Class	Date/ Meeting	Pre-Class Reading	Topic: Class Subject	Vocab, Quizzes, & Exams	Homework
Before First Lecture		BG Intro, ch. 1, & <i>GfL ch. 1</i>	Watch Prof's Intro Video		
1.	Th, Sep 5	<i>See above</i>	Alphabet & Punctuation		1.10 A, D
2.	M, Sep 9	BG ch. 2	Nouns Intro & 1 st Declensions	Alphabet	2.11 C, E
3.	Th, Sep 12	BG ch. 3	2 nd Declensions & the Article	1-2	3.10 E
4.	M, Sep 16	<i>GfL ch. 2</i>	Greek Verb Overview		
5.	Th, Sep 19	BG ch. 4	εἰμί ("I am")	3-4	4.9 B, C, D
	Sep 23-26	<i>GfL ch. 3</i>	Fall Break	Test 1	4.9 E
6.	M, Sep 30	BG ch. 5	Present Indicative Verbs		5.9 B, C
7.	Th, Oct 3	BG ch. 6	Imperfect Indicative Verbs	5-6	6.9 B, C
8.	M, Oct 7	<i>GfL ch. 4</i>	Review 1	Test 2	
9.	Th, Oct 10	BG ch. 7	Contract Verbs		7.7 B, C
10.	M, Oct 14	BG ch. 8	Prepositions	7-8	8.7 A, B, C (5-14)
11.	Th, Oct 17	BG ch. 9	Personal & Relative Pronouns	9	9.10 C, D
12.	M, Oct 21	<i>GfL ch. 5</i>	Review 2	Mid-Term	
13.	Th, Oct 24	BG ch. 10	Future Indicative Verbs		10.9 B, C
14.	M, Oct 28	BG ch. 11	1 st Aorist Indicative Verbs	10	11.8 B, C

15.	Th, Oct 31	BG ch. 12	2 nd Aorist Indicative Verbs	11-12	12.9 A, B, C (odds for C)
16.	M, Nov 4		Review 3	Test 3	
17.	Th, Nov 7	BG ch. 13	Liquid Verbs		13.6 B, C
18.	M, Nov 11	BG ch. 14	3 rd Declensions	13-14	14.8 B, C
19.	Th, Nov 14		Declensions Review 4	Test 4	
20.	M, Nov 18	BG ch. 15	Perfect Indicative Verbs		15.9 B, C, D (evens for D)
21.	Th, Nov 21	<i>GfL ch. 7</i>	Pluperfect Indicative Verbs		15.9 D (odds)
22.	M, Nov 25		Indicative Verb Review	15	
	Th, Nov 28	<i>GfL ch. 6</i>	Thanksgiving		
23.	Th, Dec 2	BG ch. 16	Adjectives & Adverbs	16	16.8 B, D (evens for D)
24.	M, Dec 5	<i>GfL ch. 8</i>	More Adjectives		16.8 C, D (odds for D)
25.	Th, Dec 9		Review 5	Final Exam	
26.	M, Dec 12		<i>extra day if needed</i>		
27.					