

BIBL500 Biblical Language Tools for Exegesis

Ms. Kat Goheen, jkgoheen@shaw.ca

Mr. Casey Toews, Casey.Toews@twu.ca

This course is designed to introduce Biblical Hebrew and Koiné Greek (NT) for students who have no background in biblical languages and who will need language tools to accomplish exegesis. The course includes a basic introduction to each language, emphasizing understanding the basic elements of a sentence to be able to analyze how a sentence creates meaning. The use of language resources and tools will be covered so that a student will be able to use these tools in doing exegesis in both languages. Six weeks of classes will be spent on each language, culminating in an open book exam for each language. A demonstration of Bible software will be included.

Competencies

In successfully completing this course, a student will have the following competencies in both Biblical Hebrew and Koiné Greek:

- Show an intermediate level ability to access and use appropriate resources and tools for analyzing the translation of a passage
 - Dictionaries
 - Interlinear translations
- Identify the constitutive elements of a simple sentence
 - Know the alphabet
 - Be able to look words up in a dictionary
 - Break down a word into root, prefixes and suffixes
 - Recognize verbs and find verbal roots in a dictionary
 - Recognize the conjugation of regular verbs and know the elements of parsing a verb (number, gender, tense, aspect, inflection)
 - Recognize the basic forms of words and the vocabulary used to analyze word forms(plurals, possessives/constructs, etc)
 - Be able to identify the grammatical and syntactical elements of a simple sentence
 - Define basic grammatical terminology (e.g., result clause, disjunctive, conditional, relative clause, etc)
 - Recognize how grammar and syntax create meaning in a sentence (e.g., word order, emphasis, use of prepositions, clauses)
 - Be able to identify grammatical forms in dictionary entries to aid in translation
 - Be able to analyze grammatical and syntactical elements in a sentence
- Draw conclusions as to the meanings of a sentence
 - Summarize various possible meanings of a word in its context in a sentence
 - Use knowledge of grammar and syntax to draw conclusions as to possible meanings of a sentence
 - Justify your own or another's translation of a phrase or sentence for discussion in an exegesis
- Show familiarity with ways the meanings of phrases and sentences create meaning in a larger section of text (basic rhetorical elements such as repetition, emphasis, assonance)
- Show familiarity with pronunciation of the language
- Describe the use of theological dictionaries, commentaries, concordances and Bible software

Format and Evaluation

The course will consist of six weeks of instruction in each language—lectures and in-class exercises. Assignments and evaluation include weekly homework exercises, four quizzes and a final test in each language. Both six week sections must be completed to receive credit for the course.

Required Textbooks

William D. Mounce, Greek for the Rest of Us, Zondervan, 2007.

Lee M. Fields, Hebrew for the Rest of Us, Zondervan, 2008.

Jay P. Green, Sr., The Interlinear Hebrew-Greek-English Bible, Baker Books, 1996.

Recommended Books

Warren C. Trenchard, A Concise Dictionary of New Testament Greek, Cambridge University Press, 2003.

William L. Holladay, A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament, Eerdmans, 1989