



ERSKINE
S E M I N A R Y

Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

BI 503

Introduction to the Biblical Languages

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Fall 2009

Tuesdays, 6:00 – 9:00pm

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Due West, SC 29639

I. Course Description: This course is an introduction to Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek, presenting the basic structure of the languages, their alphabets, their classical pronunciations, and a minimum of vocabulary. Emphasis is placed on the use of tools such as lexica, concordances, theological workbooks, and Hebrew or Greek commentaries. Required for M.Div. students who are not taking two semesters of each Biblical language. Three hours.

II. Course Goals The mission statement of the seminary indicates that its purpose is to educate its students “for service in the Christian Church....” Ministry, in this context, is shorthand for ‘ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ’—the good news of God’s saving purposes, which runs throughout the Old and New Testaments. Thus we see that the content of this course is essential to the purpose of the seminary and of seminary education: to be engaged in ministry one must be able to faithfully interpret the Word of God. This course will attempt to lay the foundation for a lifetime of learning about and from the Scriptures.

III. Textbooks

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html> There you will find links to familiar vendors and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

Kohlenberger, *Interlinear NIV Hebrew-English Old Testament*. Zondervan ISBN #:0-310-40200-x. Or equivalent.

Marshall. *Interlinear NASB-NIV Greek New Testament*. Zondervan. ISBN #:0-310-40170-4. Or equivalent.

IV. Exams and Assignments

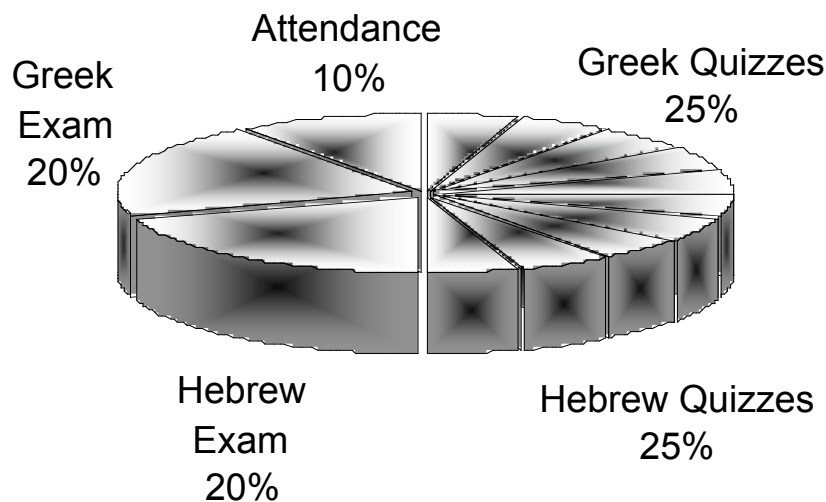
A. Exams 40% total

1. The Hebrew exam, which will include an Aramaic section, is worth 20% of your grade.
2. The Greek exam offered in Final week is worth 20% of your grade.
3. Every day one of the two exams is taken late will remove 1% from its grade. So take them on time.


B. There will be a total of ten quizzes, each one offered every week except when there is a major exam. Each quiz is worth 5%, thus half of your grade will be based on quizzes. Failure to attend class results in a zero for that day's quiz.

C. Class Attendance and Participation 10%

1. 10% of your grade will be class participation, attendance, and punctuality. Missing more than 9 hours automatically triggers an "F", so in that event you should drop the course.
2. You will be held responsible for all material presented in class.



V. Course Schedule

Week	Date	Subject	Assignments Due
1	9/1	A B Z's of Hebrew	
2	9/8	How to Decline	Hebrew quiz #1
3	9/15	Complete <i>Qal</i>	Hebrew quiz #2
4	9/22	The Seven Stems	Hebrew quiz #3
5	9/29	Weak Verbs	Hebrew quiz #4
6	10/6	What Jesus Spoke	Hebrew quiz #5
7	10/13	A B Z's of Greek	Hebrew Exam
8	10/20	How to Decline	Greek quiz #1
9	10/27	Loosing a Conjugation	Greek quiz #2
10	11/3	It's a Tense Lesson	Greek quiz #3
11	11/10	Moody Verbs	Greek quiz #4
12	11/17	The students have no class	
-	11/24	Thanksgiving 	
13	12/1	Everything Else	Greek quiz #5
14	TBA	Greek Exam	

VI. Policies

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.

Office Hours

My normal office hours are printed in this syllabus. However, due to meetings and unforeseen circumstances that may arise, my schedule may change. If you need to see me, I strongly recommend that you call or e-mail to schedule an appointment.

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.

Incompletes

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."

Attendance: the student is required to attend all classes. If the student misses more than 3 classes, an F will automatically be assigned. Sleeping in class = an absence.

Conduct in Theological Discussions: There are no favorites at Erskine. Publicly rejecting this ethos with the result of making fellow students feel unwelcome will be considered unethical behavior, and is grounds for course failure on the level of cheating and plagiarism. Please see the Community Life Statement in the Catalog for more information.

Office hours: Wednesday mornings. You can always reach me by email.