

NT 1B03
Introduction to New Testament Greek I

McMaster Divinity College
Sept 11–Dec 13
Monday, Wednesday 3:30–5:20pm
Fall 2017

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Office Hours: Tues/Wed 1:30–3:00pm
Room 238

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the first half of a yearlong introduction to the Greek language of the New Testament (NT). This course sets students on a journey of learning Greek, which will greatly enhance their ability to study the NT. It follows a usage-based pedagogical approach to teaching elementary Greek, in which grammar and vocabulary are introduced according to frequency of usage, with the most frequent items introduced first. As a result, students are reinforced in learning the grammatical elements that appear most frequently in the NT. Students will learn the Greek alphabet, pronunciation, vocabulary, morphology (words and their forms), syntax (how words fit together to make coherent sentences) of the language of the NT. Emphasis will be on acquiring a broad Greek vocabulary in this term. At the end of the introduction courses (1B03 and 1C03), students should be able to read a substantial portion of the New Testament in its original language with the help of a lexicon. This course covers the first fourteen chapters of the textbook.

A Note of Encouragement: The study of any language is both challenging and rewarding. I once heard a scholar comparing learning Greek to daily gym workouts, or to learning a musical instrument. These require discipline, practice and perseverance. They involve a hefty investment of time and energy (and even money), but the goal (whether it is getting in shape or the ability to create music) is extremely rewarding. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance to keep in view our goal—that is, to become responsible and competent exegetes of the Bible. To remind us, every Monday we will invite Greek scholars from the MDC community to share with us a short exegetical insight they received from learning Greek. And just as there are many fitness gadgets to help people get into shape, we will utilize various digital widgets (apps, games, and even sound tracks) to train our brain to recall Greek words. My goal as your instructor is to make your learning of Greek a positive, empowering, and fruitful experience. Remember, we are in this together.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The following goals are set for the student:

Knowing:

- To become familiar with the basic morphology and vocabulary of the Greek New Testament (GNT).
- To know how to translate simple Greek sentences into contemporary English.
- To know the basic concepts needed for study of the GNT and exegetical methods that aid in the interpretation of individual passages.

Being:

- To appreciate the value of being able to exegete the text in its original language for use in ministry.
- To find pleasure in working with Greek in biblical studies.
- To allow the GNT to motivate, form, and transform faith and a Christian way of life.

Doing:

- To demonstrate proficiency in incrementally building one’s knowledge of biblical Greek so that it becomes an effective and lasting tool for Christian ministry.
- To be able to:
 1. Recognize Greek letters, punctuation and accents.
 2. Pronounce words written in Greek letters.
 3. Parse and translate nouns, adjectives and pronouns.
 4. Parse and translate various forms of the finite verb and some infinitives, participles and subjunctives.
 5. Translate selected Greek passages into English.
 6. Use a standard NT Greek lexicon.
 7. Correctly identify the most common vocabulary items in the NT.

Hint: You can learn the Greek alphabet from your Greek textbook or language source to get a head start on the course. A useful resource can be found [here](#).¹

TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

Students are required to possess the following:

1. Porter, Stanley E., Jeffrey T. Reed, and Matthew Brook O’Donnell. *Fundamentals of New Testament Greek*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.
2. Porter, Stanley E., Jeffrey T. Reed, and Matthew Brook O’Donnell. *Fundamentals of New Testament Greek Workbook*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.
3. A standard edition of the Greek New Testament, such as the Nestle-Aland (26th–28th ed.), UBS (3rd–5th ed.) or Westcott-Hort.

Other material will be distributed as handouts in class or posted on Avenue to Learn (A2L).

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College’s book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact:

READ On Bookstore, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 6H3;

Phone: 416.620.2934; fax: 416.622.2308; email: books@readon.ca.

Other book services may also carry the texts.

¹ Permission granted by Dr. James D. Dvorak of Oklahoma Christian University.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS1. Class Attendance and Participation (6%)

As language learning is cumulative, repetition and practice are essential. Students are expected to attend all classes and come to class on time. Class attendance will be taken. Learning Greek is also a collaborative effort and questions are encouraged in class. If a student is unable to attend class *due to extenuating circumstances*, the relevant classes (to a limit of two) will be factored out of the participation grade, provided the student discusses his/her absence with the professor in a punctual manner.

2. Weekly Quizzes (24%)

There will be a weekly quiz (usually every Monday) at the start of class time. The quiz will be on material learned previously (mostly on material to be memorized, such as alphabet, endings, vocabulary, grammatical terms, etc. and short translation questions). A Quizlet (www.quizlet.com) study set with vocabularies from *Fundamentals* will be provided to the students.² There will be a demonstration of Quizlet during the first week of class. A test content schedule will be uploaded to A2L before the first day of class and test material will be confirmed in the previous class. The quiz with the lowest score will be dropped at the end of the semester.

3. Long Tests (30%)

There will be two long tests (15% each, 1.5 hours each). The first will cover chs. 1–5 and the second will cover the chs. 1–10 with the emphasis on the material in chs. 6–10. These tests may include sentence translations, grammar explanations, paradigms, parsing, vocabulary, etc. Details will be given in class the week before the test (the review session).

4. Homework Exercises (10%)

There will be homework exercises to hand in. Students are expected to keep up with the assigned exercises in the *Workbook*. These exercises are given to help you master the material covered in the lesson and to prepare you for the quizzes and tests. Late assignment will not be accepted and will reduce your final grade. For the other exercises in *Fundamentals* that are not assigned, complete as much as you can and check your answers with the answer key provided. Once again, practice is vital to your progress.

5. Final Examination (30%)

A final exam is scheduled on the last Wednesday class (Dec 13). It will be three hours long and will cover the chs 1–14 of *Fundamentals*.

² Prepared by Dr. James D. Dvorak.

Grading Summary:

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|------------------------------------|------------|
| Class Attendance and Participation | 6% |
| Weekly Quizzes | 24% |
| Long Tests | 30% |
| Homework Exercises | 10% |
| <u>Final Examination</u> | <u>30%</u> |
| Total | 100% |

SCHEDULE

| Dates | Class Topics | Grammatical Categories |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Sept 11 Sept 13 | Introduction to Greek How to write Greek How to talk about “things” | Ch. 1: Alphabet and Punctuations Ch. 2: 2 nd Declension Nouns |
| Sept 18 Sept 20 | How to describe “things” How to refer to “things” | Ch. 2: 1 st and 2 nd Declension Adjectives Ch. 3: The Article; Verbless Clauses |
| Sept 25 Sept 27 | How to talk about a process or action (I) How to talk about an act or a situation | Ch. 4: Intro to Verb; Aorist Indicative Ch. 4: Infinitive and Negation |
| Oct 2 Oct 4 | How to refer to “things” again and Test Review First Long Test (Chapters 1–5) | Ch5: 1 st Declension Nouns, Relative Pronouns |
| Oct 9–13 | READING WEEK–NO CLASS | |
| Oct 16 Oct 18 | How to talk about a process or action (II) How to talk about a process or action (III) | Ch. 6: Aorist Indicative and Infinitive Ch. 6: Imperfect Indicative |
| Oct 23 | More on how to describe “things” | Ch. 7: 3 rd Declension Nouns and Adjectives, ἐπι Verbs |
| Oct 25 | How to talk about the future | Ch. 8: Present and Future Indicative and Infinitive, Contract verbs in εω |
| Oct 30 Nov 1 | Little words that do many things The “all-in-one” kind of word (I) | Ch. 9: Pronouns; Questions Ch. 10: Participle (I) |
| Nov 6 Nov 8 | How to give additional information about an action (I) and Test Review Second Long Test (Chapters 6–10) | Ch. 10: Genitive Absolute |
| Nov 13 Nov 15 | Who is doing what to whom? (I) | Ch. 11: The Middle Voice (Aorist, Future) |
| Nov 20 Nov 22 | How to give additional information about an action (II) Who is doing what to whom? (II) | Ch. 12: Prepositions; Demonstratives Ch. 13: The Passive Voice (Present) |
| Nov 27 Nov 29 | Who is doing what to whom? (III) You’ve got an attitude (I) | Ch. 13: The Passive Voice (Imperfect) Ch. 14: The Subjective Mood (Aorist) |
| Dec 4 Dec 6 | You’ve got an attitude (II) How to put things together | Ch. 14: The Subjective Mood (Present) Ch. 14: Clauses |
| Dec 11 Dec 13 | Exam Review Final Exam | |

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOUR

The following guidelines are presented to encourage all students to participate together in this course, and should be kept in mind at all times.

1. Please respect the opinions of others, even if you do not agree with them. Extend courtesy by not ridiculing others' ideas, but feel free to respond to them logically and critically and in an orderly manner.
2. Students should be on time to class, or be prepared to offer an explanation after class to the professor.
3. Students are expected to stay for the entire class session, unless arranged in advance.
4. Students may eat and drink in class so long as they do not distract others or leave a mess behind.
5. Students should not engage in anything during class time that prevents them from focusing and participating in class discussions.
6. Students are not to carry on private conversations in class. If something is unclear, the whole class will benefit by a question being asked out loud.
7. Cell phones and related devices are to be silenced during class. If a student must for some reason accept a phone call, he or she ought to discretely leave the class in order to do so.

Students who fail to respect these guidelines will be dismissed from the class, with all of the consequences implied.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ <https://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>.

In this course we will be using a web-based service ([turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com)) for plagiarism detection. Students who do not wish to submit their work to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) can submit an electronic copy of their work via email in PDF format and no penalty will be assigned, but all submitted work is subject to normal verification standards in order to ensure that academic integrity has been upheld (e.g. online search).

GENDER INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

STYLE

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses

<https://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>. Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

NOTE BENE

This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.