

BIBL500: Biblical Language Tools for Exegesis Fall 2019

Course Time: Wednesdays, 9:00 am - noon

Instructor: Dr. Clement Tong

Purpose and Content

This course is designed to introduce Koiné Greek (NT) and Biblical Hebrew (HB) for students who have no background in biblical languages and who will need language tools to accomplish exegesis. The course includes a basic introduction to each language, emphasizing understanding the basic elements of a sentence to be able to analyze how a sentence creates meaning. The use of language resources and tools will be covered so that a student will be able to use these tools in doing exegesis in both languages. Six weeks of classes will be spent on each language, culminating in an exam for each language. A demonstration of Bible software will be included.

Competencies

In successfully completing this course, a student will have the following competencies in both Biblical Greek and Biblical Hebrew:

- Show an intermediate level ability to access and use appropriate resources and tools for analysing the translation of a passage, including dictionaries, interlinear translations, and Bible software.
- Identify the constitutive elements of a simple sentence.
 - Know the alphabet and a selection of the most common words in each language.
 - Be able to look words up in a dictionary.
 - Break down a word into root, prefixes and suffixes.
 - Recognize verbs and find verbal roots in a dictionary.
 - Recognize the basic forms of words and the vocabulary used to analyse word forms (plurals, possessives/constructs, etc.).
 - Recognize the conjugation of regular verbs and know the elements of parsing a verb.
 - Be able to identify the grammatical and syntactical elements of a simple sentence.
 - Define basic grammatical terminology (e.g., result clause, disjunctive, conditional, relative clause, etc.).
 - Recognize how grammar and syntax create meaning in a sentence (e.g., word order, emphasis, use of prepositions, clauses).
 - Be able to identify grammatical forms in dictionary entries to aid in translation.
 - Be able to analyse grammatical and syntactical elements in a sentence.
- Draw conclusions as to the meanings of a sentence.
 - Summarise various possible meanings of a word in its context in a sentence.
 - Justify your own or another's translation of a phrase or sentence for discussion in an exegesis.
 - Use knowledge of grammar and syntax to draw conclusions as to possible meanings of a sentence.
- Show familiarity with ways the meanings of phrases and sentences create meaning in a larger section of text (basic rhetorical elements such as repetition, emphasis, assonance).
- Show familiarity with pronunciation of the language.

- Describe the use of theological dictionaries, commentaries, concordances and Bible software.

Format and Evaluation

The course will consist of six weeks of instruction in each language—lectures and in-class exercises. Assignments and evaluation include homework exercises, quizzes and a final test in each language. Both six week sections must be completed to receive credit for the course.

Required Textbooks

Strauss, Mark L. *The Biblical Greek Companion for Bible Software Users*. Grand Rapids, MI : Zondervan, 2016.

Trenchard, Warren C., *A Concise Dictionary of New Testament Greek*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Williams, Michael. *The Biblical Hebrew Companion for Bible Software Users*. Grand Rapids, MI : Zondervan, 2015.

Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989