

Erskine Theological Seminary

GK 501 CO: GREEK I

(Syllabus revised August 3, 2009)

Fall 2009

Columbia Campus: Tuesdays, 6:00-9:00 p.m., beginning September 1

Exam Session: Tuesday, December 8, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

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OFFICE HOURS FOR FALL 2009:

I will typically be available Monday through Friday in my office in Columbia between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., though it is always advisable to call or email for an appointment first. Other times and locations may be available.

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.*

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.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

John Harvey, *Greek is Good Grief: Laying the Foundation for Exegesis and Exposition*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2007. (ISBN: 978-1-59752-963-1)

United Bible Societies, *The Greek New Testament with Greek-English Dictionary*, 4th edition. United Bible Societies, 2006. (ISBN: 978-1-59856-169-2)

Students continue to be responsible for securing their own required textbooks. As a convenience, there is a bookstore on the seminary's home page. To access this site and its information, locate textbooks, and compare prices, go to:

<http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>

A limited number of copies of each textbook will be available from the Erskine Campus Bookstore, and copies may be ordered through that Bookstore.

PLEASE NOTE: When ordering a book that has been published in more than one edition, make certain that you acquire the correct one (check the ISBN number when ordering); do not attempt to substitute an older edition of a required textbook.

ERSKINE DISTANCE EDUCATION NETWORK (EDEN):

This course utilizes Erskine's EDEN website as a place to make class resources available to you as well as the means for completing weekly vocabulary and form identification quizzes (see full schedule below). Thus, you will need frequent access to a computer with a reliable internet connection. If you have never used the EDEN site before then see the directions below on how to set up an account (Appendix A). After you have set up an account you will need an enrollment key in order to access the GK 501 CO online classroom. Students must have their EDEN accounts set up by the first class session.

As soon as you have set up your EDEN account and have gained access to the online classroom you should complete the "Greek typing test exercise"; it should be completed prior to the first class session if at all possible. This assignment is not for a grade but is simply a technical diagnostic to ensure that you are able to input Greek characters and that I am able to read it. Any technical problems with inputting Greek characters will need to be

GREEK FONTS:

In this course, you will at some point need to be able to type Greek characters. Information on Greek fonts will be provided on the course's EDEN website and/or in class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Vocabulary Quizzes: Review the vocabulary words assigned from the text each week. The vocabulary quiz is to be completed on the EDEN classroom by the date indicated in the assignment schedule.
2. Form Quizzes: Review the paradigms assigned from the text. The form quiz is to be completed on the EDEN classroom by the date indicated in the assignment schedule.
 - A. Both the vocabulary and the form quizzes will become active on the EDEN website on Tuesday night following the class session and will remain open for a week in most cases. You may take the quizzes whenever you wish during the week that they are open, but be aware that they will close at noon on the following Tuesday class session, after which they cannot be accessed. Take note on the class schedule provided below that there is a vocabulary and a form quiz due during the week of Thanksgiving Break (**Nov 24**) as well quizzes due on the class session following the Break (**Dec 1**). Once you open up a quiz you have to complete it. These quizzes are closed book and no notes may be used.
3. Exams: There will be three major exams on **September 29, November 3, and December 8** covering the material indicated in the assignment schedule below.
4. Homework Assignments: See the schedule given below. At the third major exam (**December 8**) you will be required to submit the Homework Check List given below (Appendix B).
5. Group Translations: Each of you will be assigned to a small group to prepare a series of group translations according the assignment schedule below. After you have completed

your own individual translation of the passage, compare it with the work of each of the other members in your group. Discuss any significant differences and make any necessary adjustments to your work. It is up to the members of the group to determine the schedule for completing the steps in each review, but you must have completed your own translation in order to participate in the discussions. **NOTE:** Submit a single translation for the entire group, so all members should be able to agree on and explain the reason for the choices made in the final translation. All group members will receive the same grade for the review. Failure of one or more group members to participate fully in the process will result in a lower grade for all group members. The deadlines for the group translations are **September 29, October 27, and December 1.**

6. **Oral Reading:** Acquisition of any language is aided by the ability to read and pronounce that language well. For this reason you are required to spend a minimum of 15 minutes per week reading aloud in the Greek New Testament (this includes the week of Thanksgiving Break). You may prefer to break this up into three 5 minute sessions. The goal is not comprehension but simply gaining proficiency in reading and pronunciation. You may read from anywhere in the Greek New Testament, but you must record your weekly reading on the reading report below (Appendix C) and submit it at the third major exam on **December 8.** If you wish to hear another person speaking Koine Greek, there are audio files of the Greek New Testament that are available for free download: <http://www.helding.net/greeklatinaudio/greek/>

COURSE GRADING:

Your grade will be calculated according to the following percentages:

1. Vocabulary Quizzes (lowest score dropped): 10%
2. Form Identification Quizzes (lowest score dropped): 10%
3. Homework: 15% (the grade for this component is based upon the percentage of homework assignments completed on time)
4. Group Translations (3 @ 5% each): 15%
5. Exams (3 @ 15% each): 45%
6. Oral Reading: 5%

ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY'S GRADING SCALE:

100-95	A	85-84	C+	71-70	D-
94-93	A-	83-80	C		
92-91	B+	79-78	C-	69-0	F
90-88	B	77-76	D+		
87-86	B-	75-72	D		

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND SEMINARY POLICIES:

Registration: 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.

Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy and Policy on Absences: Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. In general, students are allowed up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty. Students taking a class that meets four times over a semester/term must attend the first meeting of the class. Students who cannot attend the first course meeting should not register for the course or, if already registered, should drop the course and complete the drop/add form. (If the drop/add form is not completed and turned in to the Registrar, the student will still be charged for the course and will receive an "F" grade.) If students have to be absent for part or all of another class meeting day, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses as much as one full class day or its equivalent in late arrival or early departure should consult with the professor to see whether it is still possible to pass the course. Sleeping in class is counted as an absence. NOTE: missing a session of an all-day course will result in an automatic 5% reduction in your overall grade. If you are aware of any conflicts that will prevent you from attending one of the class sessions, you should register for a different section or take the course at another time.

Late and/or Incomplete Work: Any work not submitted by the due date will be assessed a late penalty. Students should review the Seminary policy on "Incompletes" in the Seminary catalog. The grade of "I" or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of "I" is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An "I" in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become "F."

Plagiarism: Any student who commits plagiarism is in violation of Seminary policy and is liable for dismissal. See the academic section of the Catalog for complete information.

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.

Style and Bibliographical Formatting Requirements: All written assignments must be typed/processed (12-point type, double-spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the “Style and Form Standards” (Erskine Seminary).

Taping Class Lectures: I am hoping to tape the class lectures and post them onto the EDEN classroom. If you wish to tape a lecture using your own recording device, you must complete an “Audio Recording Request” form, which can be downloaded from the Seminary website at: http://www.erskineseminary.org/Academics_Files/PdfDownloads.html

IMPORTANT DATES/CLASS SCHEDULE:

A full class schedule of assignments, readings and lessons, etc., is provided below, but take special note of the following dates:

- The first class session meets on Tuesday, **September 1**
- No class on **November 24** – Thanksgiving Break
- Exams are on **September 29, November 3, and December 8**
- Vocabulary and Form quizzes to be completed on the EDEN website by **noon on Tuesday** in accordance with the assignment schedule.

GK 501 CO: Greek I

Fall 2009 Class Schedule

***Prior to start of class: Complete the “Greek typing test exercise” on the EDEN website					
Class	Date	Chapters Covered in Harvey, <i>Greek is Good Grief</i>	Harvey Exercises (E) & Translation (T) ¹	Vocabulary Quizzes (VQ) & Form Identification Quizzes (FQ) on EDEN ²	Exams & Group Translations (GT)
1	Tues Sept 1	Chs.1-2	E: 2.7, 2.8	VQ 1 on Harvey 1.7, 2.6 FQ 1 on ch.2	
2	Tues Sept 8	Ch.3	E: 3.10, 3.11	VQ 2 on Harvey 3.9 FQ 2 on ch.3	
3	Tues Sept 15	Chs.4-5	E: 4.6, 4.7, 5.6, 5.7 T: John 1.1-5	VQ 3 on Harvey 4.5, 5.5 FQ 3 on ch.4	
4	Tues Sept 22	Ch.6	E: 6.5, 6.6	VQ4 on Harvey 6.4	
5	Tues Sept 29	Ch.7	E: 7.11, 7.12 T: John 1.14-18	VQ 5 on Harvey 7.10 FQ 4 on ch.7	Exam 1 (chs.1-5) GT 1 DUE (John 1.6-13)
6	Tues Oct 6	Ch.8	E: 8.5, 8.6 T: John 1.19-23	VQ 6 on Harvey 8.4 FQ 5 on ch.8	
7	Tues Oct 13	Ch.9	E: 9.6, 9.7 T: John 1.24-28	VQ 7 on Harvey 9.5 FQ 6 on ch.9	
8	Tues Oct 20	Ch.10	E: 10.9, 10.10	VQ 8 on Harvey 10.8 FQ 7 on ch.10	
9	Tues Oct 27	Ch.11	E: 11.6, 11.7 T: Mark 8.11-13	VQ 9 on Harvey 11.5	GT 2 DUE (John 1.29-34)
10	Tues Nov 3	Ch.12	E: 12.5, 12.6 T: Mark 8.14-17	VQ 10 on Harvey 12.4 FQ 8 on ch.12	Exam 2 (chs.6-10)
11	Tues Nov 10	Ch.13	E: 13.10, 13.11 T: Mark 8.18-21	VQ 11 on Harvey 13.9 FQ 9 on ch.13	
12	Tues Nov 17	Chs.14-15	E: 14.10, 14.11, 15.8, 15.9	VQ 12 on Harvey 14.8 FQ 10 on ch.14	
	Tues Nov 24	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK		VQ 13 on Harvey 15.6 FQ 11 on ch.15	
13	Tues Dec 1				GT 3 DUE (Mark 8.22-30)
	Tues Dec 8	Exam 3 (chs.11-15) Homework Check List & NT Reading Record DUE			

¹ Exercises and individual translations are to be completed prior to the start of the following class session.

² Quizzes are to be completed by noon on the following class session, with the exception of the quizzes during Thanksgiving Break: VQ 10 & FQ 10 are to be completed by noon on Nov 24; VQ 11 & FQ 11 by noon on Dec 1.

General Study Guide for Learning Biblical Languages

The accepted guideline for graduate work is that for every hour you spend in class, you should plan to spend *at least two hours* in study *outside* of class. We are scheduled for 3 hours of class time per week; therefore, you should plan to study about 6 additional hours per week at a minimum.

Do NOT try to accomplish this in 2 or 3 lengthy study sessions; it is vital that you spread the work out over the course of the whole week (e.g. 5 to 6 sessions). You cannot “cram” languages and expect to do well. Instead, try studying 60 minutes per day Mon-Sat or perhaps 45-50 minutes per day Mon-Fri with two 1-hour sessions on Saturday. Also, bear in mind that there are a number of assignments to be completed each week (typically two quizzes, two sets of assignments out of the textbook, and a translation), and you will need to develop a system of organization that helps you to distribute that work throughout the week; again, you will not be able to complete that amount of work in one or two “cram sessions”.

Now how can you spend your time profitably? Some basic rules of thumb are:

- Work consistently at memorizing vocabulary and paradigms; develop e.g. a system of flashcards that you can take with you.
- NEVER get behind: in classes such as this, which meet for long sessions once a week, it is almost impossible to catch up once you have fallen behind;
- Read and re-read the lessons in the textbook;
- Ask questions in class;
- Work with a study partner/study groups;
- Develop a schedule that works for you to enable you to complete the readings, assignments, quizzes, etc., on time.

Here is one way of breaking down your 6 study hours per week:

- **Oral reading: 15 minutes per week (minimum)**
- **Studying the current week’s topic(s): about 3-4 hours per week**
 - Read and re-read the textbook carefully: consider points made in the text; review class discussion (while it is still fresh in your mind). *Be sure to call/email me if points are unclear!*
 - Do all the assigned exercises, and even attempt those unassigned if you need further help. *Write down your questions and bring them to class*
 - Master vocabulary by **saying it aloud** (oral practice will significantly aid your memorization), writing it on a flash card, and reviewing it.
 - Skim the textbook again to solidify major points of grammar and morphology.
 - Read extra passages from the Bible (if given in a lesson).
- **Looking at upcoming topic(s): 15-30 minutes per week**
 - Take some time to read the upcoming chapter(s) before we take it up in class. Concepts are harder to digest if you take them “cold”. *Be ready with questions!*
- **Review past topics: about 1 to 1.5 hours (this will increase over the course of the semester)**
 - Review paradigms and declensions covered in previous class sessions
 - Review your vocabulary
 - Review concepts from previous chapters (e.g., select a couple from as many as 5 or even 10 earlier).
 - Practice on some old exercises

You will not learn the language by osmosis or by relying on class discussion or by staring at the book; it takes disciplined attention and time. Be well-prepared for class, study during the day (1 hour of daytime study = 1.5 hours at night) in a quiet place, sitting at a desk, with feet flat on a floor and pencil in hand (increases attention and efficiency).

Appendix A: First time EDEN users

If you have never created an EDEN account, please complete the following steps to access to the online classroom.

If you have taken an EDEN course previously, go to the web site listed below and enter your user name and password.

1. Go to the online classroom website: <http://eden.erskineseminary.net/>
2. Select the term for which you are enrolled.
3. Read carefully the text under the heading “*Is this your first time here?*” Click on the “*Start now by creating a new account*” button.
4. An email will be immediately sent to the email address you entered in the new account form. When it arrives read the email and click on the web link it contains. Your account will be confirmed and you will be logged in. This must be done in a timely manner – the confirmation will not stay for long in the system.
5. Find the course for which you are enrolled.
6. Enter the **enrollment key** in order to access the online classroom. You will be provided this key upon confirmation by the Registrar’s office.

** Notes:

- The **enrollment key** and your **user name and password** are different. Do not attempt to use one for the other.
- It is recommended that you write down your user name and password so that it won’t be forgotten. The EDEN office cannot provide you with this information.
- Please do not share the enrollment key with other students.

Appendix B: Homework Check List

To receive credit for a homework assignment, it must be completed prior to the next class session; e.g., assignments given on Sept 1 must be completed before class begins on Sept 8 in order to receive credit. For each assignment indicate the percentage of the assignment you completed on time. Work completed after the assigned date may not be counted. The completed check list is to be submitted at the time of the third major exam (**December 8**).

	Percentage of Assignment Completed by Due Date:
Assigned 9/1 – due 9/8:	
Form Identification 2.7	_____
Practice Exercises 2.8	_____
Assigned 9/8 – due 9/15:	
Form Identification 3.10	_____
Practice Exercises 3.11	_____
Assigned 9/15 – due 9/22:	
Form Identification 4.6, 5.6	_____
Practice Exercises 4.7, 5.7	_____
Translation: John 1.1-5	_____
Assigned 9/22 – due 9/29:	
Form Identification 6.5	_____
Practice Exercises 6.6	_____
Assigned 9/29 – due 10/6	
Form Identification 7.11	_____
Practice Exercises 7.12	_____
Translation: John 1.14-18	_____
Assigned 10/6 – due 10/13:	
Form Identification 8.5	_____
Practice Exercises 8.6	_____
Translation: John 1.19-23	_____

Assigned 10/13 – due 10/20:

Form Identification 9.6 _____

Practice Exercises 9.7 _____

Translation: John 1.24-28 _____

Assigned 10/20 – due 10/27:

Form Identification 10.9 _____

Practice Exercises 10.10 _____

Assigned 10/27 – due 11/3:

Form Identification 11.6 _____

Practice Exercises 11.7 _____

Translation: Mark 8.11-13 _____

Assigned 11/3 – due 11/10:

Form Identification 12.5 _____

Practice Exercises 12.6 _____

Translation: Mark 8.14-17 _____

Assigned 11/10 – due 11/17:

Form Identification 13.10 _____

Practice Exercises 13.11 _____

Translation: Mark 8.18-21 _____

Assigned 11/17 – due 12/1:

Form Identification 14.10, 15.8 _____

Practice Exercises 14.11, 15.9 _____

The above record is an accurate reflection of my homework assignments.

Name _____

Signature _____

Appendix C: Weekly Greek New Testament Reading Report (15 minutes/week)

This chart is organized for three 5 minute reading sessions per week (including the week of Thanksgiving Break!). Below please record the amount of completed minutes for each session (i.e., if you did 5 minutes in one session write 5/5. At the bottom please provide the totals. This form is to be submitted at the third major exam **on December 8.**

Week of:	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
8/31			
9/7			
9/14			
9/21			
9/28			
10/5			
10/12			
10/19			
10/26			
11/2			
11/9			
11/16			
11/23			
11/30			
Total	/70	/70	/70

The above record is an accurate reflection of my reading in the Greek New Testament.

Name _____

Signature _____