RHS 405A Biblical Greek I

Fall 2020
M, W 1:00–2:20 pm
Room 201
Instructor: TBA

NB: Weekly tutorial session to be arranged online.

Course Rationale and Description
This course is an introduction to the vocabulary and syntax of New Testament (NT) Greek. It is designed to help students develop fundamental skills for reading the NT in its original language and deepen their linguistic and cultural sensibilities for biblical interpretation. Students will study a series of morphological and grammatical topics in Koine Greek and practice translating NT texts into English. This learning process will help them gain fresh insights into the historical and literary contexts of the NT and its theological forces. They will also explore how to preach on these ancient texts in diverse ministerial contexts.

Learning Outcomes
The course allows students to meet M.Div., M.A.T.S., and M.A.M. learning competencies #2 Scripture ("[the student] draws the wisdom of our forebears in the faith in Scripture into active engagement with emerging challenges."), and M.Div., M.A.M #5 and M.A.T.S. #4 Cultural Context ("[the student] manifests the ability to know, interpret, and affect particular situations, values, and meanings through methodologically grounded historical, socio-cultural, ethical readings/analysis of the Christian or another religious heritage and broadly cultural-historical traditions within and around each of these competencies."). This course also enables students to gain Ministry Arts and Public Leadership skills for service in #2 Preaching ("[the student] interprets Scripture in ways that generate new insights into text and context.").

Objectives
By the end of the semester, students will be able to do the following:
1) Understand the basics of the Greek grammar, including vocabulary, morphology, and syntax
2) Recite the Lord’s Prayer (Matt 6:9b–13) in Greek
3) Sight-read select NT texts with the aid of a dictionary
4) Use on- and off-line resources to explore the NT and other ancient texts in Greek
5) Utilize a set of analytical tools to understand the NT, focusing on its literary styles, textual-critical issues, and theological terminology
6) Practice patience and acquire intercultural competencies to be prepared as leaders for a Public Church
Strategies for Learning

1) Please attend all classes. Language learning cannot be done successfully in a self-study mode. Our collective learning in class will offer you the most effective and pain-free opportunity to understand this ancient language.

2) Memorize the vocabulary and paradigms presented in Croy. Weekly quizzes will test you on these materials and prepare you for the midterm and final exams.

3) Complete the assigned homework from Croy and/or other handouts provided in class.

4) Read aloud selected NT passages several times, try to “feel” any grammatical patterns in them, and practice translating them with the help of a Greek-English dictionary or online tool.

5) Consider doing 1)–4) above with your study partner(s). Schedule a study date with a friend on a regular basis. Ask each other about vocabulary, paradigms, and grammar. Check if your friend can read a Greek passage with proper pronunciation. (This process is NOT the same as copying your friend’s answers to the assigned exercises in haste!)

Assessment

1) Class participation (30%): attendance (15%) and homework (15%)
2) Weekly quizzes (20%): total 9 quizzes throughout the semester. The lowest-scored quiz for each student will be dropped at the end of the semester to calculate the final grade.
3) Midterm (20%): one hour, in-class exam.
4) Oral exam (10%): to be arranged during the latter half of the semester
5) Final exam (20%): textual criticism assignment and NT sight-reading

Required Textbook


Highly Recommended (Greek New Testament)


OR


OR

Accordance Bible Software: https://www.accordancebible.com/

Recommended
