

John 1:1–13 in Codex Vaticanus (4th cent.)

Instructor information:

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Tuesdays and Thursdays

1:30–3:00 PM

(Link at top of Moodle Page)



BI 502

Introduction to New Testament Greek

University of Dubuque
Theological Seminary

Spring 2023

Online

Course Description

This course introduces the grammar, vocabulary, and syntax of New Testament Greek. It provides students the linguistic tools and training to read and translate the New Testament in its original language so that they are better equipped to interpret and preach God's Word.



Course Outcomes and Curricular Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course will:

#1: Be able type in Greek unicode.

#2: Be able to translate passages of easy-to-moderate difficulty from the Greek New Testament.

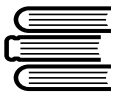
#3: Be able to sight read passages of easy difficulty from the Greek New Testament silently and aloud.

#4: Have memorized vocabulary of words occurring 50 or more times in the Greek New Testament.

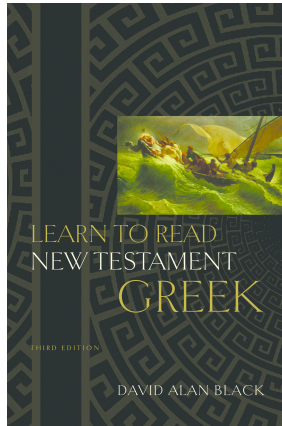
#5: Recognize and be able to parse different verbal and nominal forms of Greek words and thus understand the functions of the different Greek moods, voices, tenses, and cases.

This course supports the following curricular objectives:

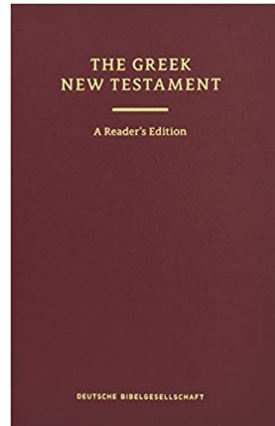
- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the church (MDiv)
- Interpret the Christian Scriptures through faithful exegesis and in light of the Christian tradition (MDiv)
- Preach the Word of God with faithfulness and clarity (MDiv)
- Articulate and reflect critically and constructively on the biblical and theological foundations of God's mission to the world (MAMD)
- Be able to identify and interpret key themes from the Christian scriptures (MACL)



Required “Texts”



David Alan Black, Learn to Read New Testament Greek, 3rd edition (B&H Academic, 2009) ISBN: 0805444939



UBS 5th Revised Greek New Testament Reader's Edition (German Bible Society, 2015)

BrainScape



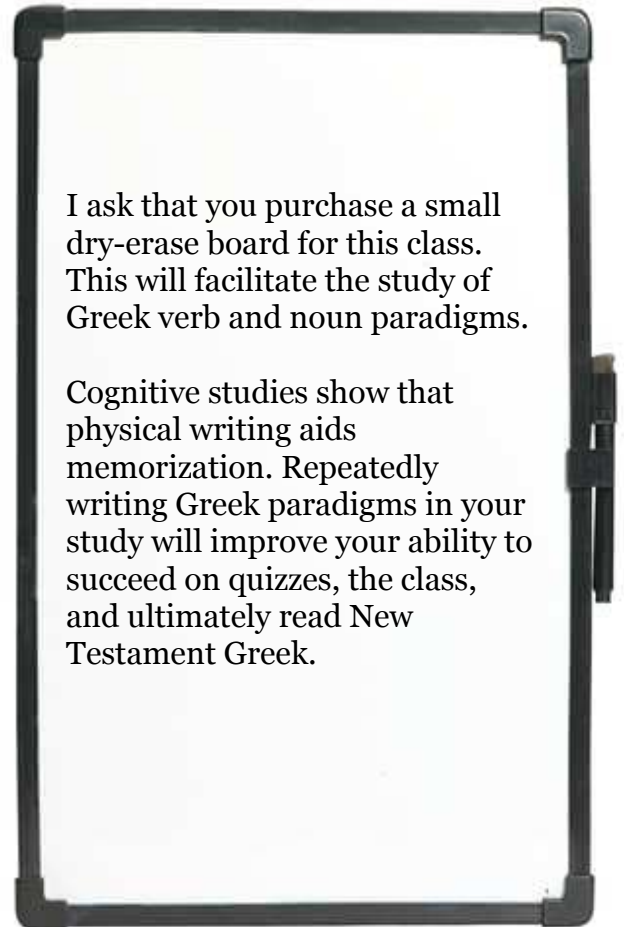
Dry-Erase Board

For this class I ask that you study vocabulary using BrainScape smart flashcards. BrainScape is a free program that has a web-based and mobile application. The link for our course's content is [available here](#). It might seem odd (and somewhat Draconian) that I require you to study in a specific way, but there are several reasons that I ask you to use this particular tool. First, it uses algorithms and cognitive brain science to maximize your study time. Information you know well shows up less often than information that you do not know well. If you use this tool regularly, you will know Greek vocabulary much better than if you do not. Second, it allows me to create flashcards for you. While there are many benefits to creating your own flashcards, having them created for you takes a cognitive and time load off. It also insures a level of “quality control” over the flashcards. Third, it allows me to track not only each student's learning progress, but the class's progress collectively. If there is an area that the entire class is struggling with, BrainScape makes that clear on the basis of analytics. Fourth, it is a tool that I hope will be helpful for you in other classes, as you can create your own decks with the software.

All said, BrainScape is a free tool that is ultimately meant to support your learning.

I ask that you purchase a small dry-erase board for this class. This will facilitate the study of Greek verb and noun paradigms.

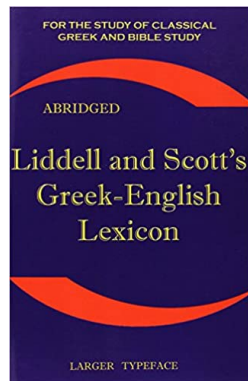
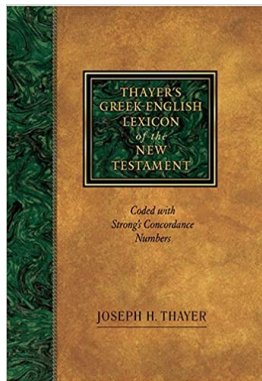
Cognitive studies show that physical writing aids memorization. Repeatedly writing Greek paradigms in your study will improve your ability to succeed on quizzes, the class, and ultimately read New Testament Greek.





Strongly Recommended Texts

Possessing the following texts will not be necessary to complete the requirements for this course. However, they will be helpful not only for the course, but especially for further study of Greek. Even if you do not intend to take subsequent Greek language courses, you will find these resources to be helpful in your personal study and ministry. They are some of the “essential” Greek resources that might be required in a second-semester or second-year Greek course.



A Short Greek Lexicon

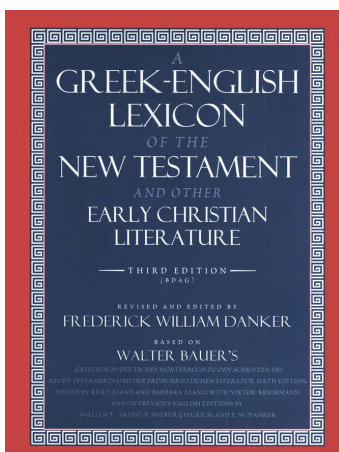
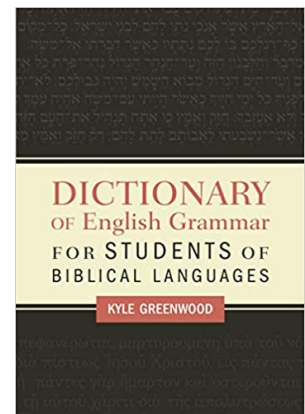
The reader's edition of the Greek New Testament required for this class contains a dictionary or “lexicon” at the back of it, but it is very abridged. Having a stand-alone lexicon is very helpful for translating. I recommend one of these two:

- *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*
[\\$24 on Amazon](#)
- *Liddell and Scott's Abridged Greek-English Lexicon*
[\\$28 on Amazon](#)

Kyle Greenwood, *Dictionary of English Grammar for Students of Biblical Languages* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2020).

One of the roadblocks to learning biblical languages is unfamiliarity with English grammatical terms and concepts. This handy little dictionary explains English, Greek, and Hebrew grammatical concepts in an easy-to-understand way.

[\\$19 on Amazon.](#)



Walter Bauer and Frederick W. Danker et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, 3d ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000).

Commonly referred to as BDAG, this is the best lexicon for New Testament Greek. The price is steep, but serious Greek students will need to own this eventually. It is one to keep an eye out for at used book stores.

[\\$135 on Amazon.](#)



Specifications Grading and Categories

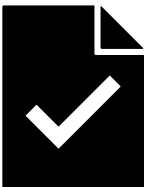
This class uses what is called specifications or "specs" grading. Final grades are **not** determined by the collective score of weighted items. Rather, they are determined by the number of grade items that you successfully complete. The rationale for using this grading system is that it removes much of the subjectivity of grading, restores rigor to academic work, and it is learning-outcome oriented.

There are three different categories of grade items in this class: **quizzes (grammar and vocabulary)**, **homework**, and **exams**.

Quizzes

There is the possibility to complete two quizzes most weeks of the semester. One quiz each week is a grammar/paradigm quiz and one is a vocabulary quiz. Vocabulary quizzes are cumulative, but focus on the material from the previous week. Grammar quizzes are not cumulative; they only cover material from the previous week.

To complete a quiz successfully, you must take it by Tuesday at 11:59 PM (CST), earn at least an 85% on it, and not utilize any outside resources. Quizzes can be retaken until an 85% is achieved, but the questions are randomized. That is, questions will not necessarily be exactly the same, nor will they be in the same order. Questions answered incorrectly will be indicated, but the answers to those questions will not be given.

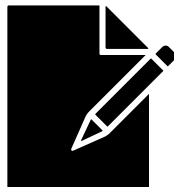


Homework

There is the possibility to complete two homework assignments each week of the semester. These will be submitted to a discussion forum and/or a dropbox (depending on the week).

These assignments are based on the exercises at the end each chapter in Black's grammar but have been amended by the professor. Often they require written engagement paired with audio or video engagement.

To complete a homework assignment successfully, you must submit it by 2:30 PM (CST) on Monday. In addition, you either need to attend a weekly Zoom meeting in which the assignments are discussed or submit a version of it that is self-corrected on the basis of the answer materials provided in Moodle.



Exams

There is the possibility to complete three exams in the course. The first and third exams are "translation exams." These require that you translate several Greek sentences and answer accompanying grammatical questions about them. Both translation exams are open-book, open-note, and untimed. To pass these exams, you must receive an 85% on them. These exams can be retaken until an 85% is achieved and feedback will be offered after each attempt.




The second exam is a cumulative vocabulary exam in the second half of the course. It covers all the vocabulary words covered to that point in the semester. It is closed-book, closed-note, and timed. This exam can be retaken until an 85% is achieved, but the questions are randomized. That is, questions will not necessarily be exactly the same, nor will they be in the same order.

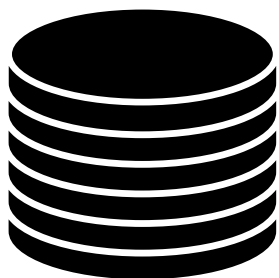




Final Grade Specifications Requirements

To earn a specific letter grade, you must complete the minimum number of items in each of the categories. The minimum number you complete in any category will ultimately determine your final grade. For example, if you completed the 24 homework assignments required for an “A” and the 3 exam requirements for an “A,” but only completed 23 quizzes, which is the minimum requirement for an “A-”, then your final grade would be an “A-” not an “A.”

Letter Grade	Quizzes (26 Total Items) 	Homework (26 Total Items) 	Exams (3 Total Items) 
A	24	24	3
A-	23	23	3
B+	22	22	3
B	21	21	3
“The B Guarantee”	If a student attempts every grade item in the class on time, even if they do not pass each item, they are guaranteed a “B” for the course.		
B-	20	20	2
C+	19	19	2
C	18	18	2
C-	17	17	2
D+	16	16	2
D	15	15	1
D-	14	14	1
F	0–13	0–13	0



Grace Tokens: Every student receives two “grace tokens” that can be used at any time during the course. These “grace tokens” can be redeemed for any of the following with no explanation needed:

- Credit for a quiz that was not completed or was not passed at 85%.
- Credit for a homework assignment that was not completed.



Course Schedule

Greek is difficult and therefore this class is also difficult. Learning any language requires a significant investment of time and mental energy. The good news is that if you put that time and energy into this class you will be able to read the New Testament in the language that it was first written by the end of the semester. Moreover, if you put in the time and energy that the course requires ***you can and will succeed!*** If you complete the required assignments on time and spend ~30 minutes a day reviewing flashcards, the class is structured so that **you will not fail it.**

That said, you should expect to devote significant time and energy to this class throughout your week. Learning a language happens best in small, daily chunks rather by cramming study sessions into one or two days per week. My policy for the course is that if you attempt every grade item (quizzes, assignments, exams) on time, even if you do not pass every grade item, you will earn a “B” for the class.

Recommended Weekly Schedule

Monday	Participate in Zoom Meeting or Correct Homework	1.5 hours
	Review Flashcards and Practice Paradigms on Dry-erase Board	30 minutes
	Take Vocabulary and Grammar Quizzes	30 minutes
Tuesday	Read First Chapter and Watch First Lecturette	1 hour
	Review Flashcards and Practice Paradigms on Dry-erase Board	30 minutes
Wednesday	Review Flashcards and Practice Paradigms on Dry-erase Board	30 minutes
	Complete First Homework Assignment	1.5 hours
Thursday	Review Flashcards and Practice Paradigms on Dry-erase Board	30 minutes
	Read Lesson and Watch Lecturette	1 hour
Friday/ Saturday	Review Flashcards and Practice Paradigms on Dry-erase Board	30 minutes
	Complete Second Homework Assignment	1.5 hours
		Total time per week: ~10 hours