



AMBROSE
SEMINARY

FACULTY OF
THEOLOGY

BL 521-1 *The Language of the New Testament* (3)

Fall 2013

Instructor: R. R. Remin

Contacting the Instructor

Office: L2081

Class Times: W, F 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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Class Location: A2133

Course Description

This first course in New Testament Greek is designed to give students the knowledge of NT Greek that will enable them to proceed directly to courses in NT exegesis or to courses in NT Greek in which the aim is the intensive and extensive reading of texts. The emphasis falls on teaching Greek by demonstrating the similarities and differences between Greek and English grammar. Grammar is the system of formal structural devices or “rules” which a language uses to indicate the relationships between words and arrangements of words, and their intended meaning. The student will study the grammar usually covered in a traditional first two semesters of Greek but without the rote memorization of vocabulary and forms. The grammatical structures are taught from “real” NT Greek as much as possible.

Student Outcomes

1. The student will learn the basic grammatical structures of the Greek nouns and adjectives (case, number, gender), verbs (tenses, voices, moods) and how they are different and sometimes similar to English structures.
2. The student will learn how to use the most recent edition of the NT Greek-English lexicon.
3. The student will begin to learn how to be a reflective practitioner of sound exegesis of the New Testament in the context of the community of faith.
4. The student will evaluate the best of the variety of reference works which are available for exegetical study of the Greek NT. The student will investigate relevant software.
5. The goal is to teach students to use biblical language(s) in the way scholars use these languages.
6. A note on the methodology and values adopted in the teaching of this course.

- a. The instructor recognizes and tries to maintain a sensitivity to the fact that more mature adult learners may have a different learning style than undergraduates and that individual students have different learning styles. And so, for example, examinations have two parts – an open book take home and a closed book section written in confinement.
- b. Patience and repetition are by-words in this course.
- c. The emphasis falls on learning and understanding as opposed to rote memorization; on recognition as opposed to the ability to reproduce information and data. The ability to reproduce tables and charts does not guarantee that learning and understanding have been achieved.
- d. The focus is on learning to read and understand as opposed to writing which is a very different skill.
- e. The instructor is aware that fear (in moderation) may be a motivator to learning but fear in immoderate degrees prevents learning, and will try to set an atmosphere accordingly.
- f. The instructor assumes that all students have forgotten all of the grammar they had ever been taught and will teach accordingly. The instructor is not as cynical on this point as the author of your text who states that this is a polite way of saying that students weren't taught any.
- g. Students are encouraged to work together in learning groups.
- h. To these ends the instructor has adopted certain rules for the class.

The Rules For The Class

Have fun!

Make mistakes!

Ask dumb questions!

Cheat! (Except on the tests and the final.)

Consider this classroom a safe zone!

 There are no dumb questions!

 There are no topics which are off limit.

Required Texts

Eugene Van Ness Goetchius. *The Language of the New Testament* (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1965).

Eugene Van Ness Goetchius. *Workbook, The Language of the New Testament* (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1965).

Danker, Frederick William. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (3rd ed., revised and edited by F.W. Danker, University of Chicago Press, 2000).¹

Note: You now need to know the Hebrew alphabet in order to count in the subsections.

Note 2: As with all the best books, the colour of this edition is burgundy. First English edition was blue; the second was green.

Note 3: You may use the second edition (green) if you have one available to you.

Course Schedule

This course meets on Wednesdays and Fridays from 11:15 to 12:30 p.m. in one of the class rooms of the Ambrose.

Special dates to remember are:

Sunday, September 15, is the last day to withdraw from this course without financial penalty. Do not try to withdraw on Monday!

September 25	No class -- Spiritual Emphasis Day
November 6	Two Part Test
November 20	Reference Works Assignment Due
December 6	Last Class in this course
December 19 (Thursday), 1:30 p.m.	Final Examination
December 19	Last Day of Semester

For other important dates see the Academic Calendar or “Important Information” section below in this syllabus.

Course Requirements

In order to successfully complete this course each student will complete the following.

1. Attend all scheduled sessions of this course. Students will not receive marks for attendance but absences will result in deductions from their final grade.

Each class builds on the previous and so missing a class leaves the student at a disadvantage and questions raised because of an absence inconvenience the rest of the class. Moreover the purpose of this course is not to facilitate “an information dump” from the textbook. Learning language requires repetition, hearing, and

¹ Previous edition was Bauer, W., Gingrich, F., and Danker, F. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (2nd Eng. ed. revised and augmented by F.W. Gingrich and F.W. Danker incorporating the additions and corrections of the 5th German ed., Chicago, 1979).

learning from other students, all of which cannot be done in isolation. Moreover Greek exegesis is a skill and an art both of which improve as a result of the interaction in class between instructor and students and between students. It is in the class that students learn the methodology and catch the passion for the task at hand.

2. Read each lesson from the textbook in advance and complete the assignments as directed from the work book. An answer key will be provided so that class time may be spent on examining difficulties as opposed to marking.
3. Read entries in the NT Greek-English lexicon as directed so as to learn how to read the lexicon.
4. Write the mid-term test as directed. This is a scheduled two part test (closed book in class and open book take-home). A study guide will be provided.
5. Write the final examination as directed. This is a two part final examination (closed book in class and open book take home). A study guide will be provided.
6. Complete a review of the standard reference works for the Greek of the NT by following one word (concept) through these books. Details will be provided.
7. Investigate software options to assist their study of the Greek and Hebrew Testaments. (There is no software package for just one of these languages.) Which program is immaterial. Invest in one is essential. Try out these websites for the best programs. The programs will be discussed in class. But as you investigate ask these simple questions.
 - Which Greek and Hebrew texts are included in the program?
 - Which translations are included – *LXX, Vulgate, RSV, NRSV, NIV, NASB, etc.*?
 - What can be added to this platform? *BDB, Word Biblical Commentary, Bauer-Ardnt-Gingrich, TDNW, Van Gemeren*?
 - All of these programs have “tagged text.” All of them do concordance type searches. But do they have GRAMCORD? What’s GRAMCORD?
 - Do they have a simple mouse click or macro to link to commentaries and lexicons which come with the software package or can be added to the platform?

Here are the three most commonly used programs. All three provide on line demos.

Bibloi 8.0 -- <http://www.silvermnt.com/bibloi.htm> This is the one used in class.

Logos Bible Software -- <http://www.logos.com/> Special rates? Many variations.

Accordance Bible Soft. -- <http://www.accordancebible.com/> MAC platform,

- Footnotes and bibliography must be consistent and in an acceptable format which identifies who wrote what, when and where it was published.
 - One (and only one) staple in the upper left corner. Do not use plastic covers, rings, binders, etc. Think “Adam’s ale!”
3. You may **contact your professor** by various means.
- a. Office Hours. These Office Hours on campus are subject to meetings called by higher authorities (president, dean, registrar), previously scheduled meetings with other students, the instructor’s health (doctors’ appointments, medical emergencies), snow storms, ice storms, highway closures, automobile failure, and/or “the crick didn’t rise.” Book an appointment via email to ensure that I’m here, that you will receive notification of cancelation or you will not be preempted by another appointment (the above notwithstanding) .
 - i. Monday Afternoons
 - ii. Tuesday Not on campus. By appointment only
 - iii. Wednesday Before class; after lunch.
 - iv. Thursday After chapel after my morning block class.
 - v. Friday Before class; after lunch.
 - b. Email in the office: rremin@ambrose.edu
 - c. Voice in the office: 410-2000 ext 7906
4. **Absences** are intolerable because of the nature of the subject being learned and the manner in which this course is taught, namely the inductive method. If you must miss a class please work through the lesson(s) missed and then come to the instructor with any problems or questions. In the event you cannot be prepared, you are better being in class unprepared than not in class at all. Too many absences will affect your final grade (either by examination or adjustment by the instructor.)
5. **Classroom Etiquette.** The following activities are considered poor classroom etiquette:
- Coming in late,
 - Talking while someone else is talking,
 - Disruptive behavior,
 - Consumption of meals as opposed to minor snacks,
(Definition. If a knife, fork, spoon or sticks are required it’s a meal!)
 - Consumption of snacks in a noisy, smelly and/or disruptive manner,
 - Personal grooming,
 - Use of electronic devices such as cell phones, *i-pods, etc.*,
 - Use of laptops for purposes (*e.g.* watching videos, playing solitaire) not directly connected to the class, and
 - The practice of any behaviours considered impolite in adult company or in contravention of the laws of Alberta, specifically those prohibited while driving a motor vehicle.

Depending on the degree and/or frequency of the breach(es) of etiquette, the professor may display his displeasure in any one or more of the following manners:

- Frown, scowl, rolling eye balls (his not yours),
- Utterance of sounds of disgust,
- Sarcastic comments,
- Utterance of specific prohibitions,
- Dismissal of a student from the class,
- Ending the class prematurely, or
- In extreme cases the professor's immediate departure from the classroom.

In extreme cases, in cases where the professor determines that a student's behaviour, attitude or consumables are affecting other student's negatively, the offensive individual and "theirs" will be summarily dismissed from the classroom for a "time out" the length of which will be determined unilaterally by the professor.

6. **Grades for the course.** The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	
A	Excellent
A-	
B+	
B	Good
B-	
C+	
C	Satisfactory
C-	
D+	
D	Minimal Pass
F	Failure

Please note that final grades will be available on your student portal. Printed grade sheets are no longer mailed out.

An **appeal for change of grade** on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar in writing within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

7. **Examinations.** Final examinations are held during a scheduled time period at the end of the semester for regular semester classes and are scheduled by the Registrar. Please indicate if this course will have a final examination.

Please note: Students may request revised final exams if they have three exams in one 24-hour period or two exams at the same time. Final exam schedule revision request forms are available at the Registrar's Office and must be handed in by Monday, October 28, 2013 (Fall semester). If you do not have your request in by this date, all exams within a 24-hour period will have to be written as scheduled. If you have two exams at the same time, you will be given four hours to write both exams.

Graded final examinations will be available for supervised review at the request of the student. Please contact your instructor.

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A+	
A	Excellent
A-	
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B-	
C+	
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D+	
D	Minimal Pass
F	Failure

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9. **Some more very important dates.**

The **last day to enter** a course without permission and /or **voluntary withdrawal** from a course without financial penalty (**drop**) – **Sunday, September 15, 2013** (Fall semester). These courses will not appear on the student's transcript.

*Students may change the designation of any class from credit to audit, or drop out of the "audit" up to the "drop" date indicated above. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees. Please note that this is a **new policy**, beginning in the 2010-2011 academic year.*

Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. The last day to **voluntarily withdraw from a course without academic penalty (*withdraw*) – Monday, November 12, 2013** (Fall semester). A grade of “W” will appear on the student’s transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

10. It is **the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar**. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.
11. **Extensions and Alternative Examination Dates.** Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period **unless they have received permission for a “Course Extension” from the Registrar’s Office**. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office by the appropriate deadline (as listed in the Academic Calendar which is available on line through www.ambrose.edu). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.” The deadline this semester is **November 25**.
12. **Plagiarism and Cheating.** We at Ambrose are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College and Ambrose Seminary as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else’s ideas, words, or work as one’s own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person’s ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current *Academic Calendar* and the *Student Handbook* that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student’s permanent record.
13. Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.