

**Elements of New Testament Greek**  
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
Fall 2021

**Course Information**

Course number: NT 101-3  
Meeting times: TTh 8:30 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.  
Class location: Schlegel 121

**Instructor: Dr. Sung Soo Hong**

Email: sshong@lpts.edu  
Office: Schlegel 300  
Office hours: by appointment

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to New Testament Greek. You will learn Greek grammar, build up vocabulary, and apply your knowledge of Greek to exegesis. Learning an ancient language is like learning a musical instrument: you should work on it as often as possible, ideally everyday. While I will not ask you to memorize all the paradigms, all students should be committed to learning select paradigms and rules thoroughly. You will also memorize about 300 Greek words, which occur more than 50 times in the NT. This may sound daunting, but you already “know” some of them (e.g., “Jesus”; “Paul”; “Israel”; “amen”; “ego”). Exegetical assignments, inspired by the PCUSA’s exegesis exams in the past, will help improve your exegetical skills. As part of the exegetical training, you will learn how to use online resources on the Greek New Testament (GNT) including the text itself, critical apparatuses, dictionaries, word study tools, and concordances. Your knowledge of Greek will be an invaluable resource for your study of the Bible and for your ministry.

**Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Read the GNT with the aid of dictionaries.
2. Analyze the syntax of most sentences within the GNT.
3. Understand the exegetical implications of some textual variants.
4. Demonstrate familiarity with some scholarly debates in New Testament studies regarding the interpretation of Greek expressions.
5. Become familiar with technical commentaries on the NT writings.
6. Use their knowledge of Greek to read the NT critically and imaginatively.

**Relationship to Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)**

The primary SLOs for this course are as follows:

1. SLO 1 for the MAR degree program: Students will be able to interpret Scripture critically and imaginatively.
2. SLO 1 for the MDiv degree program: Students will gain knowledge and understanding of the Bible, and the ability to use critical skills and educated imagination to interpret it in contemporary social and cultural contexts.

**Textbooks**

Required textbooks:

1. **“BBG”**: William D. Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-310-53743-4.
2. **“BBGW”**: William D. Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek: Workbook*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-310-53747-2.

You are required to purchase the physical copies of both books. Make sure to acquire the fourth edition. We have access to the electronic copies of both books: the [grammar book](#); the [workbook](#). These ebooks allow only one concurrent user.

Recommended: any edition of the GNT listed in the first section of Appendix A: Annotated Bibliography.

### Format of Class Sessions

This class will be offered in-person. There will be one asynchronous session.

### Course requirements

1. **Attendance and participation.** Attendance and participation are very important for a language course. If you miss a class, it is strongly recommended that you set up an appointment with me (in-person or on Zoom) as soon as you can. See “Attendance Policy” in Appendix B below for more information. Attendance and participation will count for 10% of the final grade.
2. **BBGW exercises.** Detach the pages of the assigned BBGW exercise or exercises (see Course Schedule), write your name on them, and turn them in. They will be graded on a complete-incomplete basis. The first 20 submissions will count for 14% of the final grade (0.7% per submission). Additional submissions will earn you bonus points.
3. **Quizzes.** There will be a closed-book quiz at the beginning of every class session except for the first day (Sep 9). The lowest three quizzes will be dropped. The remaining twenty quizzes will count for 30% of the final grade (1.5% per quiz).
4. **Exams.** There will be three closed-book exams on Canvas. You will have three attempts to take each exam, and only the highest score will count. The exams are meant to give you opportunities to review what you have learned and to diagnose your knowledge of Greek grammar and vocabulary. The first exam tests material covered in Unit 1 (see Course Schedule). The second exam tests on Unit 2, and the third on Units 3 and 4. Each exam will count for 10% of the final grade. See Canvas for further details and deadlines.
5. **Exegetical Analyses.** You will submit two exegetical analyses via Canvas. The first analysis should be on Acts 8:10 (PCUSA’s exegesis exam in winter 2020) and the second one on Romans 16:7. Each analysis should be about 600-word long excluding the bibliography, and should include the following components: (1) evaluations of existing English translations; (2) discussions on textual variants; (3) an exposition of the passage in its literary context, informed by at least two technical commentaries (see section 4 of Appendix A: Annotated Bibliography); (4) a bibliography. See Canvas for further details and deadlines. Each analysis will count for 8% of the final grade.

### Grade Breakdown

Attendance and participation	10 %
BBGW exercises	14 %
Quizzes	30 %

Exams	30 %
Exegetical analyses	16 %

### Grading Scale

A (94-100); A- (90-93.99)  
 B+ (87-89.99); B (84-86.99); B- (80-83.99)  
 C+ (77-79.99); C (74-76.99); C- (70-73.99)  
 D+ (67-69.99); D (64-66.99); D- (61-63.99)  
 F (0-60.99)

*Note: the content of this syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class and/or instructor.*

### Course Schedule

**Study flow:** for instance, on Sep 14 we will do in class a few questions in BBGW 6. Until the next class, complete BBGW 6, read BBG 7, memorize BBG 6 vocab and 6.20. You are welcome to ask questions about BBGW 6 during class on Sep 16; turn in the pages of BBGW 6 before you leave class.

Dates	Preparation for Class		In Class	
	Exercises to Complete	Reading Assignments	Quizzes	Topics and Activities
Th 9/9		Syllabus; BBG 1-4 <sup>1</sup>	No quiz	The alphabet; pronunciation; syllabification; BBGW 3-4; PCUSA's exegesis exam
Unit 1. Noun System				
T 9/14	BBGW Review 1	BBG 5-6	<a href="#">transliteration</a> ; BBG 4 <a href="#">vocab</a>	Nouns and articles (1); BBGW 6; Greek <a href="#">keyboards</a> and fonts ( <a href="#">SBL</a> ; <a href="#">Teknia</a> ; <a href="#">Brill</a> )
Th 9/16	BBGW 6	BBG 7	BBG 6 vocab; 6.20	Nouns and articles (2); BBGW 7; Greek Bible websites (1)
T 9/21	BBGW 7	BBG 8	BBG 7 vocab; 7.11	Prepositions and εἰμί; BBGW 8; Greek Bible websites (2)
Th	BBGW 8	BBG 9-10	BBG 8 vocab; 8.12	Adjectives; third declension; BBGW

<sup>1</sup> The numbers after "BBG" are the chapter numbers. Similarly, the numbers after "BBGW" are the exercise numbers.

9/23				9-10; Greek Bible apps
T 9/28	BBGW 9-10 (except "Additional")	BBG 11-12	BBG 9 and 10 vocab (words occurring 70 times or more only)	Personal pronouns; αὐτός; BBGW 11-12
Th 9/30	BBGW 11-12 (except "Additional")	BBG 13-14	BBG 11 and 12 vocab (words occurring 70 times or more only)	Demonstrative pronouns and adjectives; relative pronoun
T 10/5	BBGW 13-14 (except "Additional")	Trobisch (Canvas, under Files)	BBG 13 and 14 vocab (words occurring 70 times or more only)	BBGW Review 2, 3, and 4; introduction to textual criticism. Complete Exam 1 on Canvas between 10/5 at 11:59 p.m. and 10/11 at noon.
Unit 2. Indicative Verb System				
Th 10/7	BBGW Review 2, 3, and 4	BBG 15-16	BBG 9-14 vocab (words occurring less than 70 times only); 7.11; 8.12	Present active indicative; BBGW 16
T 10/12	BBGW 16	Wallas (Canvas); BBG 17	BBG 16 vocab; 16.6	Verbal aspect; contract verbs; BBGW 17
Th 10/14	BBGW 17	BBG 18	BBG 17 vocab	Present middle/passive indicative; BBGW 18
10/19 10/21	Reading Week			First Exegetical Analysis due by 10/23 at 11:59 p.m.
T 10/26	BBGW 18	BBG 19	BBG 18 vocab; 18.9	Future active and middle indicative; BBGW 19
Th 10/28	BBGW 19	BBG 20	BBG 19 vocab; 19.10; 19.12	Verbal roots; liquid verbs; BBGW 20 and Review 4
T 11/2	BBGW 20; Review 4	BBG 21	BBG 20 vocab; 20.9	Imperfect indicative; BBGW 21
Th 11/4	BBGW 21	BBG 22	BBG 21 vocab; 21.7; 21.9	Second aorist active and middle indicative; BBGW 22
T 11/9	BBGW 22	BBG 23	BBG 22 vocab; 22.6	First aorist active and middle indicative; BBGW 23

Th 11/11	BBGW 23	BBG 24	BBG 23 vocab; 23.5	Aorist and future passive indicative; BBGW 24
T 11/16	BBGW 24	BBG 25	BBG 24 vocab; 24.5	Perfect indicative; BBGW 25 Complete Exam 2 between 11/16 at 11:59 p.m. and 11/22 at noon.
Unit 3. Participles				
Th 11/18	BBGW 25	BBG 26-27	BBG 25 vocab; 25.7; 25.8	Introduction to participles; present participle; BBGW 27
T 11/23	BBGW 27 (scan the pages and email me)	BBG 28-29	BBG 27 vocab; 27.5 (quiz on Canvas)	<u>Asynchronous session</u> : Aorist participle; adjectival participles
Th 11/25	Thanksgiving			Second Exegetical Analysis due by 10/29 at noon.
T 11/30	BBGW 28-29	BBGW 30	BBG 28-29 vocab; 28.7	Perfect participle and genitive absolute; BBGW 30
Unit 4. Non-Indicative Moods				
Th 12/2	BBGW 30	BBGW 31	BBG 27-29 vocab (words occurring more than 70 times only); 28.12	Subjunctive; BBGW 31
T 12/7	BBGW 31	BBGW 32-33	BBG 31 vocab; 31.9; 31.10	Infinitive and imperative; BBGW 32-33
Th 12/9	BBGW 32-33	BBGW 35	BBG 32-33 vocab and grammar	Conditional sentences Complete Exam 3 between 12/9 at 11:59 p.m. and 12/15 at noon.

## Appendix A: Annotated Bibliography

### 1. The Greek New Testament

Kurt, Aland, Barbara Aland, Johannes Karavidopoulos, Carlo M. Martini, and Bruce M. Metzger, eds. *Novum Testamentum Graece*. 28th rev. ed. Stuttgart, Germany: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2012. ([link to Amazon](#); our [library copy](#))

Greek text with a critical apparatus. The Greek text, called “NA28” (“NA” stands for the initials of the editors’ last names, Nestle and Aland), is the scholarly standard now. No English translation or definitions of Greek words provided. There is a thicker edition that includes [a 220-page Greek dictionary](#) (our [library copy](#)). If you would like running glosses, check out the [Reader’s Edition](#) of the UBS5 (basically identical to NA28) that has definitions and parsings of Greek words in two columns at the bottom of every page; a critical apparatus included; no English translation of the Greek text. There is a [Greek-English edition](#) that has the Greek text on one side and two English translations (NRSV and REB) on the other; a critical apparatus included.

Goodrich, Richard J., and Albert L Lukaszewski. *A Reader’s Greek New Testament*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2015. ([link](#))

A GNT with footnotes that offer definitions of Greek words occurring less than 30 times or less in the NT; these glosses are in a paragraph form, rather than in two columns; words occurring more than 30 times are in a lexicon at the back of the book. No parsings provided. The Greek text is slightly different from NA28/UBS5; the differences between this text and NA28/UBS5 are noted in footnotes. No critical apparatus.

Jongkind, Dirk, ed. *The Greek New Testament: Reader’s Edition*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2018. ([link](#))

The Greek text is produced by the Tyndale House, which is different from NA28. It does not provide notes on the textual differences. No critical apparatus. The layout is clean. Glosses in two columns include words occurring less than 25 times in the NT. A [sample](#) of the base edition, which has a critical apparatus, is available at the publisher’s website.

## 2. Greek Grammar Books and Handouts

### 2.1. Classical (Attic) Greek

Hansen, Hardy, and Gerald M. Quinn. *Greek: An Intensive Course*. 2nd rev. ed. New York: Fordham University Press, 1992.

Widely used in classical studies. More than 800 pages.

#### [“Nifty Greek Handouts.”](#)

Handouts created by Helma Dik, Professor of Classics at the University of Chicago. It is Attic Greek, but still good for you.

Smyth, Herbert Weir. *A Greek Grammar for Colleges*. New York: American Book Company, 1920. ([pdf](#); [online version with hyperlinks to Greek dictionaries](#))

A classic introduction to classical Greek; freely available.

### 2.2. Koine Greek

Croy, N. Clayton. *A Primer of Biblical Greek*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

One of the most popular textbooks in seminaries. Much thinner than Mounce. The layout is clean and well organized. I like the paradigms at the end of this book better than Mounce’s.

Harris, Dana M. *An Introduction to Biblical Greek Grammar: Elementary Syntax and Linguistics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2020.

Emphasis on verbal aspect and syntax.

Mounce, William D. [Biblical Greek Laminated Sheet](#).

Paradigms taken from Mounce's grammar book. 4 pages. Alternatively, download this [pdf](#) from Mounce's website.

Wallace, Daniel B. *Greek Grammar beyond the Basics: an Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament: With Scripture, Subject and Greek Word Indexes*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. ([PA 851 .W34 1996](#); no ebook)

As the title of the book indicates, this 827-page grammar book is for those who know the basics of NT Greek. It has a number of tables, diagrams, examples from the NT, and other helpful features.

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. *The Basics of New Testament Syntax: An Intermediate Greek Grammar*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000. ([PA 851 .W338 2000](#); no ebook)

An abridged version of the same author's *Greek Grammar beyond the Basics*. This version is more recommendable to you than the full one. Wallace's explanation of the [participle](#) is available at Bible.org.

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. [New Testament Greek Syntax Laminated Sheet](#).

A summary of *The Basics of New Testament Syntax* in 6 pages. Very useful and worth the price.

### 3. Biblical Texts and Word Study Tools

[“Ancient Greek Language on the Web: A Critical Survey of Websites.”](#)

Includes links to many online resources including Greek fonts, grammar, word study tools, and more.

#### [Biblegateway](#)

The Bible in many languages including Hebrew, Greek, and English; SBLGNT (see below) with its critical apparatus is also available. You can create parallels (e.g., [NRSV and SBLGNT](#) side by side). No parsing tools.

#### [Bible Hub](#)

Similar to Biblegateway but the user interface is more convenient for advanced users. Those who have learned Greek and/or Hebrew would benefit from the [Parallel Study Bible](#). Greek words are linked to *Thayer's Greek Lexicon* and [Hebrew](#) words to *The Brown-Drive-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* (BDB). Parsing tools, [concordances](#), and [interlinear bibles](#) are also available. You can even download the files of some Bibles in docx, pdf, and other formats.

#### [Blue Letter Bible](#)

Similar to Bible Hub; BLB's parsing tool is more user-friendly than Bible Hub's. BLB's Greek text (mGNT) is, as they say [here](#), not identical to the Nestle-Aland 28th edition, which is currently the scholarly standard. It is unclear what Hebrew and Greek dictionaries they use. A [user guide](#) is available.

Danker, Frederick W., ed. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000. (the second edition: [PA 881 .B38 1979](#); a purchase request submitted for an electronic copy of the 3rd ed.)

A standard lexicon in NT studies; definitions are given with reference to NT passages and early Christian texts. If you know Greek, consulting this book will enrich your exegesis.  
 Diggle, James. *The Cambridge Greek Lexicon*. 2 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021. (purchase requested)

[Liddell & Scott Greek-English Lexicon](#)

A standard lexicon in classics.

Metzger, Bruce M. *Lexical Aids for Students of New Testament Greek*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998. ([PA 881 .M45 1998](#); no ebook)

Helps memorize Greek words. Part 1 has Greek words classified according to their frequency in the NT; Part 2 according to their root.

[New English Translation of the Septuagint](#) (NETS)

Use the NETS when studying the Septuagint.

[The German Bible Society](#) (*Deutsche Bibel Gesellschaft*)

The Nestle-Aland 28th edition is freely available; plus the BHS, the Septuagint, and the Vulgate. No parsing tools.

[The Online Greek Bible](#)

The Greek NT with parsing information and definitions. The Greek text is the Nestle-Aland 26th edition; although this is not the most recent version, there are not many differences between NA26 and NA28. No English translations provided.

[Perseus Greek/Latin Word Study Tool](#)

A convenient parsing tool; LSJ and other lexicons are linked.

[SBLGNT](#)

The SBL edition of the Greek NT is freely available. See the

[STEP Bible](#)

Managed by the Tyndale House. Hebrew and Greek texts with the SBL critical apparatus; convenient study tools.

#### 4. Technical Commentary Series

[Anchor Yale Bible](#) (AYB; formerly Anchor Bible)

[Hermeneia](#)

[International Critical Commentary](#) (ICC; *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on X*)

These commentaries assume the reader's knowledge of Greek and Hebrew, technical terms, and methods in biblical studies. They discuss scholarly debates extensively. As a result, these commentaries are usually thick. The AYB and the Hermeneia are more accessible in that they provide English translations of Greek or Hebrew expressions in the parentheses. The ICC does not offer English translations.

[New International Greek Testament Commentary](#) (NIGTC)

[Word Biblical Commentary](#) (WBC)



Both the NIGTC and the WBC are technical commentary series that do not provide English translations of Greek expressions. Unlike the three series above, these two do not seek to offer purely historical-critical interpretations. The general editors of the NIGTC say, “The supreme aim of this series is to serve those who are engaged in the ministry of the Word of God and thus to glorify his name.” The editors of the WBC state that “the broad stance of our contributors can rightly be called evangelical” and that this series “seeks to make the technical and scholarly approach to a theological understanding of Scripture.”

[Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament](#) (BECNT)

[New International Commentary of the New Testament](#) (NICNT)

[Pillars New Testament Commentary](#) (PNTC)

Commentaries in these three series are written by leading scholars within evangelical scholarship.

## 5. Textual Criticism

Aland, Kurt, and Barbara Aland. *The Text of the New Testament: An Introduction to the Critical Editions and to the Theory and Practice of Modern Textual Criticism*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995. ([BS 1937.5 .A42 1995](#); no ebook)

Written by two towering figures in textual criticism. But Metzger-Ehrman and Parker below are more recommendable to you, because this book (Aland-Aland) is a translation from German, and is older than those two.

Metzger, Bruce M., and Bart D. Ehrman. *The Text of the New Testament: Its Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration*. 4th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005. (BS 2325 .M4 2005; no ebook)

The most famous introduction to textual criticism. Metzger’s *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament* (Ref. BS 2325 .M43 1994; no ebook) is a one-volume textual commentary on the NT.

Parker, D. C. [An Introduction to New Testament Manuscripts and Their Texts](#). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

A relatively new introduction to textual criticism. We have access to the ebook.

## 6. Reading Assignments

Trobisch, David. “Structure and Intention of the Edition.” Pages 1-25 in [A User’s Guide to the Nestle-Aland 28 Greek New Testament](#). TCSSt 9. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2013.

Wallas, Daniel B. “The Present Tense.” Pages 219-31 in *The Basics of New Testament Syntax: An Intermediate Greek Grammar*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

## Appendix B: Course Policies

### **Items Relating to Fall Instruction, Learning, and Technology at LPTS**

1. To access the library and its resources, visit: <https://lpts.edu/library/>
2. To request a library laptop loan, contact [library@lpts.edu](mailto:library@lpts.edu)
3. For a summary of information related to accessing Outlook, Canvas, CAMS, and the Intranet, see: [Accessing LPTS Resources](#)
4. For general help with campus network access, Outlook (email), contact [support@lpts.edu](mailto:support@lpts.edu)
5. For information on Student Assistance Funds to help with costs associated with learning technology and access (\$300 maximum), contact Gina Kuzuoka at [gkuzuoka@lpts.edu](mailto:gkuzuoka@lpts.edu)
6. For help with Canvas credentials, contact Carolyn Cardwell at [ccardwell@lpts.edu](mailto:ccardwell@lpts.edu).

### **Use of Inclusive Language**

In accordance with seminary policy, in class discussions and in written and oral communication please use language representative of the whole human community in respect to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, and physical and intellectual capacities. Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy, but when referring to God please use a variety of images and metaphors, reflecting the richness of the Bible's images for God. More discussion about inclusive language can be accessed from the Academic Support Center and from the section of the LPTS web site on "Inclusive and Expansive Language" (available [here](#)).

### **Academic Honesty**

All work turned in to the professor is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others (including other students as well as online sources) must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Failure to credit sources (whether intentional or due to oversight) constitutes plagiarism, and may result in failure of the course. Two occurrences of plagiarism may result in dismissal from the Seminary. Students unfamiliar with issues related to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center. For more information, see the Policy for Academic Honesty in the Student Handbook.

### **Special Accommodations**

Students requiring accommodations for a documented physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center during the first two weeks of a semester (or before the semester begins) and should speak with the instructor as soon as possible to arrange appropriate adjustments.

### **Citation Policy**

Citations in your papers should follow Seminary standards, which are based on these guides:

American Psychological Association. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. 7th ed. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2020.

Turabian, Kate L., Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. 9th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018.

*The Chicago Manual of Style*. 17th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017. Copies of these guides are available at the library and in the Academic Support Center. See also the library's citation help center: <https://lpts.libguides.com/digitalresources/citingsources>.

**Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend all sessions, and roll will be taken. You should be ready to begin class at 8:30 a.m. To earn full credit for “attendance and participation,” you will need to demonstrate through your participation that you have done the work of preparation for the session. If your personal circumstances change, please reach out to me so that we can discuss any special arrangements that may be necessary to accommodate your situation.

**Policy on Late Papers and Exams, and on Incompletes**

Deadlines have been specified for all written work. These deadlines have been arranged so as to distribute the work through the semester in a manageable way—for you as a student and for us as the teachers. If you require an extension, contact me through Canvas in advance of the deadline to request one. Late submissions will be penalized as specified in the instructions for each assignment, and will not be accepted at all after the specified dates.

**Policy on Pass/Fail Option**

Students taking the course pass/fail must complete *all* assignments, and earn a score of 74 or above will be considered passing. Students auditing the course should complete all assignments.