



**BL 521-1 *The Language of the New Testament* (3)  
Fall 2009**

**Instructor: R. R. Remin**

**Contacting the Instructor**

**Office: L2081**

**Class Times: WF 11:15-12:30**

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**Office Phone: 410-2000 ext. 7906**

**Class Location: L2100**

**Course Description**

This first course in New Testament Greek is designed to give students the knowledge of NT Greek that will enable them to proceed directly to courses in NT exegesis or to courses in NT Greek in which the aim is the intensive and extensive reading of texts. The emphasis falls on teaching Greek by demonstrating the similarities and differences between Greek and English grammar. Grammar is the system of formal structural devices or “rules” which a language uses to indicate the relationships between words and arrangements of words, and their intended meaning. The student will study the grammar usually covered in a traditional first two semesters of Greek but without the rote memorization of vocabulary and forms. The grammatical structures are taught from “real” NT Greek as much as possible.

**Student Outcomes**

1. The student will learn the basic grammatical structures of the Greek nouns and adjectives (case, number, gender), verbs (tenses, voices, moods) and how they are different and sometimes similar to English structures.
2. The student will learn how to use the most recent edition of the NT Greek-English lexicon.
3. The student will begin to learn how to be a reflective practitioner of sound exegesis of the New Testament in the context of the community of faith.
4. The student will evaluate the best of the variety of reference works which are available for exegetical study of the Greek NT. The student will investigate relevant software.
5. The goal is to teach students to use biblical language(s) in the way scholars use these languages.
6. A note on the methodology and values adopted in the teaching of this course.
  - a. The instructor recognizes and tries to maintain a sensitivity to the fact that more mature adult learners have a different learning style than undergraduates and that individual students have different learning styles. And so, for example, examinations have two parts – an open book take home and a closed book section written in confinement.

- b. Patience and repetition are by-words in this course.
- c. The emphasis falls on learning and understanding as opposed to rote memorization; on recognition as opposed to the ability to reproduce information and data. The ability to reproduce tables and charts does not guarantee that learning and understanding have been achieved.
- d. The focus is on learning to read and understand as opposed to writing which is a very different skill.
- e. The instructor is aware that fear (in moderation) may be a motivator to learning but fear in immoderate degrees prevents learning, and will try to set an atmosphere accordingly.
- f. The instructor assumes that all students have forgotten all of the grammar they had ever been taught and will teach accordingly. The instructor is not as cynical on this point as the author of your text who states that this is a polite way of saying that students weren't taught any.
- g. Students are encouraged to work together in learning groups.
- h. To these ends the instructor has adopted certain rules for the class.

#### The Rules For The Class

Have fun!

Make mistakes!

Ask dumb questions!

Cheat! (Except on the tests and the final.)

Consider this classroom a safe zone!

There are no dumb questions!

There are no topics which are off limit.

### Required Texts

Eugene Van Ness Goetchius. *The Language of the New Testament* (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1965).

Eugene Van Ness Goetchius. *Workbook, The Language of the New Testament* (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1965).

Danker, Frederick William. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed., revised and edited by F.W. Danker, University of Chicago Press, 2000).<sup>1</sup>

Note: You now need to know the Hebrew alphabet in order to count in the subsections.

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<sup>1</sup> Previous edition was Bauer, W., Gingrich, F., and Danker, F. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (2nd Eng. ed. revised and augmented by F.W. Gingrich and F.W. Danker incorporating the additions and corrections of the 5th German ed., Chicago, 1979).

Note 2: As with all the best books, the colour of this edition is burgundy. First English edition was blue; the second was green.

Note 3: You may use the second edition (green) if you have one available to you.

## Course Schedule

This course meets on Wednesdays and Fridays from 11:15 to 12:30 a.m. in one of the class rooms of the Ambrose Seminary.

Special dates to remember are:

September 30 (Wednesday)	Seminary Student Faculty Retreat (Community Day) (no classes)
November 6 (Friday)	Two Part Test
November 27 (Friday)	Word Study / Reference Works Project is due.
December 9 (Wednesday)	Last Class in this course
December 14-18	Final Examination as scheduled by the Registrar in this week.
November 30	<i>The Day</i> beyond which no professor can grant an extension to complete course work is December 18 (end of semester). November 30 is the day by which you must apply to the Dean and/or Registrar's Office for an extension beyond December 18 or a change in date for the final examination. Professors do not have this authority, and so please don't ask.

## Course Requirements

In order to successfully complete this course each student will complete the following.

1. Attend all scheduled sessions of this course. Students will not receive marks for attendance but absences will result in deductions from their final grade.

Each class builds on the previous and so missing a class leaves the student at a disadvantage and questions raised because of an absence inconvenience the rest of the class. Moreover the purpose of this course is not to facilitate "an information dump" from the textbook. Learning language requires repetition, hearing, and learning from other students, all of which cannot be done in isolation. Moreover Greek exegesis is a skill and an art both of which improve as a result of the interaction in class between instructor and students and between students. It is in the class that students learn the methodology and catch the passion for the task at hand.

2. Read each lesson from the textbook in advance and complete the assignments as directed from the work book. An answer key will be provided so that class time may be spent on examining difficulties as opposed to marking.

3. Read entries in the NT Greek-English lexicon as directed so as to learn how to read the lexicon.
4. Write the mid-term test as directed. This is a scheduled two part test (closed book in class and open book take-home). A study guide will be provided.
5. Write the final examination as directed. This is a two part final examination (closed book in class and open book take home). A study guide will be provided.
6. Complete a review of the standard reference works for the Greek of the NT by following one word (concept) through these books. Details will be provided.
7. Investigate software options to assist their study of the Greek and Hebrew Testaments. (There is no software package for just one of these languages.) Which program is immaterial. Invest in one is essential. Try out these websites for the best programs. The programs will be discussed in class. But as you investigate ask these simple questions.
  - Which Greek and Hebrew texts are included in the program?
  - Which translations are included – *LXX, Vulgate, RSV, NRSV, NIV, NASB, etc.*?
  - What can be added to this platform? *BDB, Word Biblical Commentary, Bauer-Ardnt-Gingrich, TDNW, Van Gemeren*?
  - All of these programs have “tagged text.” All of them do concordance type searches. But do they have GRAMCORD? What’s GRAMCORD?
  - Do they have a simple mouse click or macro to link to commentaries and lexicons which come with the software package or can be added to the platform?

Here are the three most commonly used programs. All three provide on line demos.

Bibloi 8.0 -- <http://www.silvermnt.com/bibloi.htm> This is the one used in class.

Logos Bible Software -- <http://www.logos.com/> Special rates? Many variations.

Accordance Bible Soft. -- <http://www.accordancebible.com/> MAC platform,

### Course Grade

The final grade for this course will be calculated as follows:

Presence, preparedness (workbook) and participation in class	10%
Knowledge of Greek demonstrated in class	10%
Reference Research Project	20%
Two part mid term test	25%
Final examination	35%

Although no points are given for attendance, absences will result in deductions.

## Very Important Notes

1. **blepete** All hand written tests, examinations, or any other hand written thing you hand to your professor must be written in ink! Your professor cannot and will not read anything written in pencil.
  
2. **blepete palin** All other assignments must be submitted in hard copy. (Do not submit electronic copies and expect me to print them.) Follow these guidelines!
  - All printing is in black ink and on white paper. Twelve point font. There are no other colors or shading. No borders around pages.
  - The cover page will have this information in this order, centered on the page, and nothing else at all.
    - The name of the assignment at the top of the page.
    - Student's name two thirds of the way down the page. Student number is optional, but if included should be on the next line immediately below the name.
  - At least three quarters of the way down the page the words "Ambrose Seminary" must appear and on the next line the date on which the assignment was handed in.
  - The fonts used must be twelve point standard fonts. The basic fonts such as Times New Roman, Arial, etc.
  - Any Greek and/or Hebrew in the assignment must be in a Greek or Hebrew font. Do not put quotation marks around nor italicize any Greek or Hebrew words in Greek or Hebrew fonts. Transliteration is not acceptable except in a direct quotation or a title of a published work. Students will be provided with fonts upon request. However, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the fonts are correctly printed before the paper is handed in. (Not all printers will correctly print all fonts.) This is the students responsibility. Papers with incorrectly printed fonts will not be read. In the effect of "font printing failure" the Greek or Hebrew words may be hand printed in black ink. (This was how it was done from the time of the invention of the type writer until the passing of the same when the personal computer was invented.)
  - Footnotes and bibliography must be consistent and in an acceptable format which identifies who wrote what, when and where it was published.
  - One (and only one) staple in the upper left corner. Do not use plastic covers, rings, binders, etc. Think "Adam's ale!"
  
3. You may contact your professor by various means.
  - a. Office Hours. These Office Hours on campus are subject to meetings called by higher authorities (president, dean, registrar), previously scheduled meetings with other students, the instructor's health(doctors' appointments, medical emergencies), snow storms, ice storms, highway closures, automobile failure, and/or "the crick don't raise." Book an appointment via email to ensure that I'm here, that you will receive notification of cancelation or you will not be preempted by another appointment (the above notwithstanding) .
    - i. Monday            Afternoons

- ii. Tuesday        Between my early morning double block and my late afternoon double block and when not in a committee meeting.
  - iii. Wednesday    Between the first and second class period; after lunch.
  - iv. Thursday        Not available; usually not on campus.
  - v. Friday            Between the first and second class period; after lunch.
  
- b. Email in the office:    rremin@ambrose.edu
- c. Voice in the office:    410-2000 ext 7906
  
- 4. Absences are intolerable because of the nature of the subject being learned and the manner in which this course is taught. If you must miss a class please work through the lesson(s) missed and then come to the instructor with any problems or questions. In the event you cannot be prepared, you are better being in class unprepared than not in class at all.
  
- 5. The instructor shall comply with all academic regulations as printed in the current *Academic Calendar* and *Student Handbook*, and it is the student's responsibility to be familiar with these regulations. The following academic policies are particularly relevant.
  - a. **Add/Drop Policy:** Students wishing to add a course should refer to the current academic calendar for the last day to officially enter the class. Students intending to withdraw from a course must complete the relevant Registration Revision form. The dates by which students may voluntarily withdraw from a course without penalty are contained in the academic calendar. Failure to file the relevant withdrawal form will result in an “F” on your transcript.
  
  - b. **Course Extensions or Alternative Examination Requests:** Students may not turn in course work after the last day of the scheduled final examination period (which is the technical end of semester) unless they have applied to the Registrar and Dean and received permission for a “Course Extension.” Faculty members cannot grant extensions beyond the end of the semester. Likewise, alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior application to the Registrar and approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination times must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office in accordance with the deadline as published in the academic calendar. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.”
  
  - c. **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty.** The seminary maintains a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty can result in a failing grade for an assignment for the course, or immediate dismissal from the seminary. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, academic dishonesty (cheating), and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.