

Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary
Biblical Language Tools (BI 610)
Syllabus—Directed Study
(3 units)

Summer 2006
Monday to Friday
June 19-30, 2006
8:30 – 11:30 a.m. ¹

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce the student to the original languages of the Bible with English as the language of comparison and contrast. The course is designed for the nonspecialist who would like to get maximum benefit from Hebrew and Greek language tools for the study of the biblical text. The goal is to illuminate the characteristics and distinctive features of each language in order to help the student evaluate the commentaries, engage in more sophisticated linguistic and semantic analysis, and use Bible computer programs and printed research aids to fuller advantage.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- A. Acquaint the student with the basic linguistic and literary features of Greek and Hebrew, as well as the exegetical tools that use the original languages.
- B. Acquaint the student with the basic aspects of discourse analysis.
- C. Acquaint the student with the distinctive semantic and syntactic features of the biblical languages and their significance.
- D. Acquaint the student with the major tools used and the resources available in the field of biblical studies.

III. RELATED DEGREE OBJECTIVES

This course will address the following curriculum objectives:

- Assumptions and principles of biblical interpretation.
- Ability to distinguish between primary and derivative teachings of Scripture.
- Knowledge of historical, political, intellectual, social, economic, and religious world of the biblical texts.
- General knowledge of the Bible.
- Commitment to inspiration and authority of the Bible.
- Personal application of the biblical texts.
- Biblical exegesis.
- Biblical theology.
- Ability to use the biblical texts in a relevant fashion in the Church and society.

¹ As this course is offered as a directed study, the frequency of meeting times will be determined during the first class.

IV. TEXT FOR THE COURSE

Mounce, William D. *Greek for the Rest of Us. Mastering Bible Study without Mastering Biblical Languages*. Zondervan, 2003. (289 p.)
ISBN: 0310234859

Recommended Texts

Black, David A. *Using New Testament Greek in Ministry: A Practical Guide for Students and Pastors*. 1993.

Bullinger, E. W. *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible*. Baker, 1968 (1898).

Cotterell, Peter and Max Turner. *Linguistics & Biblical Interpretation*. InterVarsity Press, 1989.

Osborne, Grant. *Hermeneutical Spiral*. InterVarsity, 1997.

Mounce, William D. *NIV English-Greek New Testament*. Zondervan, 2000 (1536 p.)

_____. *Interlinear for the Rest of Us : The Reverse Interlinear for New Testament Word Studies* (Zondervan, 2006). 928 p.

V. Course Assignments

A. Reading (800 p.)

Because of the very practical/skill-development orientation of this course, the reading will be kept to a minimum. The students will be required to read carefully the textbook by Mounce, *Greek for the Rest of Us* (289 p.) and to consult relevant works on hermeneutics and commentaries, as needed, both to complete the exercises and the final paper and to supplement the information provided in textbook and the lectures (500 p.).

Students will be required to provide a brief report to confirm fulfillment of this requirement.

B. Class Assignments

Students will be required to complete a series of short assignments during the course. An outline will be provided on the first day of class. These will include assignments on Greek alphabet/word recognition, parts of speech, diagramming, and word studies (OT and NT).

C. Quiz

Students will be required to demonstrate their ability to “read” Greek by means of a quiz to be completed on the second day of class.

D. Class Participation

Because of the practical and skill development character of this course, students are expected to attend every class and to participate actively in class discussions.

E. Research Paper

Students will be required to write a research paper which will integrate the information received and the skills developed throughout the course. A detailed guide will be distributed in class.

Due Date: August 14, 2006

VI. Course Outline

Please, note that, while the course outline will generally follow the plan proposed in Mounce, *Greek for the Rest of Us*, there will be some variations between the course and the textbook.

A. Class 1: Monday, June 19: Opening and “Reading” Greek.

1. “Reading” Greek
2. Introduction to chapters 1-3

3. Assignment #1 (p. 16)
4. Preparation Assignment: Read chapter 4

B. Class 2: Tuesday, June 20: Translations and Computer Programs

1. Quiz on Greek alphabet.
2. Discussion of chapter 4 (What are translations?)
3. Using Computer programs or the interlinear.
4. Preparation Assignment: Read chapters 5-7, 9-13

C. Class 3: Wednesday, June 21: Parts of Speech

1. Discussion of chapters 5-7, 9-13
2. Parts of Speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions)
3. Assignment #2 on 5-13: Recognizing parts of speech.
4. Preparation Assignment: Read Chapter 8.

D. Class 4: Thursday, June 22: Outlining and diagramming

1. Discussion of Assignment #2
2. Discussion of chapter 8
3. Assignment #3: Outlining and Diagramming a text.
4. Preparation Assignment: Read chapters 14-18

E. Class 5: Friday, June 23: Verbs Part I

1. Discussion of Assignment #3
2. Discussion of chapters 14-18
3. Preparation Assignment: Read chapters 20-23

F. Class 6: Monday, June 26: Verbs Part II

1. Discussion of chapters 20-23
2. Assignment #4: Interpreting Verbs
3. Preparation Assignment: Read chapters 19, 25-28, 24

G. Class 7: Tuesday, June 27: Word Studies Part I

1. Discussion of Assignment #4
2. Discussion of chapter 19
3. Discussion of chapters 25-28
4. Discussion of chapter 24: Word Studies

H. Class 8: Wednesday, June 28: Word Studies Part II

1. Word Studies: Theory
 - a. Word studies in the New Testament
 - b. Word studies in the Old Testament
2. Class Exercises
3. Assignment #5: New Testament Word Study

I. Class 9: Thursday, June 29: Word Studies Part III

1. Discussion of assignment #5
2. Class Exercises
3. Assignment #6: Old Testament Word Study

J. Class 10: Friday, June 30: Conclusion

1. Discussion of assignment #6
2. Conclusion

VII. COURSE GRADING

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|---------------------------------|----|
| 1. Reading: | 5 |
| 2. Participation and Attendance | 10 |
| 3. Assignments | 40 |
| Assignment #1 (5) | |
| Assignment #2 (5) | |

Assignment #3 (10)	
Assignment #4: Word Study (10)	
Assignment #5: Word Study (10)	
4. Quiz: "Reading" Greek	10
5. Integrative Exegetical Paper	35
Total:	100

VIII. ACADEMIC POLICIES

Policies regarding academic integrity, plagiarism, extensions, the use of inclusive language and other matters are at <http://www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies/>. Students are expected to be familiar with these policies and to follow them.

IX. SELECT COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY (

1. Bibliographies.

Old Testament

Eissfeldt, Otto. *The Old Testament. An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1966 (1964).

Elenchus Bibliographicus Biblicus. Rome: Biblical Institute Press, 1920 .

Glanzman, G. S. and J. A. Fitzmyer. *An Introductory Bibliography for the Study of Scripture*. Westminster: Newman Press, 1961.

Lasor, W. S.; D. A. Hubbard and W. B. Frederick. *Old Testament Survey*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1982.

Old Testament Abstracts. Washington, 1978- .

New Testament

Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. 3rd ed. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1970.

Kümmel, W. G. *Introduction to the New Testament*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1975 (1973).

New Testament Abstracts. Cambridge, 1956- .

2. The Hebrew and Greek Texts

Old Testament

Abbatiae Pontificiae Sancti Hieronymi in Urbe. *Biblia Sacra iuxta latinam vulgatam versionem ad codicum fidem*. Rome: Vatican Polyglot Press, 1926- .

Kittel, R., ed. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche bibelstiftung, 1976-1977.

Rahlfs, A. ed. *Septuaginta*. 2 vols. 8th ed. Stuttgart: Württembergische Bibelanstalt, 1965.

Würthwein, Ernst. *The Text of the Old Testament*. Tr. by E. F. Rhodes. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1979.

New Testament

Aland, Barbara, et al. *The Greek New Testament*. 4th ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft; London: United Bible Societies, 1993.

Farmer, W. R. *Synopticon. The Verbal Agreement between Greek Texts of Matthew, Mark and Luke contextually exhibited*. Cambridge: University Press, 1969.

Metzger, B. M. *The Text of the New Testament. Its Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1968.

3. Grammars and Helps

Old Testament

Davidson, B. *Hebrew Syntax*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1973.

_____. *The Analytical Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon*. London: Samuel Bagster, new printing 1970.

Gesenius, W. Kautzsch, E. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*. 28th ed. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1909.

Jouön, P. *Grammaire de l'hébreu biblique*. Rome: Institut biblique Pontifical, 1923.

New Testament

Berry, George Ricker. *The Interlinear Literal Translation of the Greek New Testament (With the Authorized Version)*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1958.

Blass, F. and A. Debrunner. *A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Chicago: University Press, 1961.

Metzger, Bruce M. *Lexical Aids for Students of New Testament Greek*. Princeton, New Jersey: Theological Book Agency, 1975.

Guillemette, Pierre. *The Greek New Testament Analyzed*. Kitchener, Ontario: Herald Press, 1986.

Kubo, Sakae. *A Reader's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and A Beginner's Guide for the Translation of New Testament Greek*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1975.

Marshall, Alfred. *The NRSV-NIV Parallel New Testament in Greek and English (With Interlinear Translation by A. Marshall)*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.

Rienecker, Fritz. *A Linguistic Key to the Greek New Testament*. Tr. and ed. by Clon L. Rogers, Jr. 2 vols. Grand Rapids, Mich.: 1976-1980.

Robertson, A. T. *A Grammar of the Greek New Testament in the Light of Historical Research*. New York: Hodder and Stoughton, 1947 (1914).

Robertson, A. T. and W. Hersey Davis. *A New Short Grammar of the Greek Testament*. 10th ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 1977 (1931).

4. Dictionaries

Old Testament

Baumgartner, W. *Hebräisches und aramäisches Lexikon zum Alten Testament*. Leiden: Brill, 1967, 1974.

Brown, F.; Driver, S. R. and C. A. Briggs. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1907.

Koehler, L. Baumgartner, W. *Lexicon in Veteris Testamenti libros*. Leiden: Brill, 1958.

New Testament

Arndt, W. F. and F. W. Gingrich. *A Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 2nd ed. 1979.

Thayer, J. H., tr. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan: 1976.

5. Theological Dictionaries

Botterweck, H. J. and H. Ringgren. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: 1974.

Brown, C., ed. *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*. 3 vols. Exeter: Paternoster Press, 1975, 1976, 1977.

The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible. 5 vols. Nashville: Abingdon, 1962, 1976.

Kittel, G., ed. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1964-1974.

Moises, Silva. *Biblical Words and their Meanings*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1975-1976.
Supplément au dictionnaire de la Bible. Paris: Letouzey et Ané, 1928 .

6. Concordances

Old Testament

Wigram, G. V. *The Englishman's Hebrew and Chaldee Concordance of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 1980.

New Testament

Wigram, G. V. *The Englishman's Greek Concordance of the New Testament*. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman Press, 1979.

7. Background

Old Testament

Albertz, R. *The History of Israelite Religion in the Old Testament Period*. 2 vols. Louisville, 1994 (prob. the best treatment of the history of Israel now available).
 Aharoni, M. *The Archaeology of the Land of Israel*. Tr. by A. Rainey. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1982.
 Albright, W. F. *Archaeology and the Religion of Israel*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 1942.
 Couturier, Guy. "L'archéologie de la Palestine: ses progrès et ses rapports à l'exégèse biblique." In *Recueil de travaux de l'Association des études du Proche-Orient ancien*. Vol. 4. Montréal: L'Association des études du Proche-Orient ancien, 1995.
 Frankfort, H. A.; Wilson, J. A. and Jacobsen, T. *The Intellectual Adventure of the Ancient Men*. Chicago, 1946.
 Kitchen, K. A. *The Ancient Orient and the Old Testament*. Chicago: Inter-Varsity Press, 1966.
 Kramer, Samuel N. *History Begins at Sumer*. London: Thomas & Hudson, 1958.
 Labat, R., ed. *Les religions du Proche-Orient asiatique. Textes babyloniens, ougaritiques et hittites*. Paris: Fayard/Denoël, 1970.
 Livingston, George H. *The Pentateuch in its Cultural Environment*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker, 1987 (1974).
 Oppenheim, L. *Ancient Mesopotamia*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1964.
 Pritchard, J. B., éd. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*. 3e éd. Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1958.
 Vaux, R. de. *Bible et Orient*. Paris: Cerf, 1967.
 _____ . *Histoire ancienne d'Israël*. 2 vols. Paris: Lecoffre, 1971-1973.
 _____ . *Les institutions de l'Ancien Testament*. 2 vols. Paris: Cerf, 1958.
 _____ . *The Bible and the Ancient Near East*. London: Darton, Longman, and Todd, 1972.
 _____ . *The Early History of Israel*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1978.
 Wiseman, D. J. *Peoples of Old Testament Times*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1973.

New Testament

Barrett, C. K. *The New Testament Background: Selected Documents*. New York: Harper and Row, 1961.
 George, A. and P. Grelot. *Introduction à la Bible Tome III. Introduction critique au Nouveau Testament. Vol. 1. Au seuil de l'ère chrétienne*. Tournai: Desclée, 1976.
 Lohse, E. *Le milieu du Nouveau Testament*. Paris: Cerf, 1973.

Reicke, B. *The new Testament Era: The World of the Bible from 500 B. C. to A. D. 100*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1968.

8. Commentaries

Commentaries range highly in terms of style or level of technicality. They can generally be classified as exegetical, theological, popular, and devotional. There are commentaries in series, single commentaries on individual books, or one-volume commentaries on the entire Bible. We have listed a few representative examples.

The Anchor Bible

Believers Church Bible Commentary

Hermeneia

The International Commentary on the Old Testament

Interpretation,

Keil and Delitzsch,

The Old Testament Library,

Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries

Word Biblical Commentary

Brown, R. E.; Fitzmyer, J. A. and Roland E. Murphy. *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*. 1990.

9. Methodology

Baker, David W. and Bill T. Arnold, eds. *The Face of Old Testament Studies. A Survey of Contemporary Approaches*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 1999 (CMU BS1193.F33)

Barthes, R., et al. *Structural Analysis and Biblical Exegesis*. Tr. by Alfred M. Johnson. Pittsburgh Theological Monograph Series. Vol. 3. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: The Pickwick Press, 1974 (FPC BS531.a513).

Caird, G. B. *Language and Imagery of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1980.

Carson, Donald A. *Exegetical Fallacies*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1984.

Coats, George W., ed. *Saga, Legend, Tale, Novella, Fable. Narrative Forms in Old Testament Literature*. JSOT Sup. Vol. 35. Sheffield, England: The University of Sheffield, 1985 (FPC BS1171.2.s35).

Green, Joel B. *Hearing the New Testament: Strategies for Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans; Carlisle: Paternoster, 1995.

Habel, Norman. *Literary Criticism of the Old Testament*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1971 (FPU BS 1225.2 .H3)

Klein, William W.; Blomberg, Craig L. and Robert L. Hubbard, Jr. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Dallas: Word, 1993.

Macky, Peter W. *The Centrality of Metaphors to Biblical Thought: A Method for Interpreting the Bible*. Lewiston, N. Y.: Edwin Mellen Press, 1990.

Rast, Walter E. *Tradition History and the Old Testament*. Philadelphia, Pa.: Fortress Press, 1972 (FPC BS1171.2.R34).

Ryken, Leland. *Words of Delight: A Literary Introduction to the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987.

Sandy, D. Brent and Ronald L. Giese, Jr. *Cracking Old Testament Codes: A Guide to Interpreting the Literary Genres of the Old Testament*. Nashville: Broadman, 1995.

Steck, Odil H. *Old Testament Exegesis: A guide to the Methodology*. Tr. by James D. Nogalski. SBL Resources for Biblical Study. Vol. 33. Atlanta, Georgia: Scholars Press, 1995 (FPC BS1174.2.B3713).

Tucker, Gene M. *Form Criticism of the Old Testament*.