BI 413. Introduction to Language Tools
Course Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This study consists of a non-technical approach to usage of Bible lexicons, concordances, atlases, and dictionaries which ordinarily are limited to “professional” language students. Interpretative studies of selected biblical texts highlight the study.

GOALS:
- Over-arching goal:
  - Individuals with the responsibility of Christian leadership need to understand the basic teaching of the Bible and have the skills through personal study and research to discover biblical answers to other questions and problems as they arise. BI 413 has the major goal of contributing to such ability and skill.

- Specific goals:
  - for the student to gain knowledge of a number of English “tools” (i.e., study aids) which will prove useful for a life-time study of the Bible in general and the New Testament in particular
  - to give the student a brief introduction to the Greek and Hebrew alphabets with the intent of making access to major concordances more meaningful
  - to give the student practice in searching out solutions to various problems relating to biblical interpretation by using the language tools that are available

MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:
- the ability to recite and write the Greek and Hebrew alphabets in proper sequence
- to demonstrate “hands-on” familiarity with most of the New Testament Greek study aids (in English) which are available today
- to use standard Greek lexicons, Bible dictionaries, concordances, Bible encyclopedias, etc., competently
- to use adequately those standard “tools” in the study of specific New Testament passages or exegetical problems

FORMAT:
- Lectures
- Workshop/laboratory approach

TEXTBOOKS: No textbook other than a Bible will be required for this course.
REQUIREMENTS AND COMPUTATION OF GRADE:

According to page 44 of the seminary catalog for 2010-2012, “In keeping with Christian character, students are expected to attend all class sessions of courses for which they are registered, participate in class discussions, attend chapel regularly, and avail themselves of other opportunities for academic and spiritual enrichment while they are on campus. Tardinesses or absences from class or chapel may result in a reduction of the final grade a student may receive in a particular course. A student who misses more than one-fourth of the classes for any course, without extenuating circumstances, as determined by the professor, will receive an automatic “F” for the course.

"Normally, for unexcused absence from a regularly appointed test, or examination, five points will be deducted from the class grade for the semester. Three tardinesses are equivalent to one absence. Student grades will be computed on the basis of attitude in class, class recitation, quizzes, and outside work."

Each student is expected to complete the following assignments:

1. Attend and participate in class discussion 10%
2. Analyze certain “problems” of interpretation, apparent contradictions between passages, etc., by using various language tools, and write up and present in class brief descriptions of the procedures followed and concise conclusions drawn on the basis of those procedures 40%
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew alphabets through quizzes 20%
4. Demonstrate adequate grasp of the language tools through two exams (mid-term exam October 13, Final exam December 8) 30%