

University of Central Oklahoma
College of Liberal Arts
Department of Modern Languages
Fall 2019

GRK 1113: Introduction to Biblical Greek
CRN: 12801
MWF 10:00AM-10:50AM,
Liberal Arts South, Rm. 275

Instructor: Dr. Jerry Green

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Office Hours: M,W 2:00-4:00, T,Th 1:00-2:00 (and by appointment)

Course Description:

“This course is an introduction to the pronunciation, grammar, reading, and composition of Biblical Greek.”

The New Testament was originally written in a Greek dialect called *Koine* (i.e. ‘common’ Greek). The same Greek dialect was used to translate a certain form of the Old Testament in a collection called the Septuagint. It was also the dialect of Greek throughout the Mediterranean from around 350 BCE onward, when Alexander the Great spread Greek language and culture throughout his short-lived empire. It persisted as a common language for diverse ethnic groups to speak to each other through the Roman and Byzantine period, and used in important treatises in literature, philosophy, and early science. In this class, you will begin to learn the fundamentals of this Greek dialect.

This course is part of a one-year sequence in the basic grammatical categories of Koine Greek. Any language takes a long time to master, especially a classical language like Greek which is read but rarely spoken. You certainly won’t be ‘fluent’ by the end of one class. But I will help you learn the tools to continue reading Greek on your own with the use of dictionaries and online resources.

Over the course of the semester you will:

- Learn to recognize and replicate the letters and sounds of the Greek alphabet
- Learn the most important and most frequent Koine Greek vocabulary
- Learn the basics of Greek noun, adjective, and pronoun declension systems
- Learn the basics of Greek verb conjugation for present, future, and past active tense verbs
- Learn the basics of Greek syntax for simple sentences, including preposition and pronoun use

In addition, you will develop:

- A more sophisticated grasp of linguistic concepts, independent of a specific language
- A more thorough understanding of English grammar and etymology
- An awareness of the ambiguity and complexity of natural language and translations
- An appreciation of the original language of a few highly influential religious texts

Two things worth noting:

- 1) This class is about ancient Greek, not modern ‘Demotic’ Greek (that’s a different dialect),
- 2) This is not a theology class: our focus will be on the language of the NT, not so much on the content (though of course the former can’t help but teach you a little about the latter).

Prerequisites: None

Transformational Learning Outcomes:

The University of Central Oklahoma is a learning-centered organization committed to Transformative education through active engagement in the teaching-learning interchange, scholarly and creative pursuits, leadership, global competency, healthy lifestyles, and service to others. Transformative learning goals (the “Central Six”) have been identified as: *Discipline Knowledge*, *Leadership*, *Research*, *Scholarly and Creative Activities*, *Service Learning and Civic Engagement*, *Global and Cultural Competencies*, and *Health and Wellness*. This course addresses four of the University’s transformative learning goals:

Discipline Knowledge, by developing competency in the *Koine* Greek dialect

Global and Cultural Competencies, by engaging with the language and texts of another culture

Course Materials

We will use a variety of course materials in this class. The **required** textbook for the course is:

Green, J. (2019) *Koine: A Learner-Centered Approach to Hellenistic and Biblical Greek*.

This text is available at [APMOK](#) on 500 E. 2nd St (right across from campus, on the corner of 2nd and Rankin). It will cost about \$28. This will be our primary textbook for the class.

There are two other required books for this course, available at the UCO bookstore in the Nigh University Center:

Black, D. A. (1998) *It’s Still Greek to Me*. Baker Academic. ISBN: 0801021812

Trenchard, W. (2003) *A Concise Dictionary of New Testament Greek*. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 0521521114

These two books supplement the textbook for the course: one focuses on grammar, the other vocabulary. They are both inexpensive, and used copies should be easy to find.

We will also make significant use of D2L for posted material and assignments. It is your responsibility to make sure you have regular, reliable access to D2L for this material (and to email for updates and other communication from me).

Tutoring

We have the distinct good fortune of having a tutor from BELL (the Broncho Education and Learning Lab) reserved specifically for this class. This tutor, Mason Robinson, has both taken the course himself, and has served as a tutor for the class in the previous years.

This means you will have access to regularly scheduled small group tutoring hours available every week (typically before class MWF), not to mention extra attention in class and by email. This is a unique and valuable resource, and I encourage you to take advantage of it.

Assignments

One of the biggest obstacles to student success is not knowing how to study effectively. In order to help you be as efficient as possible, I have designed the homework to structure your studying for you.

Class & Attendance

I do not grade attendance as such. But we will spend each class period practicing and expanding on the material covered in that day’s Lesson. This class time is just as important as your out-of-class study time, so you are expected to attend every session.

Reading & Outside Study

Languages, by their very nature, cannot be learned in the 150 minutes we spend in class every week. You will need to spend a significant amount of time outside of class reading the textbook, reviewing material, drilling vocabulary, etc. If you fall behind, it is incredibly difficult to catch back up, so consistent, sustained study and review is a must.

Vocabulary Quizzes

Of the 41 Lessons we will cover in the Fall semester, 30 will introduce Vocabulary for you to memorize. We will have online quizzes on D2L for each of these Lessons (you can expect two or three every week). These quizzes will have a variety of short answer questions to test your recognition and comprehension of Greek vocabulary. These should take 5-8 minutes each.

Grammar Quizzes

Many English speakers can speak English fluently, but nevertheless of a poor grasp of basic grammar concepts. This is a serious impediment to learning a new language. So we will have 25 quizzes over the course of the term that focus specifically on grammar. You can expect one or two quizzes per week (short answer format on D2L). These should take 5-8 minutes each.

Morphology Worksheets

Greek is an 'inflected' language, which means that it will use different sets of noun endings or verb endings to indicate the function and meaning of a particular word (somewhat like how English uses '-ed' to put a verb into the past tense, or '-s' to make a noun). You will have 30 one-page worksheets (two per week) to help you practice learning these sets of endings; you will be asked to write out all six forms of a set of words to drill the relevant material. These documents will be posted to D2L, but you will need to print them out so you can write things out by hand and then turn in the hard copy. These should take about 20 minutes each.

Translation Exercises

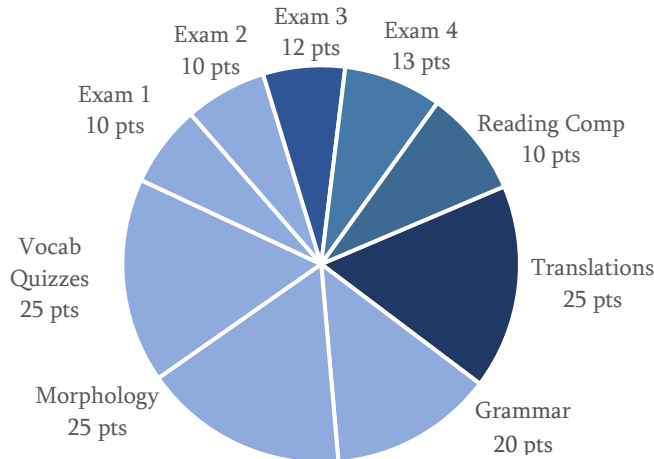
These exercises combine the vocabulary, grammar, and morphology skills you are learning, by practicing the skills of translating short sentences from Greek to English, and of composing short sentences in Greek. You will have 30 exercises (roughly two per week) to practice these skills, with approximately six Greek sentences and three English sentences per worksheet. These documents will also be posted to D2L to be printed and written out by hand (you can type out the English before you print, if you wish). These should take 40 minutes each.

Reading Comprehension Exercises

Finally, you will have 13-15 Reading exercises throughout the semester. These will be 250-400 word passages written to use the material you have recently learned (and to give you a better grasp of the history, culture, and literary genres of first century Greek speakers in the ancient Mediterranean and Middle East). These exercises will have questions in English to test your reading comprehension skills separately from your ability to translate, and so will focus on themes and details of the material that are not always directly expressed in the text. These questions will be delivered in D2L quizzes, and should take about 20-30 minutes each.

Exams

We will have four exams, one approximately every four weeks. Though language exams are by their nature cumulative, each exam will focus primarily on the grammar and vocabulary introduced in the relevant unit. The final exam will take place Friday, Dec 13th from 9:00AM-10:50AM. It will be a fully cumulative exam, covering all content from throughout the course.



Grade Scale:

100.0-90.0 = A
89.9-80.0 = B
79.9-70.0 = C
69.9-60.0 = D
59.9 – 0.0 = F

Daily Assignments

All of your daily assignments (Vocabulary Quizzes, Grammar Quizzes, Morphology Worksheets, and Translation Exercises) will have more individual assignments than there are quizzes for each category. These extras are effectively bonus assignments, which can be used in two ways. You can either (a) skip some of the assignments without it negatively impacting your grade (whether that is due to illness, absence, or just because life happens), or (b) use these extra assignments to make up points you got wrong on earlier assignments. The catch is that you cannot go over 100% in a category: once you hit the point cap, you're done. The point totals for each category are:

	<u>Attempts</u>	<u>Point Total</u>
Vocabulary Quizzes:	30	25
Grammar Quizzes:	24	20
Morphology Worksheets:	30	25
Translation Exercises:	30	25
Reading Comp Exercises:	13	10

This system functions like a curve but better, because it rewards people who make an effort on every assignment even if they get some things wrong.

Exams

Exams will gradually increase in value. The first and second exams will be 10 points each, then 12 points, then 13 (this last exam counts as the Final Exam for the course). Combined, this adds up to 45/150 points, which is 30% of the final grade for the class.

Rounding

Letter grade cut-offs are at 90.0, 80.0, etc. But I may round up in exceptional cases, if (i) I feel you've done better or worked harder than your score suggests, and (ii) you do not have excessive absences or missing assignments. This is a courtesy, not an entitlement.

Appeals

I am more than happy to talk to you about lower-than-expected grades, and to regrade your assignment if merited (but note the risk that the regraded results could be lower). However, I consider asking for a grade increase for non-performance reasons (e.g. to keep a scholarship or prevent your parents from being mad) to be academic misconduct, because you are asking for me to give you a grade you did not earn. So don't do that.

Late Work & Make-Ups

Vocabulary Quizzes, Grammar Quizzes, and Reading Comprehension Exercises will have hard deadlines on D2L, and are set to be auto-graded upon completion. These quizzes will be due at 10:00 am every class day (i.e. at the start of each class). Since these quizzes will be posted in advance, and can be completed out of class at your convenience, there are no extensions or make-ups. If you miss a quiz, you forfeit that point. But, as noted above, there are a few built-in extra points in each quiz category, so you can, in practice, miss a few quizzes without hurting your grade.

Morphology Worksheets and Translation Exercises will be submitted as a hard copy, collected in class. If you have to miss class for any reason, you have two options for submitting your work: you may either drop it off at my office later in the day, or you can scan/photograph the assignment and email it to me. Because of these options, late work will not be accepted. Like the other assignment types, you have a built in cushion for missing a few assignments.

Exams will also be administered in class. If you arrive in class late, you forfeit whatever time you missed, but you may complete as much of the exam as you are able to in the remaining time.

If you miss an exam because of an absence that satisfies the University's excused absence policy (see below), you must make alternative arrangements with me as soon as possible. *It is your responsibility to contact me to make alternative arrangements; the default for a missed exam is a zero.* If you miss an exam because of an unexcused absence, I reserve the right to give you a zero for that assignment. You should contact me *immediately* if you miss an exam for any reason.

Excused Absences

The exception to the Late/Make-Up policy listed above is excused absences. The University considers absences for the following reasons excused:

- travel considered part of the instructional program of the university
- invited participation in activities directly and officially sponsored by the university
- jury duty or military obligations
- serious illness, medical condition, pregnant and parenting students' rights (as outlined in Title IX), accident, or injury
- death or serious illness in immediate family
- religious observances. *Note: a list of religious observances must be submitted to the instructor the **first two weeks** of the semester of which the observance will be held.*

Reasonable Accommodations Policy

Any student who needs extra time or resources to do their best work due to a physical, cognitive or emotional condition may qualify for academic accommodations. You should consult Disability Support Services for further information: <http://sites.uco.edu/student-affairs/dss/>

The University of Central Oklahoma complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services, at (405) 974-2516 (V/TTY). The DSS Office is located in the Nigh University Center, Room 305. Students should also notify the instructor of special accommodation needs as soon as possible.

A bit of advice: *do not let shyness or embarrassment or pride stop you from getting the services you deserve.* I've seen too many students allow their grades to suffer because they didn't speak up to claim the accommodations they were entitled to. I will do everything I can to make sure that your accommodations stay between you, me, and DSS.

Tech Policy

Computers, tablets, e-readers, etc., will not be allowed during class time (unless you have an accommodation from DSS). I know it sounds paternalistic (it is) and lame (it isn't), but computers in class do [much more harm than good](#).

Three main reasons for this policy:

- 1) You might think you can multi-task well. [You are almost certainly incorrect](#). And even if you were miraculously among the 2% of good multi-taskers, you would still distract others.
- 2) Electronic texts are much [less effective](#) than paper for the kind of reading we'll be doing.
- 3) [It is well-documented that taking](#) notes by hand is much more effective than typing. If you want a digital version of your notes, scan them or, better, type them out after class.

Academic Honesty

You are expected to consult and understand the [University's Academic Dishonesty Policy](#); participation in this class constitutes an agreement to follow this policy. My own policy is this: it is always better to ask for help than to cheat. Cheating takes more work, with worse results, than simply attempting the assignment. If you are confused at any point about whether something constitutes academic dishonesty, please ask: I am here to help. However, if you are caught engaging in academic misconduct, I will pursue whatever maximum penalties the University may apply.

Disabilities & Title IX

The University of Central Oklahoma complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services, at (405) 974-2516. The DSS Office is located in the Nigh University Center, Room 305. Students should also notify the instructor of special accommodation needs as soon as possible. Per Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, pregnant and parenting students may request adjustments by contacting the Title IX Coordinator, at (405) 974-3377 or TitleIX@uco.edu. The Title IX Office is located in the Lillard Administration Building, Room 114D. For more information about your options, including reporting and confidential resources, please visit: <http://www.uco.edu/central/title-ix/index.asp>.

Physical and Mental Health

College can be a very stressful time, emotionally, socially, and academically. You don't have to face these stresses alone. There are numerous resources on campus to help, including:

<http://sites.uco.edu/student-affairs/scc/>

<http://sites.uco.edu/student-life/diversity/>

<http://sites.uco.edu/wellness/shc/>

<https://www.uco.edu/offices/student-success/>

Student Information Sheet

More important info here: <http://sites.uco.edu/academic-affairs/files/aa-forms/StudentInfoSheet.pdf>

Schedule

We will cover one Lesson per day every MWF through the semester; if we stay on schedule, we should end at Lesson 41 in the textbook. Important dates:

8.30 - Full refund drop deadline	11.01 - 'Change course to Audit' deadline
9.02 - Labor Day (no class)	11.08 - Exam 3
9.16 - Exam 1	11.27 - Thanksgiving (no class)
10.16 - Exam 2	11.28 - Thanksgiving (no class)
10.18 - Fall Break (no class)	12.13 - Exam 4 (Final), 9:00 AM