

Summer 2016
Wesley Theological Seminary

New Testament Greek (BI 263)

Instructor: Dr. Shively T. J. Smith (ssmith@wesleyseminary.edu)

Times: May 23rd – July 1st (Monday – Friday 9AM-12PM)

Pre-Course Assignment: Learn Alphabet and Read Chapter 1 in Black Textbook (pages 1-9)

I. Course Description

BI 263 (New Testament Greek) combines a two-semester sequence into a 6-week intensive Greek course leading to a reading knowledge of Koine Greek as reflected in the New Testament. In this course, we will concentrate on learning the basic vocabulary, grammar, and syntax required to read the New Testament and to do biblical exegesis, using the Gospel of John, as a primary text for translation and interpretation. Two chief goals govern this language course: interpretation of NT texts and combining facilities in language and method to make meaning of a text. In sum, this course helps students become attuned to how translation is relevant in various ministry contexts.

II. Pre-Course Assignment

(Assignment 1) Learn the Alphabet: When learning a language, it is IMPERATIVE that you establish a solid foundation at the beginning upon which to build your knowledge. The **FIRST** building block in that foundation is the alphabet. If you have not already, it is time for you to start learning the Greek alphabet, diphthongs, and accents in preparation for our first day of class together. Read and re-read Chapter 1 in Black's textbook (Pages 1-9) and practice speaking and writing the Greek alphabet. I have included several help aids to help you in this endeavor. Download and use the additional alphabet handout that reviews how to write the Greek alphabet from here: (https://www.dropbox.com/s/tsf8wnaulcpw911/Handout_GreekAlphabet-Script.pdf?dl=0). To help your pronunciation, you can download an audio file of the Greek alphabet from this link: https://www.dropbox.com/s/o2b25w43xnxmmc6/02%20Alphabet-JeremyDuff_ElementsofNTGreek.m4a?dl=0. Come to class the 1st day able to write and recite the alphabet.

(Assignment 2) Sight Reading Exercise - On Page 9 of Black's textbook, Exercise item "d" assigns a sight-reading exercise for John 1. Download the expanded and amplified handout of John 1:1-14 from here (https://www.dropbox.com/s/zp639levnt2ar83/SightReading_John1.pdf?dl=0). This handout suggests some other practice items for you to work on as you listen and learn the Greek alphabet and familiarize yourself with how NT Greek sounds This is a practice exercise for you and it will not be submitted to me for a grade. However, I do not advise skipping this practice opportunity simply because you are not turning it in. To help you practice reading Greek, you can download this audio featuring a reading of John 1:1-14 (https://www.dropbox.com/s/cdps7509odw7pxr/02%2002%20John%201_1-14%20Chpt%201.m4a?dl=0).

III. Other Items to Know for the First Day of Class

(Note 1) For the 1st Day of Class - By the first day of class, you want to have in hand the following textbooks: (1) the Greek New Testament (Novum Testamentum Graece: Greek-English New Testament) (2) Learn to Read New Testament Greek by David Alan Black; (3) Learn to Read New Testament Greek Workbook by Ben Gutierrez; and (4) The Concise Greek-English Lexicon. All of these are posted on Wesley's textbook site here for ordering: http://astore.amazon.com/wesletheols0b-20?_encoding=UTF8&node=99

(Note 2) Textbook Addition - I have added one additional REQUIRED textbook to this class as a way of helping us combine Greek reading with an Exegetical process. You will need to have the book in hand by the 2nd week of class. The book is called: *Seeing the Text: Exegesis for Students of Greek and Hebrew* by Mary H. Schertz & Perry B. Yoder (ISBN: 978-0687091140).

(Note 3) What to Expect? - This is a 6-week intensive Greek course. In 6 weeks, this class would have worked through the entirety of the Black textbook and covered 2 semesters of Greek, which is why this is a 6 credit hour course. In other words, this is a fast-pace and concentrated time in Greek and demands the best of our study habits, integrity, committed time and attention from us as students of Greek. There is no way around this. In order to be successful, students should expect that in addition to our 3-hour class session, you will spend a minimum of 2-3 hours reviewing and preparing for the next day of class. We will cover an average of 4 chapters weekly with the first 2 weeks being ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL!!! So keeping up, working consistently and devotedly is important to learning any language, but definitely learning NT Greek and Exegesis this summer.

(Note 4) Graded assignments for the course - There will be approximately 2 weekly quizzes each week (for a total of 12-15 quizzes), of which some will be dropped from students' final grades. There will be 2 Textual Exegesis Worksheets due the final weeks of class (more on what this is and how this works in class). Participation will be a major component of students' grades and it includes classroom attendance, engagement as well as demonstration of emerging Greek competency and comprehension. No more than 4 absences are permitted for this course as it results in a significant reduction in grade or course failure.

** These are just a few notes on the course along with pre-course assignment requirements. The full syllabus will be released with the Blackboard site.*