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## GRK 3351.120: ELEMENTARY BIBLICAL GREEK (Online)

The Scriptures of the New Testament were composed in the *koinê dialektos*, the development of the Attic dialect “common” (*koinê*) to the Athenians, Macedonians, Thessalians, and other members of the later Delian League. Alexander’s conquests established this dialect as the language of governance and elite commerce in Syria and Egypt, a role the Koinê continued to play when Alexander’s fractious successors in empire yielded to Rome. The conquered peoples who adopted and adapted the language of the Greeks not only used it to conduct business with their superiors and with one another (whence the non-literary papyri) but also read Greek literature and retold their own national sagas in the new tongue, enriching the Koinê in the process (or debasing it, as Attic purists ancient and modern would have it). Most important in the subsequent history of Western civilization was the saga of the Jews, which was first translated from Hebrew and Aramaic originals to produce the Septuagint (LXX); then interpreted according to the methods of Hellenistic literary criticism originated in the study of Homer and the Greek poets; then reclothed in the Greek literary dress of drama, history, treatise, and oracle; and finally appropriated by the adherents of Jesus called Messiah (Greek *Christos*) for their proclamation that the God of Israel has brought the salvation promised in the Scriptures to Israel and the nations through Jesus. This course introduces the student to the scripturally colored Greek in which the New Testament was written.

**BA EDUCATIONAL GOAL SUPPORTED BY THE COURSE:** The student will show mastery of the biblical story and familiarity with various genres of biblical literature (law, wisdom, gospel, epistle, etc.) and basic methods and principles of biblical exegesis.

### Course Objectives

1. The student will acquire a basic knowledge of the formation of Greek substantives and verbs and of Greek sentence structure.
2. The student will acquire a Greek vocabulary useful for the reading of the New Testament.

Required Text: William Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek Grammar*

### Course Requirements

This course will make use of the platform, content, and assessments in the course “Biblical Interpretation,” provided by Zondervan and BibleMesh. Students should have received log-in information from the Registrar ([dbond@austingrad.edu](mailto:dbond@austingrad.edu)).

The course requirements will be fulfilled as you progress through the units of the Zondervan/BibleMesh course. Begin with the “Introduction” before starting Unit 1. Each unit includes four sections to complete: Overview, Study, Review, Assess. Be sure to progress through the units in this order. I recommend at the outset of the course that you plan to devote 90 minutes per day to the reading, viewing, study, and review; after a couple of weeks, you will be able to tell if this amount of time can be decreased or should be increased. (Especially for learning a language, it is helpful to put in regular time every day in order to gain proficiency. If your schedule only permits devoting one hour per weekday, then put that time in and plan to compensate on the weekend.) For each unit, this will involve the following:

1. Readings. Read carefully through all the material provided in the Overview and Study sections (some of which are duplicated in the textbook).
2. Video lectures. View, re-view, and take notes as needed on the video lectures by Dr. William Mounce that are presented within the units.
3. Exercises. For these you will need to consult the print version of Mounce’s book. (10% of grade)
4. Forums. In this course, we will use the “Forum” feature as a way to conduct class discussion, focusing on questions you have about the grammar. If you have a question about the grammar or what you are asked to learn, post it to the Forum when it occurs to you, and I’ll do my best to respond to it. You may also respond to other students’ questions. (10% of grade)
5. Quizzes (Unit Assessments). At the end of each unit, the Assess section consists of a timed quiz. You are allotted up to 30 minutes to complete the quiz. Although you should be able to go back later and look at the quiz with subsequent “attempts” for purposes of review and mastery, only the first attempt will be counted for the grade. (25% of grade)

The Review component, powered by Cerego, is an indispensable and user-friendly tool for content review before each quiz. As with the course content itself, students may return for review as often as desired.

Before taking the first quiz, send me an email clearly stating that you pledge not to use any external aids (notes, books, internet, etc.) for the sixteen quizzes and two exams during this course. Grades will not be credited until the email is received.

6. Exams. One mid-term (after Unit 8; 26% of grade) and one final exam (after Unit 16; 29% of grade) will be taken.

Grades for quizzes and exams will be tracked on the course platform. In addition to those grades, the instructor will also assign grades to the reflection questions and to the forum responses. This explains why the percentages above are slightly different from the website (not

30/30/40), and why the grade tracked by the system may not correspond exactly to your actual overall grade.

#### Grading Scale:

90-100% = A    80-89 = B    70-79 = C    60-69 = D    0-59 = F

#### Course Outline and Schedule:

As you can see on the course homepage, this course has 16 units, in addition to the mid-term and final exams. Each unit includes reading, videos, questions, a forum discussion, review, and an assessment (quiz). The course lasts for 8 weeks. A “week” will be considered Monday through Sunday. In order to count for credit, all content for each unit must be completed by the end of the respective week, that is, before midnight (Central Time) each Sunday night. For example, all content for Units 1 and 2, including your initial Forum response and your assessment, should be completed by 11:59 P.M. on Sunday, Oct. 16. It is important to keep up with the course; late work will not be accepted. If you experience difficulty keeping up with the course, please inform the instructor by email at your earliest possible opportunity.

Week 1, Aug. 24–28	Units 1-2
Week 2, Aug. 29–Sept. 4	Units 3-4
Week 3, Sept. 5–11	Units 5-6
Week 4, Sept. 12–18	Units 7-8, Mid-term exam
Week 5, Sept. 19–25	Units 9-10
Week 6, Sept. 26–Oct.2	Units 11-12
Week 7, Oct. 3–9	Units 13-14
Week 8, Oct. 10–16	Units 15-16, Final exam