



BI 503

Introduction to the Biblical Languages

George M. Schwab, Ph.D.

Fall 2011, Room 12

Tuesdays, 8:00 – 11:00am

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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 ministry 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

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

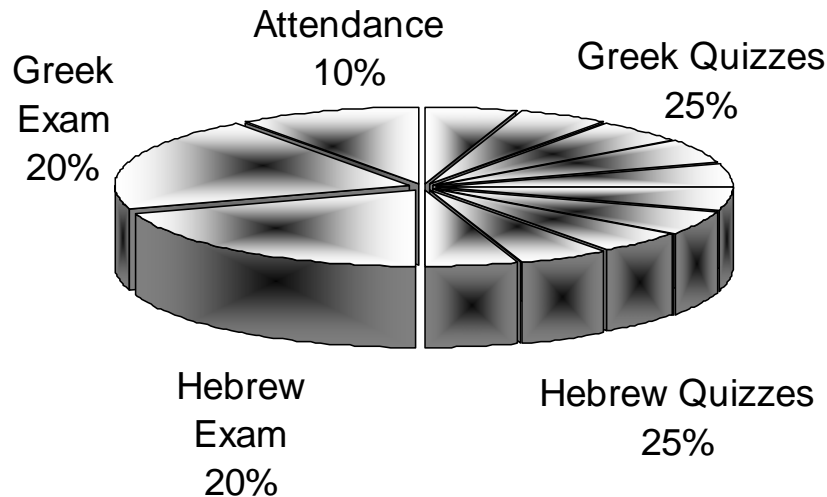
A. Exams 40% total

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	8/30	No class	
2	9/6	A B G's of Hebrew	
3	9/13	How to Decline	Hebrew quiz #1
4	9/20	Complete <i>Qal</i>	Hebrew quiz #2
5	9/27	The Seven Stems	Hebrew quiz #3
6	10/4	Weak Verbs	Hebrew quiz #4
7	10/11	What Jesus Spoke	Hebrew quiz #5
8	10/18	A B G's of Greek	Hebrew Exam
9	10/25	How to Decline	Greek quiz #1
10	11/1	Loosing a Conjugation	Greek quiz #2
11	11/8	It's a Tense Lesson	Greek quiz #3
12	11/15	No class	
-	11/22	Thanksgiving 	
13	11/29	Moody Verbs	Greek quiz #4
14	12/6	Everything Else	Greek quiz #5

VI. Policies

A. Seminary policies are here:

http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.pdf

B. **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.

C. **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.

D. **Required Textbooks.** Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. Check out <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html> for links to familiar vendors. ETS SBA gets a small percentage from purchases through this portal. Please also check out the Erskine Campus Bookstore, which carries and orders required texts.