

## Greek 202: Reading the Greek New Testament and Related Literature

**MWF 10:30-11:20 OM 303**

**Prof. C.D. Elledge**

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**933-6295**

**Office Hours:** Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 2:30-4:30;  
and by appointment. Old Main 305A

**P<sup>52</sup>** (*Our earliest copy of a New Testament book, John 18:31-33, c. 125 CE*)



### Description:

A course dedicated to substantial readings in the Greek New Testament and Related Literature. The first portion of the course is dedicated to daily readings in the New Testament; the second is devoted to selected readings in numerous areas of direct concern for understanding New Testament History and Christian Origins, including Septuagint, Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, Philo, and Josephus. Brief introductions to papyri and epigraphy will also be given. Prerequisite: GRE 201 or equivalent.

### Objectives:

This course has been designed with the following instructional goals in view:

- to acclimate students of Classical Greek to Hellenistic *koine* styles of grammar and syntax;
- to foster reading and vocabulary skills in New Testament Greek that will result in an easy translation style and lifelong appreciation;
- to read and translate some of the most important Greek literature for understanding New Testament history, including the Septuagint, Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, Josephus, inscriptions, and papyri;
- to introduce students to basic methods and primary resources for philological research in New Testament and Related Literature.

### Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated based upon their performance in the following contexts:

- Vocabulary Quizzes (10%): Weekly vocabulary quizzes will be given from Metzger, until the most common words in the New Testament have been memorized. These will be given during the last ten minutes of class, the last day of each week. Within ten weeks of the course, every Greek word appearing in the NT fifty times or more will have been memorized.
- Daily Reading (20%): Students will read and be prepared to translate at sight the assigned reading portion for the day, making relevant lexical and syntactic notes in a research notebook.
- Reports (10%): Brief reports on assigned topics will be presented during the course of the semester. Guidelines for the report are listed below.
- Finished Translation (10%): Each student will select one passage of twenty lines from among our readings to be the subject of a more finished translation. It will be typed and submitted on May 18.
- Memorization (10%): Please memorize and recite to the professor the Lord's Prayer in Greek, as found in Matt 6:9-13. It will be due the week of April 20.
- Midterm Examination (20%): A midterm review examination will be given on the date listed in the syllabus.
- Final Examination (20%): A final examination will be given on the comprehensive content of the course.

### Academic Honesty

The following code will be written and signed on every examination and graded paper: "On my honor, I pledge that I have not given, received, or tolerated others' use of unauthorized aid in completing this work." All written work is to be

completed independently, unless otherwise noted by the instructor. Using the ideas and/or words of another writer and representing them as your own may constitute plagiarism. It is your responsibility to give credit to those whose ideas and language you utilize when you write.

## Disability Services

“Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990) work together to ensure ‘reasonable accommodation’ and non-discrimination for students with disabilities in higher education. A student who has a physical, psychiatric / emotional, medical, learning, or attentional disability that may have an effect on the student’s ability to complete assigned course work should contact the Disability Services Coordinator in the Advising Center, who will review the concerns and decide with the student what accommodations are necessary.”

## Texts:

The following texts are required:

*The Greek New Testament. With Glossary. Fourth Revised Edition.* Edited by Kurt Aland, Matthew Black, Carlo M. Martini, Bruce M. Metzger, and Allen Wikgren. American Bible Society, 2001. 4th Rev edition.

*Lexical Aids for Students of New Testament Greek.* By Bruce Manning Metzger. Baker Book House, 1999. 3rd edition.

## Schedule

[ \* = an edition will be provided by the instructor]

### Feb 7

Introduction to the Syllabus  
Introduction to Tools and Resources for New Testament Greek

### Feb 7 – Mar 25

Translating the Greek New Testament: Topic to be Selected  
Vocabulary Quizzes on Fridays (or the last day of the week)

### Mar 26-Apr 3

Spring Break

### Apr 4-6

Reading Some Ancient Copies of the New Testament  
[Sight-reading an ancient New Testament papyrus](#) (link; bring to class)  
\*Sight-reading an ancient Codex  
**Mini Report:** What is an ancient “Codex”?

### April 8

Septuagint: The Greek Scriptures of Jews and Christians  
**Mini Report:** What is the Septuagint?

**Memorization Week:** Please schedule an appointment during this week for the recitation of the Lord’s Prayer memorization assignment.

### \*Apr 11

Josephus: *Testimonium Flavianum*  
**Mini Report:** Who was Josephus?

### \*Apr 13-15

Apocrypha: The Wisdom of Ben Sira: Jewish sofia at the time of Jesus  
**Mini Report:** Who was Ben Sira?

### \*Apr 18-20

Pseudepigrapha: *Psalms of Solomon*: The ui{o/j Daudid before Jesus  
**Mini Report:** What are the *Psalms of Solomon*?

### Apr 22-25

**\*Apr 27**

Philo of Alexandria

**Mini Report:** Who was Philo of Alexandria?

**\*Apr 29**

Josephus: Another “Jesus” and the Last Days of Jerusalem

**\*May 2-4**

Apocalyptic Writings: *I Enoch*, Apocalypse of John

**Mini Report:** What is a literary “apocalypse”?

**\*May 6-9**

[Epigraphy: The Theodotus Inscription](#) (link)

**Mini Report:** What was an ancient “synagogue”?

**\*May 11-13**

The Didache and other Early Christian Writings

**May 16-18**

Open dates

**Finished Translation Due May 18**

## Bibliography

### Greek Reference Grammars and Guides to Syntax

- Blass, F., and Debrunner, A. *A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Trans. R. Funk. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1961.
- Brooks, James A., and Winbery, Carlton L. *Syntax of New Testament Greek*. Washington: University Press of America, 1979.
- Conybeare, F. and Stock, G. *Grammar of Septuagint Greek*. Boston: Hendrickson, 1995.
- Dana, H.E., and Mantey, Julius R. *A Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament*. Toronto: Macmillan, 1957.
- Funk, R. *Beginning-Intermediate Grammar of Hellenistic Greek*. Missoula: Linguistics Seminar 1972.
- Moule, C.F.D. *An Idiom Book of New Testament Greek*. Cambridge: Cambridge University, 1959.
- Moulton, James Hope, and Turner, Nigel. *A Grammar of New Testament Greek*. 4 vols. Edinburgh: T.&T. Clark, 1979.
- Robertson, A.T. *A Grammar of the Greek New Testament in Light of Historical Research*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Nashville: Broadman, 1923.
- Robertson, A.T., and Davis, W. Hersey. *A New Short Grammar of the Greek Testament*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1931.
- Smyth, Herbert Weir. *Greek Grammar*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1956.
- Strugnell, J. *A Guide to Greek Syntax: Based upon Smyth's Greek Grammar*. Cambridge: J. Strugnell and T. Robinson, 1975.
- Zerwick, Maximilian. *Biblical Greek*. Ed. and trans. Joseph Smith. Rome: Pontificii Instituti Biblici, 1963.

### *Lexica and Vocabulary Aids*

- Bauer, Walter. Ed. and trans. William Arndt and F. Gingrich. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1979.
- Lidell, Henry George, and Scott, Robert. Ed. H. Jones and R. McKenzie. *A Greek-English Lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996.
- Moulton, James Hope, and Milligan, George. *The Vocabulary of the Greek Testament: Illustrated from the Papyri and Other Non-Literary Sources*. Grand Rapids: Wm.B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1985 [orig. 1930]
- Muraoka, T. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint*. 3 vols. Louvain: Peeters, 1993.

Resources for Reports  
(located in the reference section of library)

Freedman, David Noel, ed. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 1992.

Kee, Howard Clark. *The Cambridge Companion to the Bible*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Sakenfeld, Katharine, ed. *The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2006-.

### **Guidelines for the Mini Reports**

Brief reports will be assigned to each student throughout the course and will be listed on the web version of the syllabus. These reports will be brief, approximately 5 minutes in length. They will include the following items: (a) a fact sheet, distributed to each member of the class, containing the most essential information on the topic of the report; (b) an oral presentation to the class on the topic; (c) responses to follow up questions from classmates and the instructor. Each student will complete one of these reports during the term.