

Birmingham Theological Seminary 2200 Briarwood Way Birmingham, Alabama 35243 (205) 776-5650

# **Beginning Greek I Syllabus**

Semester: Fall 2025 Course: NT 2011 Beginning Greek I

Day & Time:Monday 5:30-7:20 P.MRoom:A202Professor:Bruce HorsleyCredits: 2 Hours

Email: brucehorsley@gmail.com Phone: 205 612-9430

**Course Note:** The goal of this course is to encourage students to thoroughly immerse, not only their minds, but also their hearts and bodies in the Greek of the New Testament. Students will memorize, internalize, pray, sing, enact, read, and exegete texts. Hopefully, the content will be part of them so that it will accompany them in whatever ministry context that the Lord leads them.

**Course Description:** The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the essential elements of New Testament Greek grammar.

### **Course Objectives:**

### The following learning outcome will include, but not limited to:

- ✓ The student will work through the first half of Mounce's Beginning Greek Grammar and workbook
- ✓ The student will learn the most common 200 words that occur in the GNT
- ✓ The student will be able to read out loud with confidence from the GNT
- ✓ The student will be able to internalize portions of the GNT
- ✓ The student will develop a deeper love for the Scriptures that flows through the language
- ✓ The student will be able to recall Greek phrases and verses
- ✓ The student will begin to acquire life-long skills to use in his private study as well as ministry

εσξατος αλλ' ου ελαχιστος: The ultimate goal of this course transcends just learning grammar, memorizing vocabulary, and even learning to read Greek. Hopefully you will have written the Word on your heart and be able to spend quiet times in Greek, having cultivated a deeper appreciation for the Scriptures.

# **Some Advantages to learning Koine Greek:**

• Studying the Bible in an unfamiliar language causes us to slow down and to notice details of a familiar English text that we may not otherwise detect.

- Learning Greek will help us understand the culture and climate of the culture and times in which the New Testament was written.
- Having knowledge of Greek will allow us to have a wider range of reference works in studying the Bible, since many of them assume the student possesses the ability.
- It will give us a new perspective to the phrase, "It's Greek to me!

# **Required Texts:**

- ✓ Mounce, William D. Basics of Biblical Greek Grammar. 4d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019.
- ✓ Mounce, William D. Basics of Biblical Greek Workbook. 4d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019

### **Recommended Texts:**

- ✓ Metzger, Bruce M. Lexical Aids for the Students of New Testament Greek. 3d ed. Baker Books, 1997.
- ✓ Nestle-Aland *Novum Testament Graece 28 ed.* Greek New Testament with Dictionary.
- ✓ Simon, Mark Joseph. How to Pray in Biblical Greek: An Instructional Guide and Prayer Book.

## Assessments, Grades, and Weights

. Course Requirement	Weight	Comments
Class attendance/participation	200 Pts	This is the heart and soul of the class
Workbook Assignments	200 Pts	This is your commitment to the course.
Successful Recitation of texts	100 Pts	This is your opportunity to internalize.
Final exam/Project	100 Pts	This is a reminder of what you have learned.
Total	600 Pts	

Course Points	Grade
575 -600	A 96-100 4.0 Quality Points
540-574	A- 90-94 3.5 Quality Points
510-539	B 85-89 3.0 Quality Points
480-509	B- 80-84 2.5 Quality Points
450-508	C 75-79 2.0 Quality Points
420-449	C- 70-74 1.5 Quality Points
390-419	D 65-69 1.0 Quality Points
360-389	D- 60-64 0.5 Quality Points
Below 360	F Below 60 0.0 Quality Points

# BTS Format, Style, and Writing Standards:

All research papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including the title page. All papers are to be #12 font Times New Roman and Double-Spaced. Any paper not

conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade. Please see the BTS Turabian Style Guide for more information on turning in papers and assignments.

The BTS Turabian Style Guide and other resources are available on the BTS Writing Center webpage: <a href="https://www.btswritingcenter.net/">https://www.btswritingcenter.net/</a>

In addition, the Writing Center runs 2-3 Writing Workshops every semester. They are very helpful and highly recommended.

# **BTS Plagiarism / Generative AI Policy**

In addition to the BTS plagiarism policy, BTS is implementing a new Generative AI policy. Unless clearly directed by the instructor, the students should submit their own work, independent of artificial intelligence tools. Use of generative AI to write papers or to write significant portions of assignments is considered an ethical violation of our Student Code of Conduct and to be a violation of general academic integrity, which could result in a zero on the assignment and/or a lowered letter grade for the course by the professor. If determined to be an egregious violation, it could lead to further sanctions administered through the Academic Committee, including expulsion from BTS.

### **Course Schedule:**

(The progression of the activities in class will include prayers and songs in Greek, interactive exercises, word pictures, reading from the Gospel of Mark, internalizing the "Lord's prayer" and other short passages, as well as textbook and workbook assignments)

Week	Date	Class Ingredients
1		Since we do not meet on the first week of classes due to Labor Day, students are asked to read the first 4 chapters of Mounce and complete the corresponding exercises in the Workbook.
2	9/8	<ul> <li>Simple prayer: μεγας κυριος και αινετος σφοδρα</li> <li>Intro to Greek in Greek (15 min) Simple commands καθισον, αναστηθι, περιπατει, ελθε, μενε, αγε. and simple nouns; ανθρωπος, λιθος, ιππος, γυνη, οικος, ονομα.</li> <li>Review syllabus, clarify and Q&amp;A.</li> <li>Introduce alphabet using τις φωνη and τις το ονομα</li> <li>Teach the Alpha Beta song.</li> <li>Words for TPR: πλοιον, καρδια, χειρ, προσωπον, κεφαλη, οφθαλμος, μικρος, επι, πους, τραπεζα,</li> <li>Sing song to include κεφαλη, σωματα, χειρ, πουσ, οφθαλμος</li> <li>Review alphabet with τις</li> <li>Closer look at syllabus: Workbook is important. Do not stress about not remembering class TPR.</li> <li>A word about word pictures.</li> <li>καληνυχτα and καλημερα and καλησπερα</li> <li>Assignment: Read chapters 1-4 in</li> </ul>

		<b>❖</b> Mounce BBG and the exercises in the Workbook.
3	9/15	<ul> <li>Review TPR, simple verb imperatives, nouns, some adjectives.</li> <li>Introduce αλλος, αυτος, Βασιλεια, δε, εν, εις, νυν, ο, η, το, ου, ωρα,</li> <li>Introduce Nominative Case and Accusative Case in Greek</li> <li>Use Βλεπω, Βαλλω, γραφω, τιθημι,</li> <li>Q and A with alphabet, pronunciation, and syllabification</li> <li>White board practice with letters, vowels, writing letters</li> <li>Use props to teach difference between μεγας and μικρος. and masculine, feminine, and neuter nouns.</li> <li>Go outside (weather permitting) ανΘος, το; χορτος, ο, ουρανος ο; ξυλον, το: ηλιος ο; νεφελη η; (τισ, που) δεξια, αριστερων, ακουετε, Βαλλετε, αναπουωμεν, ανοιγετε,</li> <li>Sing alphabet song, κεφαλη, στοματα, χειρ, οι ποδες, Close with μεγας κυριος και αινετος σφοδρα.</li> <li>Assignment: Mounce BBG Chapters 5 and 6 and Workbook exercises.</li> </ul>
4	9/22	<ul> <li>Review Nominative and Accusative Case</li> <li>TPR previous words, using props and commands</li> <li>Review article and talk about how it is important and not like the English article</li> <li>Q and A and white board drills</li> <li>Introduction to Genitive and Dative Cases (word pictures, Relationships, possession)</li> <li>ουτος, αυτη, τουτο, συ, αυτος,-η,-ο,</li> <li>Sing alphabet song;</li> <li>Introduce the importance of LXX</li> <li>εν αρχη εποιησεν ο θεος τοω ουραωον και την γην.</li> <li>Review genitive and dative cases (Q and A)</li> <li>If we have time we will sing κεφαλη</li> <li>Assignment: Mounce BBG chapter 7 and workbook exercise.</li> </ul>
5	9/29	<ul> <li>Short prayer: Πατερ ημων ο εν τοις ουρανοις αγιασθητωο το ονομα σου</li> <li>Review worksheet exercises (Q and A)</li> <li>Review noun cases</li> <li>White board drills with cases and articles</li> <li>Short talk about available YouTube videos</li> <li>TPR new verbs and prepositions with props</li> <li>We may use hula hoops this week or next</li> </ul>

6	10/6	<ul> <li>If we have not done this yet, students will receive a Greek name and we will introduce the Land of Alexander and the Land of Shakespeare (negotiating terms)</li> <li>ειμι ει εστιν, εσμεν εστε εισιν.</li> <li>ΤΡR with τις</li> <li>Introduce a few numbers</li> <li>Close with εν αρχη εποιησεν ο θεος τοω ουραωον και την γην.</li> <li>μεγας κυριος και αινετος σφοδρα</li> <li>★ Assignment: Mounce chapter 8 and Workbook exercises.</li> <li>Short prayer:</li> </ul>
		Πατερ ημων ο εν τοις ουρανοις αγιασθητωο το ονομα σου ελθετω η βασιλεια σου ως εν ουρανω και επι γης  Review prepositions and Q & A.  Review noun cases  White board drills  TPR and word pictures for new vocabulary  Hula hoops and prepositions  Introduction of Adjectives using TPR  μικρος, μεγας, καλος, κακος, νεκρος  Discussion about comprehension and frustration  Counting to 5 (TPR)  Singing κεφαλη  Recite μεγας κυριος και αινετος σφοδρα  Assignment: Mounce Chapters 9 and 10 and the workbook exercises.
7	10/13	<ul> <li>Short prayer Πατερ ημων ο εν τοις ουρανοις αγιασθητωο το ονομα σου ελθετω η βασιλεια σου ως εν ουρανω και επι γης</li> <li>New Vocabulary TPR εις, μια, εν, ονομα, πας,συν, σωμα, τεκνον,, τις, τι, περι</li> <li>Write your full name out and favorite food using Greek letters</li> <li>Alphabet song</li> <li>White board drills</li> <li>Introduce your name using ti ονομα σου και παρακαλω</li> <li>Have students go around and introduce each other in Greek using personal pronouns</li> <li>Review workbooks and 3<sup>rd</sup> Declension nouns</li> <li>Word pictures and sounds</li> </ul>

		<ul> <li>Mark 1:1-15 Class will read aloud (Noting how many forms they can recognize)</li> <li>Exegetical moment</li> <li>Hula hoops and prepositions</li> <li>Close with οἱ ουρανοι διηγουνται δοξαν θεου</li> <li>Assignment: Mounce 11 and 12 and worksheet exercises.</li> </ul>
8	10/20	No class (Fall Break)
9	10/27	<ul> <li>Short prayer Πατερ ημων ο εν τοις ουρανοις αγιασθητωο το ονομα σου ελθετω η βασιλεια σου ως εν ουρανω και επι γης</li> <li>Alphabet song</li> <li>TPR review with props and commands</li> <li>Review of workbook and use of αυτος</li> <li>Word pictures for new vocabulary</li> <li>μονος, ευθυς, μαθητης, διδασκωλος, πους, υπερ, αιων, δωδεκα, μακαριος, πολις, γυνη, εκεινος, ουτος</li> <li>White board drills for review</li> <li>Introducing Demonstrative pronouns and Relative Pronouns</li> <li>Q &amp; A and TPR Demonstratives</li> <li>Sing κεφαλη</li> <li>Read aloud Mark 1:16-28 (Let class note how many forms and words that they recognize)</li> <li>Exegetical moment</li> <li>Brief reference to Xenophon's Anabasis</li> <li>Close with οἱ ουρανοι διηγουνται δοξαν θεου</li> <li>Assignment: Mounce 13 and 14 and workbook exercises.</li> </ul>
10	11/3	<ul> <li>Short prayer: Πατερ ημων ο εν τοις ουρανοις αγιασθητωο το ονομα σου ελθετω η βασιλεια σου ως εν ουρανω και επι γης</li> <li>TPR verbs: ακουω, λεγω, βλεπω, εχω, ερχομαι, λσμβσνω, περιπατεω,περιπατει; Βαλλω, τιθημι, απερχομαι, απελθε; εισερχομαι, εισελθε; εξερχομαι, εξελθε; διδωμι, δος; θες.</li> <li>Discussion on Greek verb (basics)</li> <li>The verb and Exegesis (brief note)</li> <li>Review of Workbook exercises and Pronouns</li> <li>White board drills</li> <li>Hit Didaskalos for the Pronoun (If enough for 2 teams)</li> <li>Use TPR with family names and pronouns</li> <li>ερωταω εν οχλος</li> </ul>

		<ul> <li>Read Mark 2:1-13 and ask questions in the Land of Αλεξανδρος</li> </ul>
		• First Active Indicative intro (tense vs. aspect)
		<ul> <li>Hoola hoops revisited, TPR with new verbs and prepositions</li> </ul>
		Closing recitation: Ask a student to offer
		Assignment: Mounce 15 and 16 and workbook exercises.
11	11/10	<ul> <li>εξομολοεισθε τω κυριω οτι αγαθος, οτι εις των αιωνα το ελεος αυτου</li> </ul>
		Introduction to geography in Mark 1-2
		ερημος, Ιουδαια, Ιορδαν ποτομος, Ιεροσαλυμιται, Ναζαρετ,
		Γαλιλαιας, θαλασσα, Καφαρνουμ
		• Introduce Dialogue (the dialogue will be a result of discussion)
		Show and Tell Word Picture brief
		<ul> <li>Review workbook exercises and First Active Indicative</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Q &amp; A (some in Land of Alexander)</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Repeat prayer from Matthew 6 and add more terminology</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>White board drills on nouns and pronouns (case, gender, number)</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Intro to Contract Verbs (review parsing, verb stems, lexical</li> </ul>
		form, voice, mood, Aktionsart)
		• Close with
		εξομολοεισθε τω κυριω οτι αγαθος, οτι εις των αιωνα το ελεος
		αυτου
		✓ Discussion on Final exam/Project
		<b>❖</b> Assignment: Mounce 17 and workbook: Show and Tell word
	1	picture, and work on Dialogue.
12	11/17	<ul> <li>Review First Active Indicative Q &amp; A</li> </ul>
		Review Matthew 6 prayer out loud
		• Show and Tell Picture (students share)
		<ul> <li>Practice dialogue from passage in Mark (calling of fishermen; the paralytic; Jesus' baptism)</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Introduce Present Middle/Passive Indicative</li> </ul>
		• Exegetical significance
		• Examples Mark 2:5,22; 15:24; Matthew 3:10; Lk. 6:44
		<ul> <li>Sing alphabet song and κεφαλη</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>TPR with props and commands</li> </ul>
		• Close with Matt 6 prayer
		* Assignment: Mounce
		❖ 18 and workbook exercises
13	11/24	Thanksgiving week (discuss meeting)
14	12/1	Review Verb forms up to this point
		• Q and A
		• Drills on white board (interactive)
		• TPR vocabulary

<ul> <li>Recite Matthew 6 prayer together (Land of Alexander)</li> <li>Introduction to Future Active tense</li> <li>Play "where is" in Land of Alexander</li> <li>Sing χαρα στον κοσμω, ο κυριοσ ελθε</li></ul>	
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# **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to demonstrate punctuality and attend all class sessions. Any absences should be communicated to the professor beforehand. Students may miss up to three classes with impunity.

[NOTE: Standard BTS Attendance Policy is that students may not miss any more than three classes without a course penalty. Given the reality of distance-based students and video conference options, if students clearly identify at the beginning of the semester that they will primarily be asynchronous students (depending on the digital recording of class because of a conflict with their schedule), then the student may attend without incurring a penalty for their "absences," providing they are turning in all their work on time. Please see the BTS Faculty Handbook for more information on synchronous and asynchronous video conference students and policies and the commitments a faculty member agrees to when they teach a video conference or a live hybrid class]

### **Class Policies and Procedures:**

- BTS highly recommends using handwritten note taking methods in class and keeping computer usage to a minimum.
- Other electronics should be used sparingly.
- Late assignments will incur a -3 point deduction per weekday after the due date, except in cases of emergency communicated to the professor.
- Missed tests/exams may only be made up with an excused absence, preferably in advance
  of class. Excused absence tests/exams must be made up before the final day of the
  semester.

- Please refer to the BTS Student Handbook: <a href="https://www.bts.education/admission/studentforms">https://www.bts.education/admission/studentforms</a>
- [Video Conference Policies and Procedures:
- Please utilize the BTS "Best VC (Video Conference) Practices" information for the course.
- Laptops/Desktops are the preferred method of attending a video conference course. Information will be shared on the screen, so phones will be less useful.
- In Video Conference, it is preferrable for the student to keep their video on (when possible) so that students and faculty may engage with one another. Extended periods of dark screen will result in follow-up and potential removal from class.
- Other electronics should be used sparingly.
- [Professor may add any additional policies specific to their class]

## Course Bibliography / Extended Bibliograph

- Abbot-Smith, George, ed. A Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament. 3rd ed. Edinburgh:
  - T. & Samp; T. Clark, 1937.
- \*Bauer, W. (Danker/Arndt/Gingrich). A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and
- Other Early Christian Literature. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000. 3\*Brown, C., ed. Brown, C., ed., The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology, 3 vols. G.R.:
  - Zondervan, 1975-1978.
- Dana, H. E. and Julius R. Manuel Grammar of the Greek New Testament. New York: Macmillan, 1957.
- Greenlee, Jacob Harold. A Concise Exegetical Grammar of the New Testament Greek. 5th ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.
- Halcomb, T. Michael W. & Frederick J. Long. Speak Koine Greek: A Conversational Phrasebook. Wilmore, Kent.: GlossaHouse, 2014.
- Halcomb, T. Michael W. 800 Words and Images: A New Testament Greek Vocabulary Builder. Wilmore, Kent.: GlossaHouse, 2013.
- Harris, Murray. Prepositions and Theology in the Greek New Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.
- Kittel, G. and G. Friedrich, ed. Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, 10 vols. G.R.: Eerdmans, 1964-76.
- Liddell, H. G. and R. Scott. A Greek-English Lexicon, 9th ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1925-40; repr. 1968 [for classical Greek].
- Marshall, I. H., ed. Moulton and Geden Concordance to the Greek New Testament. New

York: Continuum, 2002.

Metzger, Bruce. Lexical Aids for Students of New Testament Greek [Paperback].

Moule, C. F. D. An Idiom Book of New Testament Greek. 2nd ed. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1959.

Mounce, William D. A Graded Reader of Biblical Greek. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. (Workbook for second year Greek, using various NT passages).

Mounce, W. D., ed. Mounce&#39 Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words. G.R.: Zondervan, 2006.

Nunn, H. P. V. A Short Syntax of New Testament Greek. 5th ed.Cambridge: At the University Press, 1951

Robertson, Archibald Thomas, and William Hershey Davis. A New Short Grammar of the Greek New Testament. New York: George H. Doran Co., 1908.

## There are many online resources available

- Alphabet song using historical Greek pronunciation:
   <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLZhcPafleU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLZhcPafleU</a>
- SBLGNT at www.biblegateway.com
- There is a lot of material on YouTube, including songs, lectures, Koine Greek speaking.

## One of the best ways to improve your Greek is to read it:

Goodrich, Richard J, ed. A Reader's Greek New Testament, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007. (This GNT is in readable print and has vocabulary helps at the bottom of the page. I highly recommend acquiring one of these reader's editions at some point)

Baker, David and Elaine R. Heath. More Light on the Path: Daily Scripture Reading in Hebrew and Greek. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998 (This provides daily scripture reading for devotionals).

### **BTS Outcomes Evaluation**

Please rank each outcome on a scale of 1-5

- 1: this outcome is not covered in this class
- 2: this outcome is only touched on in this class
- 3: this outcome is discussed in conjunction with class material
- 4: this outcome lightly assessed as part of course assessment (one assignment)
- 5: this outcome is fully integrated into the assessment of this course (multiple assignments)

- 1. <u>Scripture</u>: Students will effectively articulate the truth of Scripture and Scripture as truth, engaged with learning biblical knowledge and reformed principles of the supremacy of Scripture as God's word.
- 2. <u>Reformed Theology</u>: Students will be able to engage and reproduce the primary and essential elements of Reformed Theology.
- 3. Local Church: Students will be engaged in applied ministry projects in the local church
- 4. <u>Wisdom</u>: Students will grow in character; increasing in their demonstration of wisdom and its fruits.
- 5. <u>Discipleship</u>: Students will be able to understand and articulate the nature and importance of discipleship—both ordinary (means of grace) and extraordinary (biblical counseling).
- 6. <u>Communication</u>: Students will grow in the efficacy of their communication (articulation, teaching/speaking, and preaching—respective to various departments) both in content knowledge and rhetorical strategies.
- 7. <u>Worldview</u>: Students will demonstrate a growing ability to apply God's word to all spheres of life, evidenced through class discussion and other assigned assessments.
- 8. <u>Leadership</u>: Students will grow in their understanding of godly leadership and ability to lead others in service of the local church.

Outcome	Rank	Rational (one sentence)
Scripture	5	Understanding New Testament Greek will help the student be prepared to be a better student and lover of the Scriptures.
Reformed Theology	1	
Local Church	3	Indirectly, learning Biblical languages helps the local and global church in preparing workers to serve in many capacities in ministry.
Wisdom	3	Studying Biblical languages is paramount to growing in wisdom and character.
Discipleship	2	Exegetically leadership may be a point of discussion.
Communication	4	Communicating the truth of the gospel confidently and effectively is an outcome of studying Biblical languages.
Worldview	5	Students' worldview will be shaped by internalization of Scriptures in the original.
Leadership	2	Indirectly as texts are mentioned as points of exegesis.