Rationale: The acquisition of New Testament Greek to a reasonable level of proficiency demands, for most seminary students, an enormous investment of time and energy, not to mention financial sacrifice. Even after the initial acquisition of Greek, the subsequent maintenance of one’s language skills is similarly costly. In light of these and other difficulties, those committing themselves to full time ministry have often failed to see the value of developing and maintaining their original language skills, particularly at a level allowing them to do serious original language exegesis that they can utilize in their teaching and/or preaching. Questions that have come up include: Is the study of biblical Greek necessary for the contemporary minister? Doesn’t the abundance of critical commentaries and computer programs lessen or even invalidate the need for original language study? In the ministry, I’ll never have time to keep up my original language skills, so why should I devote so much attention to them now? I’ll probably never be a Greek scholar, so shouldn’t I invest my energies in other areas of study?

These and other similar questions are not unusual. However, many evangelical seminaries are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of emphasizing the original languages and in striving to aid their students in developing functional, competent, original language tools, and for good reason.

The importance of renewed emphasis on original language studies and exegesis is simple. In all matters of faith and practice the Word of God is the final authority. However, that authority must be correctly interpreted before it can be correctly applied. It is because knowledge of the original languages serves as a tremendous aid in the correct interpretation and application of God’s Word, as well as in the defense of the faith, that it is so important to a theological curriculum. A failure to be so committed to exegesis often results in theological error, for all theological error is simply the result of saying less than the Scriptures say, more than the Scriptures say, or other than the Scriptures say. If such a commitment to the primacy of rigorous biblical analysis over autonomous theologizing were valued by all ministers/theologians, many theological problems in the contemporary setting would be avoided. Such problems include the contemporary debate over open theism, integration of secular psychology into biblical counseling, philosophically driven theories of literary dependency in Gospel studies, and the impact of autonomous philosophy on apologetic methodology, and others. In short, the key differences between theological perspectives is: (1) how the text of God’s Word viewed, and (2) how the text of God’s Word is handled.
We see then that competency in biblical Greek is highly important for the man of God, for it aids both in the proper interpretation of Scripture positively, as well as in the avoidance of theological error negatively. At the end of the day, the primary motivation for the study of New Testament Greek is to facilitate a proper understanding and application of the Greek texts of God’s Word. For the man aspiring to the office of overseer, knowledge of the original languages is an invaluable tool, for he must take the greatest pains necessary to base his life, teaching, and ministry on the word of God accurately handled.

1. Course Description/Objectives

The course is specifically designed to:

- Build upon previous grammatical concepts to further the student’s knowledge of biblical Greek grammar. This will include an emphasis on the Greek verbal system.
- Introduce the student to the text of the Greek NT through the devotional study of a variety of Greek NT passages in addition to those in the homework assignments.
- Continue helping the student to build an entry-level Greek vocabulary utilizing both an inductive and deductive approach through the acquisition of terms covered in the NT as well as those in the vocabulary sections of the textbook.
- Show the student from the assignments the practical value of the study of the Greek NT for one’s devotional and ministerial life.
- Sharpen the student’s Greek reading ability so that he can read on sight the Greek of any biblical passage.
- Prepare the student for Greek exegetical methodology and equip him to begin using the abbreviated method in his Bible study and sermon preparation.

Generally it will aim to:

- Continue helping the student to have a better appreciation and deeper interest in the New Testament by providing opportunities to translate and read from the text of the NT, both in class and in homework assignments.
- Provide an atmosphere and opportunity in which the student may come to know God more deeply as a result of an increase in the study of His Word.
- Help the student grow in spiritual maturation and reinforce the importance of biblical studies for that growth.

2. Class Procedure

The goals of the class will be accomplished through lectures and class discussion, homework assignments, quizzes and exams as well as class devotion time.

1. Class Attendance

    Because of the nature of learning a language, it is important for all students to be as faithful as possible to attend all classes. As an incentive to be faithful in class attendance, students with no absences will have the two lowest quiz scores dropped. Students with only one absence will have one quiz score dropped. Those with more than two absences will have no quiz scores dropped. The seminary attendance policies as given in the seminary catalogue will be strictly adhered to in GRK522x.

2. Quizzes/Exams
Quizzes will be administered at the beginning of each class. The quizzes will focus on the homework and vocabulary due for the week unless stated otherwise. They will be graded together in class, will provide further opportunity for discussion, and will constitute 25% of the total grade for the session.

On week 7, a mid-term will be administered and on week 15, a final exam will be administered. The class period immediately prior to the exams will be utilized for in-class review, though the professor will give tips throughout the semester regarding the quizzes and exams.

NOTE: 1.) The student must have his Greek NT and textbooks present in all classes; 2.) Though the student must be familiar with the syllabus, HE MUST BE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO ALLOW FOR CHANGES MADE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PROFESSOR.

3. Class Assignments
Assignments will be given at the end of each class period and must be ready to be submitted by the beginning of class on the day they are due. Workbook exercises are graded on a pass/fail basis. Assignments completed satisfactorily will receive a check mark indicating credit. Those not completed or unsatisfactorily completed will be handed back to the student to complete and turn in the following class period. All assignments must be turned in to get credit for the course. Reading assignments will be graded based on percentage completed. The student will be asked to give account for the percentage of reading completed on the final exam (students are expected to read the entire textbook chapter that corresponds to the WB assignments).

3. Grading:
Quizzes = 25%, homework (workbook assignments, textbook reading) = 15%, mid-term = 25%, final exam = 25%, class participation = 10%.

Required:

- __________________. *Basics of Biblical Greek Workbook.*
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