

## NT101OL ELEMENTS OF GREEK GRAMMAR SYLLABUS

### I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of the basic morphology (form) and syntax (function) of New Testament Greek for students who have not had Greek or who need an extensive review in the elements of the language.

### II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

#### A. The Aim of the New Testament Studies Department

The purpose of this department is to equip you to do accurate exegetical work in the Greek NT so that you can expound and apply it effectively in your Christian ministry. The required courses help you to develop the skills necessary for this work in the following areas: New Testament introduction, Greek grammar and syntax, textual criticism, lexical and literary analysis, use of interpretive tools, exegetical problem-solving, and the movement from exegesis to theology and exposition. The elective courses allow you to advance your skills in these areas and in the exegesis of New Testament books.

#### B. The Purpose of This Course

In pursuing the departmental aim given above, the purpose of NT101-102 is to equip you with a detailed knowledge of the basic elements of New Testament Greek grammar as the necessary foundation for subsequent study in syntax and exegesis.

This course will focus on giving you: (1) a knowledge of the morphological patterns and grammatical structures that are most important in New Testament Greek, (2) a basic vocabulary of most frequently occurring words, (3) experience in translating simple Greek sentences, and (4) an acquaintance with basic grammatical and lexical reference works for New Testament Greek.

The emphasis throughout the course will be on features that occur frequently in the New Testament rather than on rare uses. Our aim is not to have you sight-read Greek or have a specialist's knowledge but to give you a working knowledge of Greek so you can use it readily and competently in your ministry.

Throughout the course simple sentences from the New Testament will be incorporated into the course assignments to give you experience in working with the New Testament itself.

To develop your ability to work with verb-forms in the New Testament, you will be expected to maintain your knowledge of the paradigms of the regular verb (those like the verb λύω) and assigned vocabulary in all of the subsequent required courses in this department.

### III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

#### A. Required

1. Aland, Kurt, et al. *Novum Testamentum Graece*. 28th edition, edited by Holger Strutwolf, et al. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2012. Abbreviated as NA28. Includes Greek-English dictionary by Barclay Newman. ISBN: 9783438051608. Other bindings are acceptable as long as it is NA28 text with dictionary.
2. William D. Mounce. *Basics of Biblical Greek*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.
3. William D. Mounce. *Basics of Biblical Greek: Workbook*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

**B. Suggested**

1. Bauer-Danker-Arndt-Gingrich. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd ed., 2000. [BDAG]
2. Warren C. Trenchard. *The Student's Complete Vocabulary Guide to the Greek New Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.
3. Samuel Lamerson. *English Grammar to Ace New Testament Greek*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.

A list of other important books on NT Greek will be distributed on a separate handout.

**IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS****A. Reading**

You will be expected to read and study chapters from the textbook by Mounce. Chapters 1–25 will be covered during this course. You should also read and study all class handouts. As you study through the chapters, you should take notes, underline significant points, outline the material, or organize it differently in your own words to help you understand and learn it better.

**B. Videos**

You are required to view all video lectures for a given module as indicated in the instructions. All of the video lectures have direct bearing on the written assignments and resulting interaction.

**C. Assignments**

1. You will be asked periodically to contribute to online discussions pertaining to class topics.
2. You will be expected to complete *Workbook* exercises and other assignments (written, typing, recitation) designed to give you practice in working with the language. You must complete the exercises without consulting other students unless given explicit instructions otherwise, but you can always consult the textbook, class handouts, and video lectures freely. Please read the instructions for each exercise carefully. There are multiple workbook exercises to complete.
3. Other activities will be assigned as determined by the professor. Please consult the course information page on [online.dts.edu](http://online.dts.edu) for specific requirements.

**D. Quizzes**

Various quizzes will be given covering the material assigned in each module. Memory work and basic grammatical concepts from the reading assignment, memory work assigned for previous sessions, and workbook translations are all included at various points. Each quiz will be allotted 45 minutes for completion. The purpose is to provide frequent opportunities for assessment and review. One of the missing or lowest quiz grades will be dropped from the final grade computation.

**E. Exams**

There will be three mid-course exams of 75 minutes each and a final exam of two hours. See the course schedule for the dates of these exams. The format of the exams and how to prepare for them will be discussed in the videos preceding them and by handout. No make-up exams are allowed except in cases of extenuating circumstances.

**F. Memorization**

You will be asked to memorize the Greek alphabet, the most important paradigms of Greek nouns, verbs, adjectives, and so forth, as well as the English meanings of a basic vocabulary list of Greek words (from Greek to English). A substantial amount of memorization will be required and *all memory work will be cumulative* (i.e., once it has been assigned, you are responsible for it throughout the course). It is essential for you to set up a systematic review program early in the course so that you can go over all the material periodically. It is also

essential to keep up with the memory work day by day; if you fall behind, it is very difficult to catch up. Helpful computer programs are available for a variety of platforms. You are encouraged to use them as much as you would like.

### G. Remedial Work

A working knowledge of English grammar and grammatical terminology is assumed in this course. If you are weak in these areas the text will help some but it is also recommended you read the material in Lamerson, *English Grammar to Ace New Testament Greek*, or consult some other work on English grammar available to you (e.g., an English grammar and composition book from a freshman college course). The GTA for your group and the professor are available to answer questions and provide assistance in learning the material.

## V. COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### A. Weight Given to Course Requirements for Grading

In computing the final grade, the professor will weigh the work of the course in the following proportions:

Textbook and Handout readings	2.5%
Video completion	2.5%
Assignments	15%
Quizzes	20%
Exams (3 of equal value)	45%
Final exam	15%

### B. Course Strategy

Since this is a language course on the graduate level, the responsibility for assimilating the material rests largely with you as the student. Lectures are designed for supplementary explanation, review, and evaluation, but they assume you have worked carefully on the material *before viewing them*. Please take personal responsibility to work diligently on the language.

### C. Late assignments

In the online course format which DTS has developed, students are given some latitude in when assignments can be completed. At the same time, the best learning will occur when assignments are completed in a timely manner. To help accomplish that end, the professor has established this important class policy: **Late assignments will not be accepted except under extenuating circumstances; any late assignments will automatically be assigned a grade of zero.** It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the professor in a timely manner when extenuating circumstances occur. Please note carefully the due dates for all assignments. They will not consistently be due on the same day of the week.

### D. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

The standard DTS grade scale is used for this class. Consult the Student Handbook for details.

## VI. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

### A. Computer Requirements

As this is a course with several online components, many strict computer requirements must be met. Please note the following specifications for your system and access:

1. Current Windows or Mac system
2. An up-to-date browser: Firefox, Chrome, Safari, IE, etc.
3. High speed internet connection, i.e., DSL, Cable modem, at least 300kpbs+
4. Current Version of Macromedia Flash Player

5. Most recent version of Adobe Acrobat Reader (free from Adobe.com)
6. MS Word, version 2003 or higher. Because of current font issues this is a strict requirement. OpenOffice and similar programs are not acceptable.
7. Certain assignments will be handwritten. Consequently, you must be able to create a pdf file from a handwritten document. This can be done with a scanner or a “fax to email” service which creates a pdf from a faxed document.

### **B. Assignment Preparation**

Language learning requires regular practice over time. It is expected that the average student will spend approximately eight to ten hours per week on NT101. (This is equivalent to what we tell students in the classroom: three to four hours for each 75 minute class. With two classes per week, that works out to eight to ten hours per week.) The work should be spaced out over several shorter segments rather than done in one long session the evening before assignments are due. It takes time to learn a language. Be consistent in review. You cannot cram for quizzes and exams and expect to retain Greek in the long run.

### **C. Assignment Submission**

This course requires multiple submissions of assignments throughout because it is the nature of language learning that regular assessment must be given for proper progress. As an online course, though, this presents some technical issues which the student must master early in the course. Essentially all students must be able to do the following tasks regularly:

- (1) Type in Word documents and online forms with proper Unicode Greek.
- (2) Prepare a pdf file from a handwritten document of two or more pages.
- (3) Record audio with your computer using the tools in the online system.

Some of the assignments will require a particular format, that is, they must be handwritten or in a Word document. Please note carefully the instructions for each assignment.

### **D. Practical Helps for Memorizing Forms**

1. Begin studying the material as soon as possible after it is assigned and pace yourself through it. Work on the memorization in several short sessions spread throughout the module. Putting the material on small flash cards or another format to be carried with you will enable you to review on short breaks during the day.
2. Carefully note and catalogue differences and similarities between forms. Always build from the familiar to the unfamiliar, since many endings occur on several different forms and do not require learning a completely new pattern.
3. Use a combination of sight, sound, and written exposure to help learn the material. In addition to looking carefully at the forms, sound out the paradigms repeatedly and write out the forms periodically as a self-test. You should pronounce Greek words consistently and write them neatly. If your pronunciation varies, it is more difficult to remember the words.
4. You should be careful to observe English derivatives from Greek words as an aid in learning vocabulary. Some students use other types of word associations in English (e.g., mnemonic devices) or associate the Greek word with a familiar Scripture verse in which it occurs.
5. It may be helpful to find a regular study-partner with whom you can go over course material. The mutual accountability and encouragement built into such a relationship will help you with more than the Greek language! But the bottom line in language learning is personal self-discipline day by day.

### **E. Some Benefits of Learning Greek**

1. It will enable you to use the Greek New Testament, the *primary* (original language) source for Christian doctrine and practice.

2. It will serve as an additional tool to enhance your ability to deal with the New Testament text correctly in your Christian ministry whether it is preaching, teaching, counseling, or writing.
3. It will enable you to interact effectively with a vast array of *secondary* literature related to the New Testament. Most of the best commentaries and study aids require a knowledge of Greek.
4. It will help you evaluate modern English translations with regard to their faithfulness to the original text and, at the same time, their readability in English. This process will make you more sensitive to the problems that face Bible translators.

**F. Early Registration for NT102**

Since NT101 and NT102 are contiguous courses, students are automatically registered for the same section of NT102 in the spring semester when they register for NT101 in the fall (e.g., if you are in NT101A in the fall you will be automatically registered for NT102A with the same professor in the spring). Any student who wishes to change to a different section for NT102 in the spring will automatically forfeit his/her priority standing in the NT102 section for which he/she is registered, and will be enrolled in NT102 on a space available, first-come first-served basis.

**G. Disability Notice**

DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

**VII. COURSE LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE**

“Putting time and effort into Greek language study is like putting money in the bank. As your capital increases, so does the interest.”

**Please consult the course information page for detailed information.**