



**ERSKINE**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*For Christ and His Church*

*Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning*

**BI 503 CO**  
**Introduction to the Biblical Languages**  
**George M. Schwab, Ph.D.**  
**Spring 2011**  
**Saturdays, 9:00am – 5:00pm, Columbia Campus**

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**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—come to class with these!**

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 45% 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 25% of your grade.

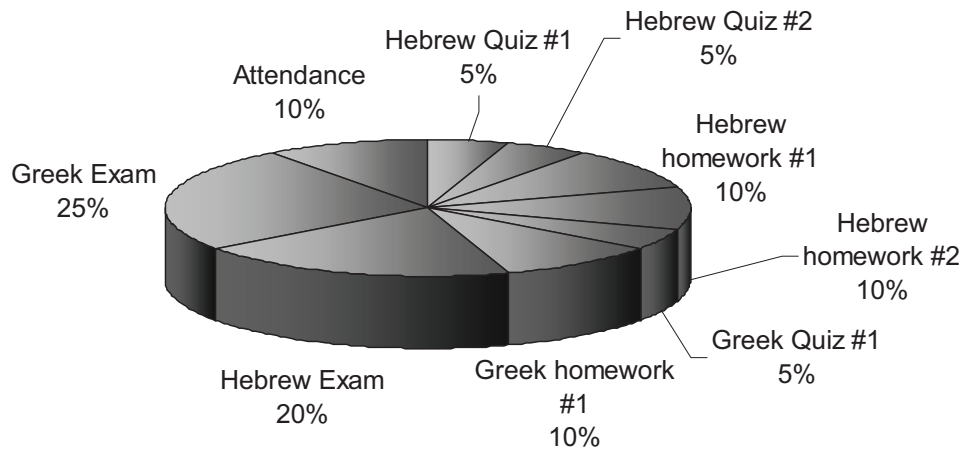
B. Three homework assignments will be assigned. They will not be accepted late (30%)

C. There will be a total of three quizzes. Each quiz is worth 5%, thus 15% of your grade will be based on quizzes. Failure to attend class results in a zero for that day's quizzes.

D. Class Attendance and Participation 10%

1. 10% of your grade will be class participation, attendance, and punctuality. In the event that you miss any part of a class, you must drop the course.

2. You will be held responsible for all material presented in class.



## V. Course Schedule

Month	Date	Subject	Assignments Due
1	2/19	Hebrew declension	Bring Hebrew Interlinear
1½	2/15	Homework assignment will be posted on 2/25, and is due by email 3/4.	Homework #1 (10%). 1% off for each day late.
2	3/12	Hebrew conjugation	2 Hebrew quizzes (closed book) (10%)
2½	3/17	Homework assignment will be posted on 3/18, and is due by email 3/25.	Homework #2 (10%). 1% off for each day late.
3	4/2	Greek declension	Hebrew Final Exam (20%)
3½	4/12	Homework assignment will be posted on 4/15, and is due by email 4/22.	Homework #3 (10%). 1% off for each day late.
4	4/30	Greek conjugation	Greek quiz (closed book) (5%) Greek Final Exam (25%)

## VI. Policies

**A. Incompletes:** The grade of 'incomplete' can be assigned as a final grade only when two conditions are met: 1) the student has completed the majority of the requirements for the course; 2) the student has been providentially hindered from completing the remaining requirements for the course. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form well before the semester's end and ask the professor to grant the request. An 'incomplete' will automatically become an 'F' unless requirements are fulfilled by March 1.

**B. Withdrawals:** Once you have completed, signed, and submitted your registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract, and your billing will be based on this registration. If you decide not to take this class, a "drop/add" form must be completed, including securing the appropriate signatures. Failure to properly withdraw from the class will result in receiving a grade of "F" for the course and full tuition charges will apply. Erskine will make no exceptions to this policy.

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

**D. 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.

**E. 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.

**F. Office hours:** Tuesday afternoons in Due West. You can always reach me by email.