

Professor: Susan R. Garrett
Office: Schlegel 303 (ext. 396)
Home phone 485-1079; email: sgarrett@lpts.edu

Fall 2008
Tutors: Adam Clark
David Jewell
Burnetta Barton

This online syllabus should be used to gain a better understanding of the content and focus of a course. The syllabus given out in the class may differ from this online version and its content supersedes that of the online syllabus.

NT 1013, ELEMENTS OF NEW TESTAMENT GREEK

Purpose and format of the course: The course will provide an introduction to the language of the New Testament for those with little or no knowledge of Greek, and to important concepts and skills for New Testament exegesis. The format of the course will be classroom presentations by the professor, combined with home and classroom exercises to practice skills learned in class. Teaching assistants will be available for group tutoring sessions outside of class time. The class will be taught on a pass/fail basis for all students.

Intended Learning Outcomes: A list of skills and knowledge-sets that students should have mastered upon completion of the course, along with the means of assessment for each skill or knowledge-set:

1. Skills demonstrating broad comprehension of the language. Student should be able to:
 - a. Show ability to pronounce Greek vocabulary and to read a short passage aloud. *Oral testing by the professor or tutors. By September 30.*
 - b. Explain what a “case language” is and list the most important functions of each of the Greek cases. *Oral testing by the professor or tutors. By September 30.*
 - c. Explain the principal parts chart and how it works. *Oral conference with a tutor or the professor. By November 11.*
 - d. Demonstrate a working vocabulary of at least 150 words. *Written test administered by tutors. By December 4. Must have 150 correct (out of @180 words assigned in Croy, A Primer of Biblical Greek, chaps. 1–14).*
2. Skills pertaining to specific elements of syntax. Student should be able to:
 - a. Reproduce the paradigm of the definite article. *Testing by tutors. Must complete with 90% accuracy. By September 30.*
 - b. Demonstrate understanding of the concept of agreement of article, adjective, and noun. *Student will successfully complete two homework assignments on this topic, and review these with a tutor or the professor if deemed necessary. By October 7.*
 - c. Recognize and translate personal pronouns and demonstratives in context. *Student will successfully complete two homework assignments on this topic, and review these with a tutor or the professor if deemed necessary. By October 23.*
 - d. Show comprehension of the meaning and appropriate range of translation for the following indicative tenses (in active, middle, and passive voice): present, imperfect, future, aorist. *Students will successfully complete a series of homework*

assignments on this topic, and review these with a tutor or the professor if deemed necessary. By December 4.

3. Knowledge pertaining to the nature of the New Testament and New Testament study. Student should be able to:
 - a. Show knowledge of historic reflections on the authority of scripture. *Written assignment, due October 7.*
 - b. Describe (in broad outline) the process of canon formation and the historical factors that affected it. *Two-part written assignment, due November 11.*
 - c. Show comprehension of the basic principles of text criticism. *Written assignment, due in class on November 18.*
4. Knowledge and skills pertaining to the exegetical enterprise. Student should be able to:
 - a. Show ability to use a lexicon (or lexicon-function on BibleWorks) for purposes of lexical (word) analysis. *Completion of unit of basic BibleWorks training (offered by librarian Angela Morris) and completion of a written assignment. Due by December 12 at 5:00 p.m. (submit written assignment to sgarrett@lpts.edu).*

Requirements: To pass the course, the student must successfully complete *all* assessment measures listed above. “Successful” completion is at a level deemed by the professor and/or tutors to show at least a minimum basic comprehension. (Specific accountability levels are indicated for two assessment measures, 1d and 2a above.) All assessments may be taken or submitted repeatedly until passed, up until the last day of the semester (December 12), though students are *strongly encouraged* to meet the benchmark dates indicated. There will be self-graded homework assignments in addition to those listed above (completion of these is encouraged, but not required to pass the course.)

Remark about class attendance: Roll will not be taken, but students should plan to attend class consistently. Effort should also be made to get to know fellow students, and all are encouraged to participate in study groups or find at least one other person with whom to partner. Students who are more adept at languages should plan to help those less gifted in this area. Nothing reinforces new knowledge of a language like teaching it to someone else. We are all in this together! “*If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.*” (1 Cor 12:26)

Remark about tutors: Three tutors will be helping with the course. They will lead regular study sessions, to which students are encouraged to bring questions about homework assignments or material covered in class. They will also have sign-up times to meet the assessment requirements indicated above. They will have some (but limited) availability for one-on-one tutoring.

Textbooks:

- Black, David Alan (1994). *New Testament Textual Criticism: A Concise Guide*. Baker.

- Chapman, Benjamin, and Shogren, Steven (1994). *A Card-Guide to New Testament Greek*. Stylus.
- Croy, N. Clayton (1999). *A Primer of Biblical Greek*. William B. Eerdmans. Includes CD-Rom.
- Gorman, Michael J. (2001). *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*. Hendrickson.
- Nestle-Aland (2001). *Greek-English New Testament*, 9th revised edition. United Bible Societies. *Will not be used in the first month of class.*
- Newman, Barclay M., Jr. (2006). *A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament*. United Bible Societies.

Schedule:

Thursday, September 4 – Introduction to the Course – What is exegesis – Greek alphabet

Tuesday, September 9 – Croy, lessons 1–2

Thursday, September 11– Croy, lessons 3–4

Tuesday, September 16 – Review Croy, lessons 1–4

Thursday, September 18 – Croy, lessons 5–6

Tuesday, September 23 – Review Croy, lessons 5–6

Thursday, September 25 – Croy, lessons 7–8

Tuesday, September 30 – Review Croy, lessons 7–8

Thursday, October 2 – Introduction to the critical study of Scripture

Tuesday, October 7 – More on the critical study of Scripture

1. In preparation, read the following:

- a. “Presbyterian Understanding and Use of Holy Scripture” and “Biblical Authority and Interpretation.” (<http://www.pcusa.org/oga/publications/scripture-use.pdf>; or go to Blackboard site)
- b. Gorman 1-33

2. Written assignment: Prepare a summary of key points from the first reading assignment.

Maximum length: 1 page, single-spaced. Due in class.

Thursday, October 9 – Croy, lesson 9

Tuesday, October 14 and Thursday, October 16 – RESEARCH & STUDY

Tuesday, October 21 – Croy, lesson 10

Thursday, October 23 – Review Croy, lessons 9–10

Tuesday, October 28 – Croy, lessons 11–12

Thursday, October 30 – Review Croy, lessons 11–12

Tuesday, November 4 – Croy, lessons 13–14

Thursday, November 6 – Review Croy, lessons 13–14

Tuesday, November 11 – Canon Formation

1. In preparation, read the following:

- a. Raymond E. Brown, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (New York: Doubleday, 1997), 3-19. (*On Blackboard*)
 - b. D. J. Theron, *Evidence of Tradition* (Grand Rapids, Baker Book House, 1957), 107-26. (*On Blackboard*)
 - c. G. A. Robbins, "Muratorian Fragment," in *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*, vol. 4, pp. 928-929. (*On Blackboard*)
2. Two-part written assignment, due in class:
- a. Write a short essay (500–750 words) summarizing the major factors that scholars believe affected the process of canon formation. Brown's work (listed above) should be sufficient for your purposes, but if you wish you may also refer to other sources, such as articles from Bible dictionaries. The goal is not to write an original essay, but to demonstrate that you have read and assimilated the information.
 - b. Choose three canonical lists from the collection in Theron 107-26, including (as one of the three) the Muratorian Canon. Note where the lists vary from the present (Protestant) canon. Note which books are mentioned as disputed, and why. Maximum length: 1 page (may be in the form of a chart).

Thursday, November 13 – Text of the NT.

In preparation, read the following: David Alan Black, *New Testament Textual Criticism*.

Tuesday, November 18 – Text of the NT (cont'd)

Written assignment (*working with two other students*): Pick one of the following textual variants, and evaluate the evidence to determine the best reading. In your written analysis, include a chart of external witnesses (like that found on p. 50 in Black's book) as well as an evaluation of internal evidence. Variants to choose from:

- a. Luke 22:43-44 (absent in some manuscripts)
- b. 1 Cor 11:29 (the word *anaxios* [unworthily] is absent in some manuscripts)
- c. 1 John 3:1 (the words *kai esmen* [and we are] are absent in some manuscripts)

Thursday, November 20 – Using a lexicon

Tuesday, November 25 and **Thursday, November 27** – THANKSGIVING VACATION

Tuesday, December 2 – Doing effective word studies

In preparation, read Gorman, 96–106.

Thursday, December 4 – Doing effective word studies (cont'd). *BibleWorks assignment due December 12. See Appendix A.*

*Final versions of all work **must** be submitted by December 12. Later submissions not accepted.*

Appendix A

BIBLEWORKS ASSIGNMENT – Due December 12, 2008

NOTE: You should work in groups of 2 or 3 persons to complete this assignment.

Studies in John 9

I. *fanero, w*

A. How distinctive is this word to John, compared to the other evangelists?

i. Tally the number of hits in each of the Gospels; note also the number of hits in the Johannine epistles.

ii. Print out the English and Greek of *all* uses of *fanero, w* in the Johannine corpus (= Gospel of John and Johannine epistles; Revelation need not be taken into account).

B. Survey the uses of *fanero, w* in John and the Johannine epistles, and—*without* consulting a lexicon—infer a definition for *fanero, w* in the Johannine corpus. Subdivide your definition into different usages if need be. If you were doing a word study in a paper, which two or three Johannine usages of *fanero, w* might you quote as especially “revealing” of John’s take on this word?

C. Survey the Pauline usage of the term and decide whether it agrees with the Johannine usage or presumes different nuances. Explain your findings.

II. *h`me, ra*

A. Consider the use of *h`me, ra* in John 9:4. Clearly the word is used in a symbolic sense here. Based solely on this initial reading, hazard a guess as to its import.

B. Survey all other uses of this term (in all case/number combinations) in the Johannine corpus (excluding Revelation). Are there any other verses in these writings where the word seems to be used in a symbolic sense that is similar to its sense in 9:4?

C. Search out other places in the *entire* New Testament where *h`me, ra* (“day”) and *nu, x* (“night”) are used symbolically and in very close proximity (i.e., in the same verse). Be sure to take *all* case/number combinations of these words into account. Do these other passages help you to understand better what is going on in John 9:4?

D. Look up *h`me, ra* in the Louw-Nida lexicon found among the *BibleWorks* resources. Do you find any entries that prove helpful in understanding the symbolic import of this word as used in John 9:4?

E. In a few sentences, summarize the significance of *h`me, ra* in the passage in question.

Hints for the *BibleWorks* assignment (due December 12)

Make sure you have the program set to “Power User Mode.” Set search version to BNT and display versions to NRS and BNT.

I. A. i. Word tally of **fanerow**

- first limit your search to the Gospels and the Johannine epistles
- then find the word **φανερῶω** in the Greek text (hint: it occurs in Mark 4:22—**click on fanerwqh/ | [verb form] and not on fanero,n [adjective form]**), right click on the word and select the option for “**search on root.**” This will bring up a list of the verses that include this root.

I. A. ii. To print the English and Greek of all uses of **fanerow**: Right click in the verse hits list (upper right hand window in *BibleWorks*) select **copy list to editor** or to a clipboard (your preference), then from the next window select “**text of verses in verse list**” then press the “copy” button. You’ll probably be asked “transfer all this data?” Just press “yes” and it will be moved to the editor window, where you can print the info later on.

I.C. Set search limits to Romans, 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians, then search for **fanerow**

II. A. Go to John 9:4 find the word **hmera** in the text

II.B. Set search limit to all the Johannine corpus then right click on **hmera**. Select “search on root” to see in which other verses the word occurs.

II.C. For this part you must search for the word in a morphology version (BNM). Set search limits to the entire New Testament. Type a period in the command line then type in the two Greek words you want to search (in English, these keys: hmera nux). Your search should look like this: **.hmera vuξ** (search without the accents).

II.D. Friberg. Right click on **hmera** in the results window text. Select “look up root in default lexicon.” Select the Friberg. The information that you are interested in is on the left part of the screen. You can click on the icon for saving this info to editor or clipboard.

Caution about Printing: when printing from the editor, if you print as you go along, remember to clear from the window what you’ve already printed, or it will stay there and be printed the next time you print from the editor.

Appendix B

Calendar of due dates for assignments

By September 30:

1. Complete oral test to demonstrate ability to read Greek aloud (Learning Outcomes 1-a)
2. Complete oral test on Greek as a case language (Learning Outcomes 1-b)
3. Complete written quiz on the paradigm of the definite article (Learning Outcomes 2-a)

By October 7:

1. Complete two homework assignments on agreement of article, adjective, and noun (Learning Outcomes 2-b)
2. Complete (for class) written assignment on the critical study of scripture (Learning Outcomes 3-a)

By October 23:

1. Complete two homework assignments on personal pronouns and demonstratives (Learning Outcomes 2-c)

By November 11:

1. Complete oral test to explain principal parts chart (Learning Outcomes 1-c)
2. Complete (for class) two-part written assignment on canon formation (Learning Outcomes 3-b)

By November 18:

1. Complete (for class) written assignment on text criticism (a group assignment) (Learning Outcomes 3-c)

By December 4:

1. Complete written test on vocabulary (Learning Outcomes 1-d)
2. Complete all homework assignments on tenses (Learning Outcomes 2-d)

By December 12:

1. Complete BibleWorks training (in library) and written assignment (a group assignment) (Learning Outcomes 4-a)