

Erskine Theological Seminary

Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

GK 601

Greek III

Fall Term, 2008

Thursday Evenings, 6-9 P.M.

Due West Campus

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I. Course Description: The aim of this course is to increase the student's knowledge and understanding of New Testament Greek. Students translate and analyze selected passages from the Gospels and Acts. In addition to reading, the student reviews principles of word-formation and syntax, enlarges Greek vocabulary, and uses an advanced Greek grammar to perform in-depth analysis of New Testament texts. *Prerequisites: GK 501 and GK 502 (Greek I and II).* ***A note regarding exegesis papers:*** In order to receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Please see Course Requirements below. *Required. Three hours.*

II. 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. This course builds upon the grammatical skills gained in GK 501/502, with an eye towards honing translation and interpretative skills. The student should gain confidence in using the Greek New Testament (and its apparatus), a Greek lexicon, and grammatical helps as study tools. These tools should provide the basis for a thorough exegetical discipline.

III. 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.

Metzger, B.M. *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*. Stuttgart: United Bible Societies, 1985.

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.

- IV. 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, 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 Biblical translation assignments due. Classroom discussion will constitute an important element of our learning together, and will be adversely affected by poor preparation.

Two exams will be administered, related to review material, new grammar and vocabulary, and the New Testament apparatus. The tests must be taken on the assigned dates. See course outline below for the test dates.

Each student will be required to present the results of **an exegetical exercise** based on a portion of the New Testament text. This text will be discrete from the passage selected for the exegesis paper. A guide sheet will be provided for the preparation and presentation of this exercise.

Each student will research a New Testament text as the basis for a thorough **exegesis paper**. Please consult the professor for details and exegesis guidelines.

- V. 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 = 50% (25% each)
Exegesis Exercise = 25%
Exegesis Paper, 25%

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.

VI. Class Meeting Dates: This course will meet on Thursday evenings, from 6-9:00 P.M., in Due West. Class room TBA.

VII. 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

Weeks 1-4, September 4, 11, 18 and 25:

Introduction/Lectures: A grammar review; tools for study of the New Testament; critical texts available for studying the New Testament in Greek; styles and genres in the New Testament; introduction to the Greek of the Gospels; an exegetical method using the Greek text.

Exegetical Work: Passages will be assigned for translation and analysis for each Thursday session. In the first weeks, we will concentrate on selected texts from John and Mark.

Test # 1: Weeks 1-4 will be evaluated by means of an objective test on **October 2**. This test will focus on the grammar review and any new points of grammar covered to this point. This will be administered during the first hour of class.

Weeks 5-8, October 2, 9, (23) and 30:

Lectures: New grammar material; the critical apparatus and its use; diagramming sentences and finding patterns in a passage. Note: There will be no class meeting on October 23. This will be a time for library research for the exegesis paper, using

grammar tools, Kittel, etc. A guide sheet will be provided to help find and use the resources.

Exegetical Work: Exercises using the critical apparatus; passages will be assigned for translation and analysis from Matthew and Luke.

Test # 2: Weeks 5-8 will be evaluated by means of a test which will allow the student to demonstrate competence in using the New Testament critical apparatus and interpreting its significance to the interpretation of the related passage. The text will be administered during the first hour of class on **November 6**.

Weeks 9-12, November 6, 13, 20 and 27 (Note that Thanksgiving Holiday extends from November 22-30; there will be no class on November 27):

Exegetical Work: We will concentrate primarily on the writings of Luke-Acts.

Work due: Student exegetical presentations will begin on **November 6**.

Week 13: December 4: Final Class Session

In our final class session, we will hear any outstanding student presentations, and will translate, *DV*, a short passage from a New Testament epistle.

Work due: The exegesis paper, in hard copy, will be due no later than **December 12**.