

**GREEK I (NT502)**  
**Reformed Theological Seminary-Houston**  
**Fall 2016**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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**DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE:**

GREEK I (NT502): An introductory study concentrating on basic vocabulary and analysis of the grammar of New Testament Greek.

This Greek course begins on Sept 1 and ends on Dec 8, 2014. The final examination times/dates will be announced by the end of the session. The class meets on Thursdays from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM.

**COURSE GOALS:**

The purpose of this course is the purpose of life—to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever. It is impossible to learn any language in just one or two semesters; thus our goal in this course is to set students on the pathway to proficiency in reading and teaching from the Greek New Testament. Reading God’s word as He gave it will be both God-glorifying and soul-satisfying!

For the student to read the Greek New Testament the professor must impart to the student:

1. An understanding of the importance of the original languages for all Bible study and ministry.
2. A knowledge of the morphological patterns and grammatical structures of the Greek language in Scripture.
3. A basic vocabulary of the most frequently occurring words in the Greek New Testament.
4. Experience translating simple Greek sentences and verses.
5. Awareness of the major grammatical and lexical tools for New Testament study.

**GREEK-RELATED LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

As a result of NT502 (and NT 504), the student will:

1. Recognize, write and pronounce the Greek alphabet and vowels. (alphabet)

2. Identify and parse the forms of Greek words, including pronouns, nouns, adjectives, and verbs (morphology).
3. Reproduce the Master Case-ending Chart, the 8 Noun Rules, the Forms of the Article, the Primary/Secondary Verb-endings Chart, and the Master Verb Chart (morphology).
4. Memorize and translate the most frequently-used words in the Greek NT. (vocabulary)
5. Understand sufficient Greek grammar and syntax to be able to read basic NT Greek, including comprehending verbal moods and tenses, the main case functions, and the most common functions of participles, and infinitives. (syntax)
6. Translate portions of the Greek NT with the aid of dictionaries and grammars. (translation)

## COURSE TEXTS/RESOURCES:

### Required

Mounce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek, 3rd ed.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009. [BBG; ISBN: 0310287685] NOTE: This text, and the Workbook listed next, are the two main grammar resources that we'll be using in this course. Bring both of these to every single class meeting.

Mounce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek: Workbook, 3rd ed.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009. [BBGW; ISBN: 0310287677]

Internet access to the following websites:

<http://www.teknia.com/flashworks>

<http://www.teknia.com/newtestamentgreek1>

<http://BiblicalLanguages.net>

### Recommended

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: This lexicon is an expensive purchase, but it is worth the money to have the very best resource for a lifetime of study and preaching. You may acquire the print edition, or if you use a Bible software program, you may acquire an electronic version compatible with your software. Please ask me if you're interested in my opinion about Bible software.

Institute for NT Textual Research. *Novum Testamentus Graece* (Nestle-Aland 28th Revised Standard Edition). Stuttgart: German Bible Societies, 2012. [ISBN: 9783438051400] NOTE: This is the most up-to-date printed edition of the Greek NT. If you have NA 27, that would be sufficient for now.

Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Greek*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2006. [Long; ISBN: 1565634063]

Mounce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek: Flashcards*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.  
[BBGF; ISBN: 9780310259879]

## COURSE OUTLINE:

Date	Topic: Class Assignment	Major Assessments
9/1	Orientation; Read BBG Intro material, Chs. 1-4	
9/8	BBG 5-6	
9/15	BBG 7-8	
9/22	BBG 9-10	
9/29	BBG 10-11	
10/6	BBG 12-13	
10/13	BBG 14	
10/20	No Class	<b>Midterm Exam (take-home)</b>
10/27	BBG 15-16	
11/3	BBG 17-18	
11/10	BBG 18-19	
11/17	No Class (ETS/SBL meetings)	
11/24	No Class (Thanksgiving)	
11/31	BBG 20-21	
12/1	BBG 21-22	
12/8	BBG 22-23 (Last day of class)	
TBA	TBA	<b>Final Exam</b>

## REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH THREE-HOUR CLASS SESSION:

To see the class schedule for this course, you will need to consult my website at the page dedicated to this course:

<https://biblicallanguages.net/language-courses-i-teach/greek-grammar-i-first-year-course/sections-of-greek/greek-i-ii-fall-2016-and-spring-2017-reformed-theological-seminary-houston/> [Note: You can also go to the basic URL for my website, BiblicalLanguages.net, and from the homepage, look to the right and scroll down for “Greek Grammar I & II.” You’ll find your section there.]

For a particular class meeting, you will be given assignments *which must be completed by the day of that class meeting*. Your assignments due for that class session will include the following:

**Listen to the Assigned Chapter Overview Lectures at Mounce’s Teknia website for the chapters due:** The Mounce textbook used to come with a CD-Rom where Mounce provided an introductory chapter overview for the grammar lessons of each chapter. The latest edition of Mounce did away with this; but his chapter overviews are now available online for free at the following link (he refers to this as his “Online Class”:

<http://www.teknia.com/newtestamentgreek1>

[Note: Mounce also has some fuller lectures on each chapter for a price, so you're welcome to purchase those if you want to. But the Chapter Overviews should be sufficient for our purposes in this course.]

Once you're at Mounce's site, find the assigned chapter you are to listen to and click on it. Go to "Chapter Overview." I recommend that you download the "Study Guide" and print it to take notes on as Mounce walks you through the chapter overview. In order to listen, you can choose to do so on your computer, or on iPhone/iPad.

Follow along in your textbook; press "pause" and read the section to yourself if you need to. There will usually be 1-2 chapter lectures to listen to prior to each 3-hour class meeting. Do not neglect this, since you will not be able to complete the homework assignments which are due by the same class meeting.

**Read the Assigned Chapters:** The reading assigned for each class meeting is to be done before the student comes to class. The reading required for each class meeting will be prefaced by an abbreviation of the book (these are given after the book is listed above) in which the reading is found. For ex., "BBG Ch.1" means the first chapter of the textbook.

**Complete Written Assignments for the Assigned Chapters:** Students should do the written assignments for each session *before* class meets that week. This most always includes exercises from the Mounce *Workbook* [BBGW] under the sections called Parsing, Warm-Ups, and Translations. Occasionally there will be drill sheets that I have designed for you. Students will turn in their homework for a particular chapter on the day that they have taken a quiz for that chapter. NOTE: Students will receive an answer key to correct their homework. Prior to the class meeting for which the assignment is due, they should have checked and corrected their work, attempting to understand why they missed any answers. They are to come to the class prepared to ask questions on any exercise question that they got wrong and could not understand why they were incorrect. *If it is not clear that the student has corrected his/her homework, student will receive 0% for the assignment.*

**Note on Memorization:** Students should memorize the material assigned for each week *before* class meets that week. Any such memory work will be noted in the assignment for each class session.

**Note on Vocabulary Memorization:** At the end of each Mounce chapter in BBG, you are given a Vocabulary list. Students will need to memorize these items in preparation for the quizzes, which will include grammar and vocabulary from each lesson. 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). For verbs, students will 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 of Mounce.]

To drill yourself on the vocabulary, take advantage of the Greek flashcard system that Mounce provides here (called Flashworks):

<http://www.teknia.com/flashworks>

**Note on Daily Work:** It will be IMPOSSIBLE for you to pass this course if you adopt the pseudo-study method referred to as *cramming*. Therefore, you will be required to study at least 5-6 days each week of the session. If you don't, you won't pass, and you won't learn.

**Note on Quizzes:** After we have gone over your homework, we will do a quiz on that material at the next class meeting. It will include memory-work, grammar concepts, and vocabulary from the chapter (and some words from prior chapters). To compute the final quiz average, I will drop the two lowest quiz scores during the semester.

*As you can see, on your own you will listen to an initial lecture on new chapter material and will complete homework on it BEFORE we discuss the material in class. When you arrive at class, I will review the new materials in a presentation (so that you will now have heard it a second time, with much more understanding since you've now completed the written homework). Sometimes I will refine or even modify something Mounce said. Then we will spend time drilling what you've learned and going over answers to the homework exercises you completed prior to the class session. Then, at the next session, you will take a quiz on that material, and then we will go over the quiz to discuss any final matters you need help on. This provides FOUR opportunities for you to learn and master the material.*

### **GRADE DETERMINATION FOR THE COURSE:**

- |                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Quiz Average:                  | 35% |
| 2. Written Exercises, Recitation: | 20% |
| 3. Mid-term Exam:                 | 20% |
| 4. Final Exam:                    | 25% |

### **GRADES:**

Grades will be determined by the following scale: A (97-100); A- (94-96); B+ (91-93); B (88-90); B- (86-87); C+ (83-85); C (80-82); C- (78-79); D+ (75-77); D (72-74); D- (70-71); F (below 70)

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Plagiarism is the misrepresentation of another's work as one's own. When the professor concludes that a student has plagiarized an assignment, the student will receive the grade of zero for the assignment, and the office of the Director of RTS-Houston will be notified about the incident. The same actions apply to other acts of academic dishonesty such as cheating on examinations.

**SPECIAL NEEDS:**

Individuals with documented impairments who may need special circumstances for exams, classroom participation, or assignments should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester in order for special arrangements to be considered.

**LATE WORK:**

Late work will only be allowed with the permission of the instructor, if the student has reasonable extenuating circumstances that the professor deems appropriate. Quizzes missed due to absence will not be made up; they will simply become one of the two lowest quiz scores that I drop. If circumstances prevent the student's presence on exam day, the student must communicate with the professor in advance to make arrangements.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Attendance will be enforced per the seminary catalog. In the event of an absence it is the student's responsibility to obtain the material covered and any assignments or notes given.

**PARTICIPATION:**

The professor finds the use of Greek in devotional reading and in ministry vitally important for the health of the church. Students are expected to show eagerness to learn, and to display intellectual curiosity regarding the meaning of the biblical text.

**NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS:**

The professor reserves the right to alter or modify this syllabus and the course requirements as he thinks necessary.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

<b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b>	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological,	Strong	Oral homework recitation, weekly quizzes, 2 major exams.

	historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.		
<b>Scripture</b>	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	Acquisition of Greek grammar and vocabulary will enable student to read and study the Greek NT and critically assess scholars' commentaries and theologian's arguments based on original languages of the texts of Scripture.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Study of Greek is not a distinctively Reformed undertaking, but examples from Greek supporting Reformed interpretation will be discussed occasionally. Knowing Greek will enable students to defend Reformed theology from the NT.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Our study of Greek is doxalogical, in that discussions of Greek words/passages lead to greater understanding of God and his work, and therefore to worship.
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Greek is taught in such a way as to demonstrate that study of linguistics, ancient literature, & history are in service to the study of Scripture.
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Moderate	Greek resources employed for understanding Greek texts come from a variety of scholars from Christian perspectives.

<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Acquisition of Greek grammar and vocabulary will enable student to preach the purpose of specific NT passages
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	The course does not stress worship as congregational practice; however, Greek will allow student to access original language Creeds used in early Church worship, as well as NT passages related to the sacraments.
<b>Shepherd</b>	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Strong	Correct interpretation of NT passages is critical to proper shepherding and application of truth to the congregation.
<b>Church/ World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Training in Greek will enable student to interact critically with published materials that affect theology and practice in denominational life and the world stage.