

Erskine Theological Seminary

Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

GK 501

Greek I

Fall Term, 2008

Tuesdays, 1-4 P.M.

Due West Campus

J. P. Hering, Ph.D.

Office Telephone: (864) 379-8880

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 2:00-5:00 P.M., appointment recommended

E-mail: hering@erskine.edu

Seminary Fax: (864) 379-3171

Mailing address: P.O. Drawer 668, Due West, SC, 29639

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of New Testament (*Koine*) Greek grammar. Emphasis is placed on the mastery of vocabulary, morphology, and syntax. *Elective. Three hours credit.*

I. Course Objectives: The mission statement of Erskine Seminary indicates that its purpose is to educate its students “for service in the Christian Church”, in particular, the study of the Bible “in its own literary, historical and theological settings”, so that the student may “interpret it with relevance and meaning applicable for today.” Competence in working with the New Testament Greek text is a major step towards achieving this mission statement. In this first semester language course, the student will learn elementary aspects of Greek syntax, New Testament vocabulary, verb morphology in the indicative mood, simple noun declensions, etc.

II. Required Textbooks:

NOTE: Required textbooks may be ordered from the Erskine Theological Seminary Virtual Bookstore at <http://www.ecampus.com/erskine>.

Nestle, Eberhardt, Nestle, Erwin, Aland, K., et.al. *Novum Testamentum Graece*, 27. Auflage. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1993.

Machen, J.G. and D.G. McCartney, ed. *New Testament Greek for Beginners*, 2nd edition. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2003.

Gingrich, F.W, Danker, F.W., ed., 2d. ed. *Shorter Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983.

In addition, there will be small reading assignments and/or handouts throughout the course to help the student organize and understand the relatively large and diverse amount of material to be learned.

- III. Course Requirements:** Students are expected to attend every class meeting. If a student must be absent due to an emergency or illness for all or part of a session, the student is responsible for all work done and due for that session. *No more than three sessions may be missed.* Due to the nature of the course, in particular the compounding nature of language acquisition, missing classroom discussion will almost certainly adversely affect the student's performance on the scheduled exams. Students are expected to be adequately prepared for each class session, particularly the Greek vocabulary and grammar assignments due. Classroom exercises will constitute an important element of our learning together, and will be adversely affected by poor preparation.

Two tests and a **final exam** will be administered, related to material covered in classroom lectures, new grammar and vocabulary, as well as classroom exercises. The examinations must be taken on the assigned dates. See course outline below for the test dates.

- IV. Evaluation:** The Seminary grade scale (*Catalog*, p. 35) will be used in determining a letter grade. The student's final grade will be calculated as follows:

Tests = 60% (30% each)

Final Exam = 40%

Note: Completed and graded tests and papers will be returned to the student in a subsequent class period. Papers and tests tendered at the end of the semester (where impossible to return in class) will be held by the professor for pick-up by the student. Alternately, if the student wishes, the paper/test may be placed in the student's campus mailbox, or mailed to the student. In such cases, the student should indicate the mailbox number on the paper/test, or, when mailed, supply a SASE.

- V. Class Meeting Dates:** This course will meet on Tuesday afternoons, from 1-4:00 P.M., in Due West. Class room TBA.

- VI. Seminary Policies:** Once you have completed, signed, and submitted your registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract. The student is encouraged to read the Erskine Seminary 2007-2008 *Catalog* for important information regarding drop/add procedures and deadlines (p. 4, "Academic Calendar"), class withdrawal (p. 33), as well as the correct manner of dealing with the grade status of "incomplete" (p.36). Please consult the Student Handbook for policies re. writing style and ethics, e.g., inclusive language and plagiarism, as well as the Seminary Catalogue, p. 36f. A brief summary of these policies is as follows:

A grade of “**incomplete**” is not a privilege if the student. It is the prerogative of the professor. It can be given as a final grade only when (1) the student has completed most of the assigned coursework and (2) when the student has been providentially hindered from completing the rest. The student and professor must complete the appropriate form before an “incomplete” can be given. The final date that an “incomplete” can be changed to a grade for the Fall semester is March 1, 2008. After this date, the grade of “incomplete” will automatically become an “F”, and cannot be altered. Note that there is a fee associated with “incompletes”.

Drop/Add/Withdrawal Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a **binding contract** and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a “drop/add” form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student’s receiving a grade of “F” for the course and full tuition charges will apply. **No exceptions will be made to this policy.**

Language about God and Humanity Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church’s historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing “humanity” rather than “man” or “people” rather than “men”).

Conduct in Theological Discussions Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the *Catalog* for more information.

Papers submitted in this class should be submitted in typed, double-spaced format, and written according to Erskine Seminary’s “Style and Form Standards for All Master’s Level Programs”. The student must be especially careful regarding citation of sources in all Seminary course work, including both footnotes and a full bibliography. Failing to cite a reference, or claiming other’s material as one’s own constitutes a type of fraud known as **plagiarism**. A charge

of plagiarism is serious, and can result in the student's expulsion from the Seminary.

Course Outline

A detailed plan of the course is difficult because the progress of the class will determine the speed at which we move. The *goal* for the first semester is to get through Lesson 17 in the Machen/McCartney book. This will enable us to spend some time at the beginning of the spring semester reviewing the grammar from the fall semester.

Weeks 1-4, September 2, 9, 16 and 23:

Introduction/Lectures

Test # 1: Weeks 1-4 will be evaluated by means of an objective test on **September 30**.

Weeks 6-9, October 7, 14, 21 and 28:

Lectures/Translation Exercises

Test # 2: Weeks 5-8 will be evaluated by means of a test which will allow the student to demonstrate competence in rudimentary translation, declension of nouns and parsing. The test will be administered on November 4.

Weeks 11-13, November 11, 18, and December 2 (Note that Thanksgiving Holiday extends from November 22-30; there will be no class on November 25):

Lectures/Translation Exercises

Final Exam: The final exam will be administered during exam week, **December 9**.