Syllabus for *Greek Exegesis II: GRK (622) – Spring 2010*

A course offered at the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary

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**Course Description:**

The description of this course in the current BMATS catalog (p. 68, 2008-2010) is as follows: “The student’s exegetical and interpretive skills are further developed by the study of the principles of syntax and exegesis of historical or apostolic writings. Grammar and syntax are emphasized.” Not only will the entire book of James be translated, but the students will be working on a major exegetical paper taken from a passage of their choice in the book of James. The vocabulary emphasized will come from the text of James. Translation will be the foundation of the work done in this course, but exegetical interpretation and analysis will be a part of the course lectures for each passage in the book of James.

**Course Textbooks:**


4. The student should also bring a good literal English translation (KJV, NKJV, NASB).

5. The student would also benefit from a good analytical Greek lexicon.

**Course Objectives:**

*By the end of this course, the student should . . .*

1. possess a complete translation of the book of James.

2. have a firm grasp of the vocabulary James employed in his writing.
3. demonstrate skill in producing word studies that enhance one’s understanding of the text.

4. be able to perform sound exegetical work on a particular pericope in James and present one’s finding in clear, logical thinking through the writing of an exegetical paper.

5. be familiar with the necessary tools needed to exercise proper Greek exegesis.

6. demonstrate a greater ability in reading and translating the Greek text and how this can enhance one’s preaching and teaching.

7. have a greater appreciation for the book of James as the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God.

Course Requirements:

Reading

The student is required to read the commentary by Dan G. McCartney in its entirety. The student should read McCartney’s commentary according to the verses that will be discussed each day. The student will be asked on the final exam what percentage of the commentary has been read.

Translating

Over the course of this semester, the student will translate the entire book of James. The professor will provide a reproducible sheet that the student may use for each verse, or the student may develop his or her own system for translating the text. The translations may be handwritten or typed out on a personal computer. These translations should be compiled in a notebook that will be turned in at the time of the final exam.

Exegetical Paper

The student will choose a pericope from the book of James and prepare and write an exegetical paper. This paper should be a minimum of 20 pages in length, and a maximum of 25 pages. This paper should be written using the guide on how to write an exegetical paper included with this syllabus. This is a formal research paper that should be written in Turabian style. The paper should include a title page, contents page, body of paper (20 pages min.), and a selected bibliography of sources used. Types of sources should include journal articles, reference works (lexicons, word study books, linguistic tools, Bible dictionaries, etc.), technical commentaries. The internet may be used, but no more than 20% of the research should come from the internet. The paper is to be double-spaced, using Times New Roman, 12 pt. font.
Late Work: Any late work will be deducted 2 percentage points for every day it is late.

Course Examinations:

The student will be required to take a mid-term and a final exam. The final exam is not cumulative, but covers only the later half of the course.

Course Quizzes:

A total of ten quizzes will be given throughout the course of this semester. The words will come from the text of James, and the professor will submit a list of words to study for each quiz. See the course schedule for the dates of these quizzes. No quizzes will be dropped, but the student may retake his or her two lowest quiz grades. Quizzes must be taken as scheduled.

Course Grading:

The student may work toward 1,000 points for this course. The percentage points will not be rounded up. For example, if the student earns 907 points for the course, the percentage will be 90.7%, which is a “B.” The point values and percentages break down as follows:

- Mid-term 200 pts. (20%)
- Final exam 200 pts. (20%)
- Quizzes 200 pts. (20%)
- Exegetical paper 200 pts. (20%)
- Translation Notebook 100 pts. (10%)
- Reading 50 pts. (5%)
- Class attendance & participation 50 pts. (5%)

Class Attendance & Participation

The students are expected to be in class for each class session. Missing class will result in a reduction in one’s overall grade. Missing more than ¼ of class sessions (missing four or more class sessions constitutes more than one fourth) except for extenuating circumstances, can place the student at risk of failing the course. Students are allowed to use their personal computers in class for taking notes only, or for their translations. Using the internet during class is strictly prohibited unless allowed by the professor. A violation of this rule may result in the prohibition of using computers in class. The students are expected to pay attention in class and not doing any other work for other classes.

BMATS Grading Schedule:

- A 91-100%  
- B 81-90%  
- C 71-80%  
- D 61-70%  
- F below 61%  
- I Incomplete  
- WP Withdrawal while passing  
- WF Withdrawal while failing
Course Schedule:

Jan. 26: Introduction to course / discussion of exegetical paper / Intro. to James

Feb. 2: James 1:1-15 (McCartney)

Feb. 9: James 1:16-27 (McCartney) / Quiz 1

Feb. 16: James 2:1-13 (McCartney) / Quiz 2

Feb. 23: James 2:14-26 (McCartney) / Quiz 3

Mar. 2: James 3:1-5a (McCartney) / Quiz 4 / Brand Lectures (3:00 PM)

Mar. 9: James 3:5b-18 (McCartney) / Quiz 5

Mar. 16: MID-SEMESTER EXAM

Mar. 23: James 4:1-10 (McCartney)

Mar. 30: James 4:11-17 (McCartney) / Quiz 6

Apr. 6: James 5:1-6 (McCartney) / Quiz 7

Apr. 13: James 5:7-12 (McCartney) / Quiz 8

Apr. 20: SPRING BREAK / BMAA National Meeting, Fort Smith, AR

Apr. 27: James 5:13-20 (McCartney) / Quiz 9 / Exegetical Paper Due

May 4: Course wrap up / Quiz 10

May 11: Final Exam / Translation Notebook Due

* The professor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus and course schedule at his discretion.

* This course will meet on Tuesdays from 2-5 PM in the Cherokee Room
How To Do A Word Study

ANALYSIS

Step #1: Determine the word to be analyzed
- Typically these are theologically weighty main verbs in the text.
- Nouns may be studied in this way as well, but the main verbs tend to
carry the meaning of a text.

Step #2: Look up your word in A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and
Other Early Christian Literature (BAGD).
- Write out the outline of the article in BAGD pertaining to your word.
- Particularly take note of whether or not BAGD includes your verse in
any of the meanings it gives for your word.

Step #3: Look up your word in a concordance
- What you are looking for here is whether or not your author uses this
word in any other books or contexts.
- If your author does not use this word anywhere else, check to see if other
authors use this word and note the context.
- Sometimes the word you choose for study is used only that one time in
the text. If this is the case, see if BAGD alludes to non-biblical usage of
your word.

Step #4: Determine whether or not your word has multiple meanings.

Step #5: Look up your word in the New International Dictionary of New Testament
Theology (NIDNTT).
- This step will help to determine the broader context of your word.
- Your word will be part of a larger word group.
- Take note of the entire article on the word group.
- Pay careful attention to your particular word in the word group to see
whether NIDNTT gives a particular meaning for your word in its
context.

Step #6: Look up your word in the Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based
on Semantic Domains (2 volumes).
- List the domains given for your word.
- Determine particularly which domains include your verse in the
discussion.

Step #7: Determine whether your word is used with any special emotional or moral
connotation.

SYNTHESIS – Here you will summarize your analysis and offer a concluding decision on the
meaning you have selected for your word and why.
How to Prepare An Exegetical Paper

Step #1: Determine the context of your passage
- Every passage or pericope has three main contexts:
  1. Book Context
  2. Sectional Context
  3. Immediate Context
- What you are doing in this step is beginning with a broad look and narrowing it down to the context in question (what immediately surrounds your passage before and after).

Step #2: Check to see if your pericope possesses any variants.
- You will use the critical apparatus of your Greek New Testament.
- You are checking to see what variations there are amongst the Greek NT manuscripts.
- Another helpful source to use in deciphering the variants is Bruce Metzger’s A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament, 2nd ed.
- One job of the Bible interpreter is to decide which variant may be closest to the original text. One will weigh the manuscript evidence and make a decision based on one’s findings. It often comes down to a subjective choice.

Step #3: Examine the Syntax of your pericope.
- Here you will identify the words in your translation.
- You will also examine the prepositional phrases and begin a preliminary outline of the text.

Step #4: Verbal Analysis (word studies of significant words in the text)

Step #5: Literary Analysis
- Here the student wants to understand and identify the genre of his text (poetry? historical? narrative? epistle? apocalyptic?)
- This step will include an analysis of the historical and cultural setting of both the author and original recipients. This is valuable information in determining meaning of the text.

Step #6: Theological Analysis (analogy of Scripture – comparing Scripture with Scripture – What does the rest of the NT have to say about this?)

Step #7: Homiletical Analysis (making exegesis applicable)
- The job of the Bible interpreter and communicator is to move from technical examination to practical application.
- This is more than just a summary of the first six steps, but rather a synthesis and an answer to the question, “So what?”
Course Syllabus Contract

I have carefully read through the syllabus for this course. I fully comprehend what is expected of me as a student in this course.

I have duly noted the due dates on the course schedule and agree that I will turn in all assignments on time.

If I am late for any assignments, I understand that they will be deducted 2 percentage points for every day they are late.

I understand the 1,000 point grading scale for this course, and further understand that percentage points will not be rounded up.

I understand that attending class is vital to my seminary education, and that missing class may result in points deducted from my class attendance and participation grade. I further understand that three tardies is equal to one absence according to the BMATS catalog.

By affixing my signature below, I fully comply with the procedures for this course:

Date _______________ Signature ___________________________