

Dr. Ed Curtis
301-552-1400 Ext. 1224 (O)
301-277-1672 (H)

Introduction to Biblical Languages (LNG 200)
Fall 2010
Monday/Wednesday 10-11:30

Course Description

This course is designed to fulfill the foreign language requirement in the general education portion of the bachelor's degree. The course provides an introduction to both biblical Greek and Hebrew. Students will learn the alphabets of both languages, important vocabulary, grammar as it relates to understanding the text and the use of major tools for original language study. Students will also learn the proper use of an interlinear text and how using it can allow them to gain access into the meaning of the biblical languages.

Course Rationale

The importance of an understanding of biblical languages for Bible study and exegesis can not be overstated. Ideally everyone who is interested in Biblical study would have a thorough knowledge of both Greek and Hebrew. However, for many that is not practical. In addition, there are some that are desirous of a teaching or preaching ministry who do not have a strong aptitude for languages. There is a wealth of biblical tools available to the person who has a rudimentary understanding of Greek and Hebrew. This course is designed to introduce students to both major biblical languages with the goal of helping them become more competent users of those tools and more competent interpreters of Scripture.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course the student should be able to:

1. Write from memory both the Greek and Hebrew alphabets without error.
2. Identify basic grammatical forms in both languages with the help of BibleWorks, a grammatical interlinear and/or parsing guide.
3. Use his/her understanding of the original languages to enhance their application of the PBI method of Bible study.
4. Articulate an understanding of how basic grammatical forms are used in both Greek and Hebrew.

Course Textbooks

Fields, Lee M. *Hebrew for the Rest of Us*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

Mounce, William D. *Greek for the Rest of Us*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Bible Works Software. 7th edition. Norfolk, VA: Bible Works LLC, 2006.
—Purchase not required. Available in the library computer lab.

Course Requirements

Normally for a 3-hour class, one should expect to spend approximately 84 hours outside of class. Here is how I would envision you would use that time in this course:

1. Read and study the texts *Greek for the Rest of Us* and *Hebrew for the Rest of Us* in their entirety. (40 hours)

This book will form the basis of our in class discussions. We will not cover all of the material in class. Please read each assignment carefully and be prepared to discuss and work with the material in the section assigned in class.

2. Complete homework assignments as given in the following schedule. (30 hours)

These homework assignments are designed to give you practical, hands-on experience to prepare you for working with the text of Scripture from the original languages.

3. There will be two exams, a mid-term and a final. (10-12 hours)

Details on the exams will be given out in class.

Course Attendance Policy

Class attendance will be carefully monitored and the policy found in the catalog will be enforced. A person is considered late if he/she is not in his/her seat by the time the class is opened in prayer. Three times being tardy will be considered equivalent to one absence.

Quizzes that are missed for reason of illness (or emergency) may be made up. Quizzes missed for any other reason may be made up only if *prior* approval is obtained from the instructor. A person who comes late to class will not be given extra time to complete the quiz.

Late Work

Homework will be accepted late when lateness has been approved by the professor, usually in instances of illness or other unavoidable circumstances. Homework turned in late for any other reason can receive only half credit on that assignment.

Course Grading

Homework Assignments	60%
Midterm	15%
Final	25%

Please note that the majority of the grade is based on your homework assignments. It is critically important that you do the assignments on time.

Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment Due</u>
August 23	1	Introduction and Greek Alphabet, Transliteration	
August 25	2	Practice in Pronunciation and Transliteration	Mounce, 19-42 Exercises p. 8-9, 16-7
August 30	3	Basic Grammar: Nouns and Verbs	Mounce, 43-50
September 1	4	Basic Grammar: Clauses and Phrases	Mounce 51-80 Exercises pp. 39-41
September 6		NO CLASS LABOR DAY	
September 8	5	Basic Grammar: Conjunctions and Adjectives	Mounce 81-96 Exercises p. 77-79
September 13	6	Basic Grammar: Greek Phrases and Clauses	Mounce 97-142
September 15	7	Basic Grammar: Greek Verbs Exercises pp. 107-8, 136 and 141	Mounce 143-56
September 20	8	Basic Grammar: Greek Verbs Cont.	Mounce 157-76
September 22	9	Basic Grammar: Participles and Subjunctives	Mounce 177-189 Exercises pp. 163-4
September 27	10	Basic Grammar: Infinitives and Imperatives	Mounce 190-220
September 29	11	Basic Grammar: Nominative, Vocative and Accusative	Mounce 221-227 Exercises pp. 196, 215
October 4	12	Basic Grammar: Dative and Genitive	Mounce 228-68
October 6	13	Using Bible Works to study Greek Exercises pp. 235-36, and 268	Begin Reviewing for Mid-Term
October 11	14	Sample Passage Eph. 1:3-14	Study Eph. 1:3-14
October 13	15	Midterm Exam	

October 18		NO CLASS: FALL BREAK	
October 20		NO CLASS: FALL BREAK	
October 25	16	Hebrew Alphabet	Fields pp. 1-16
October 27	17	Hebrew Vowels and Pronunciation Exercises pp. 3-7, 9-10 and 15-16	Fields pp. 17-48
November 1	18	Hebrew Roots and Clauses	Fields pp. 49-75 Exercises pp. 28-30
November 3	19	Conjunction Waw and Prepositions	Fields pp. 76-98 Exercises pp. 61-64 and 75
November 8	20	Nominals and the Article	Fields pp. 99-111 Exercises pp. 86-87 and 97-98
November 10	21	Cases and Adjectives	Fields pp. 112-46 Exercises p. 111
November 15	22	Verbs and Perfect Tense	Fields pp. 147-80 Exercises pp. 129-31 and 144-45
November 17	23	Imperfect and Other Verb Forms	Fields pp. 181-220 Exercises pp. 163-66 and 178-79
November 22	24	Hebrew Word Studies	Fields pp. 221-46 Exercises pp. 187-90 and 217-18
November 24		NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK	
November 29	25	Hebrew Prose and Poetry	Fields pp. 247-72 Exercises pp. 230-32
December 1	26	Using Bible Works to Study Hebrew	Exercises pp. 256-57 and 271-72
December 6	27	OT Sample Psalm 51	Study Psalm 51

December 8 28

Review for Final

December 13-17

FINAL EXAM



Selected Bibliography

New Testament Resources

Balz, Horst, and Gerhard Schneider. *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1980.

Baur, Walter. *A Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (BDAG)*. 3rd Ed. Revised and Edited by Frederick William Danker. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.

Brown, Colin. Ed. *New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975.

Kittel, Gerhard. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. 10 vols. Translated and edited by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964.

Louw, Johannes P. and Eugene A. Nida. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains*. 2 vols. New York: United Bible Societies, 1988.

Miller, Paul A. *Gramcord 2.1b with GNT Morphological Database 5.1* Loizeaux Brothers Inc., 1988-2003. (The program for MacIntosh computers is called *Accordance*).

Mounce, William D. *Greek for the Rest of Us*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

_____. *The NIV English-Greek New Testament: A Reverse Interlinear*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

Walvoord, John F. and Roy B. Zuck. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament Edition*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1983.

Old Testament Resources

Beall, T. S. and W. A. Banks. *Old Testament Parsing Guide*. 4 vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1986.

Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver and Charles A. Briggs. *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1979.

Fields, Lee M. *Hebrew for the Rest of Us*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

Harris, R. Laird, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.

Holladay, W. L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1988.

Kohlenberger, John. *The NIV Interlinear Hebrew-English Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979.

VanGemeren, Willem A. *New international Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.

Walvoord, John F. and Roy B. Zuck. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament Edition*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985.

Wigrem, George V. *The Englishman's Hebrew and Chaldee Concordance of the Old Testament*. 5th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1976.

Other Resources

Bible Works Software. Norfolk, VA: Bible Works LLC, 2001.

Bromily, Geoffrey. Ed. *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. 4vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.

Bruce, F. F. *History of the Bible in English: From the Earliest Versions*. 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1978.

Carson, D. A. *The Inclusive Language Debate: A Plea for Realism*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1998.

_____, Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

DeWaard, Jan and Eugene Nida. *From One Language to Another: Functional Equivalence in Bible Translating*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1986.

Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. One volume edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985.

Ewell, Walter. *Evangelical Dictionary of the Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984.

Gaebelein, Frank E. Ed. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. 12 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979.

Goodrick, Edward W. *Do it yourself Hebrew and Greek*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980.

Gundry, Robert. *A Survey of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1970.

Grudem, Wayne. *“What’s Wrong with Gender-Neutral Bible Translations?”* Libertyville, IL: CBMW 1996).

Logos Bible Software. 2.1. Libronix Digital Library System. Bellingham, WA: Libronix Corp., 2002.

Nave, Orville J. *Nave’s Topical Bible.* Chicago: Moody Press, 1974.

Ryken, Leland. *The Word of God in English: Criteria for Excellence in Bible Translation.* Grand Rapids: Crossway Books, 2002.

Ryrie, Charles C. *Basic Theology.* Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1986.

Scorgie, Glen, Mark L. Strauss and Steven M. Voth. Ed. *The Challenge of Bible Translation: Communicating God’s Word to the World.* Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2003.

Strauss, Mark L. *Distorting Scripture: The Challenge of Bible Translation and Gender Accuracy.* Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1998.