**Mountain Theological Seminary**

**Graduate Course Syllabus**

**NT Greek Basics**

NT 610

Fall 2025 G. Steve Kinnard, Dean of Bible and Ministry

MTS Office hours by appointment

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This class consists of an introduction to the basic principles of New Testament Greek.

**COURSE OUTCOME**

As part of your program of study, this course contributes toward your ability to interpret and apply biblical texts, using sound hermeneutical principles and the biblical languages. Since the New Testament was written in Greek, the Greek language is a necessary tool for proper exegesis of the New Testament. Also, knowing NT Greek opens the student to the exploration of scholarly commentaries.

**COURSE RATIONALE**

If we wish to exegete Scripture properly, then we must explore the text in its original language. For the New Testament, this requires knowledge of NT Greek. I personally use Greek every day. Knowing Greek allows me to gain insight into the text that isn’t there in a translation. Knowing NT Greek is a blessing.

**MTS MISSION**

The mission of Mountain Theological Seminary is to equip followers of Jesus around the world to be spiritual leaders and servants in Christ's church by providing them with a transformative biblical distance education.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

As a result of this course, students should accomplish the following objectives:

1. The definition of all the words that occur 50 times or more in the Greek NT.

2. Write out the memory paradigms covered in the text.

3. Parse various parts of speech (verbs, nouns, adjectives, participles) covered in the text.

1. Translate selected sections of the NT covered in class.
2. Practice concepts discussed in class and covered in textbook. For example, how Greek verbs add color to what the author is communicating in the text. Also, how vocabulary must be determined by the context of the passage and not a gloss from a dictionary.
3. Pass a standardized final exam.

### **COURSE TEXTBOOKS**

Merkle, Benjamin L. and Robert L. Plummer. [*Beginning with New Testament Greek: An Introductory Study of the Grammar and Syntax of the New Testament*](https://www.amazon.com/Beginning-New-Testament-Greek-Introductory/dp/1433650568/ref=sr_1_2?crid=22EE4R3E2AO2O&dchild=1&keywords=beginning+with+new+testament+greek+an+introductory+grammar&qid=1594925487&sprefix=beginning+with+new%2Caps%2C163&sr=8-2). B&H Academic, 2020.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING RUBRIC**

**Assignments**  **Point Value** **Learning** **Objective(s) Measured**

1. Quizzes 240 points 1, 2, 3

2. Homework 60 points 5

3. Midterm Exam #1 100 points 1, 2, 3, 4

4. Midterm Exam #2 100 points 1, 2, 3, 4

5. Class participation 60 points 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

6. Final Exam 100 points 1, 2, 3, 4, 6

660 points

* Quizzes will be given on the days specified and will cover the chapters indicated in the course schedule. No late quizzes will be given. Homework completion will be assessed through quizzes and class participation. Quizzes are each 10 points.
* You may NOT look at old quizzes or tests from RMSMT classes. To do so will be considered cheating.
* The exams will be given on the specified days. These will each be 50-minute exams.
* The Final exam will be a standardized exam covering material from the entire semester. Students must pass this exam to receive a passing grade.
* **Close Book, Closed Note, Closed Lexicon:** You are **not** welcome to use your book, notes, and lexicon on the quizzes and exams. And, **you may not use an English translation or parsing software** (Bible Works, Logos, Accordance, etc.).
* Note: **This is an accelerated course.** One year of NT Greek will be covered in one semester.

**COURSE GRADING**

Below is the MTS grading scale for this class:

A Excellent 94–100 4.00

A- 90–93 3.67

B+ 87–89 3.33

B Good 83-86 3.00

B- 80-82 2.67

C+ 77-79 2.33

C Average 73-76 2.00

C- 70-72 1.67

D+ 67-69 1.33

D Passing 63-66 1.00

D- 60-62 0.67

F\* Failing 0–59 0.00

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Students Should Arrive to Class having the Greek Alphabet memorized and having viewed video one at BeginningGreek.com and Having Read Chapter one of BWNTG.**

Most Courses have a Flow. The flow for this class is:

On **Saturday** I will send you quizzes or Exams.

On **Mondays** we will have Class. All quizzes and exams will be due on Mondays at 6:00 P.M. Eastern Standard TIme (New York).

On **Tuesday** the new week begins and you need to learn the Material for the next assigned Chapters.

**This course is based on Eastern Standard Time in NEw York City**. Make adjustments based on where you live.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week #** | **Date**  **Week of:** | **To Be Done During the Week** |
| 1 | Sun 8/24 | Introduction, Syllabus, Chapter 1 – “The Greek Alphabet.” Focus on Chapter 1 in BWNTG |
|  | Mon. | In class. We will go over the syllabus. We will go over chapter 1. |
|  |  | Chapter 1. Learn the Alphabet . |
|  | Tues. | START MATERIAL FOR WEEK TWO. Tuesdays begin new chapters.  During the week: learn vocabulary, view videos, and do homework. |
| 2 | Sun 8/31 | Chapter 1. We will review this in class. |
|  | Mon. | Attend class.  Take **Quiz 1** Chapter 1 The Greek Alphabet |
|  | Tues | Start on material for next week. |
| 3 | Sun.9/7 | Focus on Chapters 2 & 3 in BWNTG |
|  | Mon. | Class.  Class Discussion of texts of the GNT. Please read the section on “Introducing Critical Texts of the GNT” in the textbook prior to class. Be ready to go over the homework for chapters 2 and 3. |
|  |  | **Quiz #2** Chapter 2 – “First Declension Nouns.”  **Quiz #3** Chapter 3 – “Second Declension Nouns.” |
|  | Tues. | START MATERIAL FOR NEXT WEEK. |
| 4 | Sun.9/14 | Chapters 4 & 5 in BWNTG. |
|  | Mon. | Please read “Introducing Textual Criticism” in the textbook prior to class.  Be ready to go over homework for chapter 4 & 5. |
|  |  | **Quiz #4** Chapter 4 – “The Basics of Verbs.”  **Quiz #5** Chapter 65 – “Present Indicative Verbs” |
| **Week #** | **Date** | **To Be Done During the Week** |
| 5 | Sun. 9/21 | Focus on Chapters 6 & 7 in BWNTG.  Class Discussion on Greek Word studies. Prior to class, please read the section on in the textbook on “Introducing Vocabulary-Building Resources, Lexicons, and Other Word Study Tools.”  Be ready to go over the homework for chapters 6 & 7. |
|  | Mon. | Class. |
|  |  | **Quiz #6** Chapter 6, Imperfect Indicative Verbs  **Quiz #7** Chapter 7, Contract Verbs |
| 6 | Sun.9/28 | Focus on Chapters 8. Class Discussion on Commentaries. Please read the section on “Introducing Commentaries” in the textbook prior to class. |
|  | Mon. | Class. Be ready to go over homework for chapters 8. |
|  |  | **Quiz #8** Chapter 8, “Prepositions.”  **EXAM #1** (chapters 1-8). |
| 7 | Sun.10/5 | Focus on Chapters 9 & 10. |
|  | Mon. | Review. Be ready to go over homework for chapters 9 & 10. |
|  |  | **Quiz #9** Chapter 9, Personal and Relative Pronouns  **Quiz 10** Chapter 10, Future Indicative Verbs |
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| 8 | Sun.10/12 | Focus on Chapters 11 & 12 |
|  | Mon. | Review. Class Discussion on Diagramming. Please read the section on “Introducing Diagramming” in the textbook prior to class.  Be ready to go over homework for Chapters 12 & 13.  **Quiz #11** Chapter 11 – “First Aorist Indicative Verbs.”  **Quiz #12** Chapter 12 – “Second Aorist Indicative Verbs.” |
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| 9 | Sun.10/19 | Chapters 13 & 14 |
|  | Mon | Review. |
|  |  | **Quiz #13** Chapter 13 – “Liquid Verbs.”  **Quiz #14** Chapter 14 – “Third Declension Nouns.” |
|  |  | Review |
| 10 | Sun.10/26 | Chapters 15 & 16 |
|  | Mon | **Quiz #15** Chapter 15 – “Perfect and Pluperfect Indicative Verbs.”  **Quiz #16** Chapter 16, “Adjectives & Adverbs.”  **Exam #2** (chs. 9-16). |
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| 11 | Sun.11/2 | Chapters 17 & 18  **Quiz 17** Chapter 17, “Present Participles”  **Quiz # 18,** Chapter 18 – “Aorist Participles.” |
|  | Mon. | Class. |
|  |  |  |
| **Week #** | **Date** | **To Be Done In Class** |
| 12 | Sun.11/9 | Chapters 19 & 20 |
|  | Mon | Review. Class discussion of Digital Resources. Read the section on “Introducing Digital Resources” in the textbook prior to class.  **Quiz #19,** Chapter 19 – “Perfect Participles.”  **Quiz #20**  Chapter 20 – “Other Pronouns.” |
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| 13 | Sun. 11/16 | Chapters 21 & 22 |
|  |  | Class. |
|  |  | **Quiz #21** Chapter 21 – “Infinitives.”  **Quiz #22** Chapter 22 – “Subjunctive Mood.” |
| 14 BREAK | Sun.11/23 | Break for SBL/AAR. No Classes this week. 11.19-11.25 |
|  |  |  |
| 14 | Sun 11/30 | Chapter 23. |
|  | Mon | **Quiz #23** Chapter 23 – “Imperative Mood.” |
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| 15 | Sun12/7 | Chapter 24—Final Exam Week. |
|  | Mon. | Review for Final Exam  **Quiz #24** Chapter 24, “Optative Mood and Mi Verbs.” |
|  | Fri. 12/12 | Final Exam Due.  Final Exam to be taken remotely and submitted online. Instructions to follow. |

**Course Format** (The following material is from LCU Prof. Tyler A. Stewart’s syllabus.)

Learning to read NT Greek is a remarkable skill that only comes to those willing to toil at the task. There is no substitute for the time it takes to learn a language. Due to the nature of this course, the pace will be fast.

The best way to learn Greek is consistent and regular attention, smaller increments at a time. In order to facilitate incremental learning, the course is designed to break up the workload into 4 days a week at 2-3 hours a time, totaling 8–12 hours of work a week. However, to do well in the class and to learn the language, you must spend time **every day** on this class. Devoted, focused, uninterrupted time. There is no replacement for consistent practice.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS / USDE REQUIREMENTS**

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| **Assignment** | **Hours per Week** | **Total Hours** |
| Reading and Lectures | 2-3 | 32–45 |
| Vocabulary | 2-3 | 32–45 |
| WB Exercises | 2-3 | 32-45 |
| Review / Studying | 2-3 | 32–45 |
| 12 Weekly Quizzes | 20 min | 4 |
| Exams 1-2 | 1 hr | 2 |
| Exam 3 | 2 hrs | 2 |
| **Total** |  | 136–188 |

**COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Greek Resources**

(Based on LCU Prof. Tyler A. Stewart’s syllabus)

NT Greek Text:

Nestle-Aland, *Novum Testamentum Graece*. 28th ed. Stuttgart: German Bible Society, 2012. [ISBN: 9781619700307].

Websites:

Thesaurus Linguae Graecae’s Online Liddell-Scott-Jones Greek-English Lexicon, [stephanus.tlg.uci.edu/lsj](http://stephanus.tlg.uci.edu/lsj)

<http://newtestamentgreekportal.blogspot.com> - The website associated with the course textbook, which offers several free learning resources, including free flashcards for the vocabulary.

Dictionaries and Lexicons:

BDAG. Bauer, Danker, Ardnt, Geingrich. A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, 3rd Edition. University of Chicago Press, (January 15, 2001).

Burer, Michael H., and Jeffrey E. Miller. *A New Reader’s Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2008. [ISBN: 978-0825420092] A lexicon ordered by NT book/chapter that provides definitions for words that appear less than 50 time in the NT.

Danker, Frederick William, *The Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009.

Newman, Barclay M. Jr. *Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament*, Rev. ed. Stuttgart: German Bible Society, 2010. ISBN 1598566490.

Lampe, G. W. H. *A Patristic Greek Lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1961.

Liddell, Henry George, Robert Scott, et al. *A Greek-English Lexicon*, 9th ed. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996.

Liddell, Henry George and Robert Scott. *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1980. Liddell and Scott, *Greek-English Lexicon*, Abridged Ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1935.

Louw Nida - Louw, Johannes P. and Eugene A. Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Sematic Domains*. New York: United Bible Societies, 1988.

Montanari, Franco (ed.). *The Brill Dictionary of Ancient Greek*, Leiden: Brill, 2015.

Mounce, William. *The Analytical Lexicon to the Greek New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993. [ISBN: 978-0310542100] A lexicon that includes every form of a word that appears in the Greek NT (with parsing), for when you can’t figure out a word’s lexical form.

Trenchard, Warren C. *Complete Vocabulary Guide to the Greek New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998. [ISBN: 978-0310226956] A complete list of all words that appear in the Greek NT, ordered by frequency of occurrence (along with other information, like cognate roots).

Grammars

BDF – Blass, Friedrich, Albert Debrunner and Robert W. Funk. *A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961.

Conybeare, F. C. and St. George Stock. *Grammar of Septuagint Greek*, Peabody: Hendrickson, 1988.

Smyth, Herbert Weir, *Greek Grammar*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1956.

Wallace, Daniel B. The Basics of New Testament Syntax: An Intermediate Greek Grammar, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

–––. Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

Windham, Neal. *New Testament Greek for Preachers and Teachers: Five Areas of Application*, Lanham: University Press of America, 1991.

*Verbal Aspect:*

Fanning, Buist M. *Verbal Aspect in New Testament Greek*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1990.

Campbell, Constantine R. *Basics of Verbal Aspect in Biblical Greek*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

**POLICIES**

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students are expected to attend every class session. In the event that a student misses

one class session, he/she must work with the instructor to determine what is needed to make

up what was missed. If the student does not make up the work in a satisfactory manner, the

student’s final grade will be lowered one letter grade at the end of the course. If the student

misses two class sessions, the student’s final grade will be lowered one letter grade provided

that he/she makes up work for both class sessions. If that make up work is not completed, then

the final grade will be lowered by two letter grades. If the student misses three class sessions,

he/she will be given an F for his/her final grade and not be allowed to finish the course.

At times students have legitimate extenuating circumstances for their absences from

class. If this occurs and the student is doing well in class up to that point, the student can

contact the professor of the class and the Dean of the appropriate MTS School and ask for a 30-day extension beyond the end of class to complete the work in the class. This request however must be made at least 2 weeks before the final class session. If a 30-day extension is approved beyond the end of class and the student fails to finish all the requirements of the class by the end of those 30 days, the student will be assigned an F for his/her final grade for that class. Appeals can be made to the appropriate MTS Dean.

**LATE WORK POLICY**

All work is due when listed in the course syllabus, unless otherwise stipulated by the instructor. Grading of any late work on any assignment during the semester will be done at the discretion of the Instructor. (Note that instructors are not under obligation to accept any assignment that is late but may do so and grade it if they wish according to their discretion). No work may be accepted later than one week after the course concludes, since ***final grades for all classes are due two weeks after the last class session***.  The only exception to this policy is for students who request and are granted an official course extension as noted in the above paragraph.  All such extensions are granted only for extreme circumstances (extended illness, death in family, etc.), and the extension may not exceed 30 days from the last day of class.  Only the appropriate MTS Dean may grant such requests, which must be made in writing at least 2 weeks before the last class session.  Otherwise, the grade earned at the end of the class is the one granted.

**No late work will be accepted in this class.**

The only exception to this policy is for students who request and are granted an official course extension as noted in the above paragraph. All such extensions are granted only for extreme circumstances (extended illness, death in family, etc.), and the extension may not exceed 30 days from the last day of class. Only the MTS Director and the class professor may grant such requests, which must be made in writing at least 2 weeks before the last class session. Otherwise, the grade earned at the end of the class is the one granted.

**ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP INTEGRITY POLICY**

It is the policy of MTS that its students and faculty exhibit a high standard of honesty

and integrity and a commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Students are expected to be

committed to a living standard depicted in the Bible both academically and relationally both

inside and outside of school. Incidents of lack of integrity, including such things as plagiarism,

cheating, treating others with lack of respect will be taken seriously and offenders held

accountable up to and including probation, suspension and/or removal from their academic

program and MTS. All infractions should be reported to the appropriate Dean of MTS.

**INSTRUCTOR/STUDENT COVENANT**

As instructor of this course, I covenant with each student that I will model Christ-like behavior, value and respect each student as a fellow disciple/learner, be prepared for each class session, make appropriate assignments, grade all assignments fairly, return all graded assignments promptly, and be available for consultation outside of class. In return, I expect each student to model Christ-like behavior, value and respect fellow students and me as the instructor, be prepared for each class session, and complete assignments in ways that demonstrate your integrity.

**ONLINE ETIQUETTE**

Most of the online or hybrid courses in the graduate programs require students to interact with each other and with the instructor on a regular basis (per syllabus instructions). Most of that interaction is done through online comments posted on Canvas. Due to the constraints and unique nature of online communication, students should be aware of the tone or insinuations of any comments they post. Comments can often be misinterpreted when non-verbal cues such as facial expression and voice intonation are not present. Excessive punctuation, such as repeated exclamation points, could be construed as overly emotional or angry. Students need to consider how remarks might be interpreted by someone who does not know them personally and can only take their words at face value. Students should compose their comments per instructions under the syllabus assignments, paying careful attention to proper grammar and spelling.

**LIBRARY RESOURCES AND SERVICES**

While MTS does not have an official library onsite, there are many theological libraries which are available in the area for students to use with permission. These include:

The Denver Seminary Library

6399 South Santa Fe Drive

Littleton, Colorado 80120

Colorado Christian University

8787 W. Alameda Ave.

Lakewood, CO 80226

Iliff School of Theology

2323 E. Iliff Ave.

Denver, CO 80021

There are also several State University libraries in the area which can be visited for research including the University of Colorado in Boulder, Regis University, University of Colorado in Colorado Springs, Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Naropa University in Boulder. The best search engine for biblical article research is EBSCO ATLA Religion with Serials data base which can be found at all of the above libraries.

Please also visit any theological or university library in your area to see if they have access to ATLAs Religion data base. In Colorado, you may also check with local libraries for the availability of EBSCO *Academic Search Premier* data base. It searches many well respected academic religious journals also. MTS students can also access *Academic Search Premier* through our MTS website at [www.mtsem.org](http://www.mtsem.org).