



McMaster Divinity College
Course Syllabus
Fall 2026

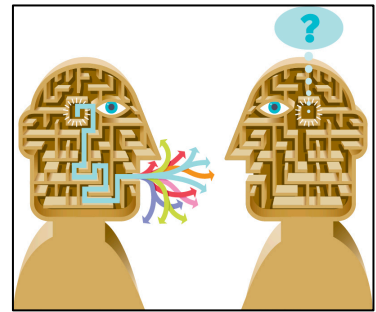
NT P31071 – Introduction to Biblical Greek

Online: Sept–Dec 2026
Synchronous Meeting:
Friday 9:00–10:50am

Instructor: Francis G. H. Pang, PhD
pangfg@mcmaster.ca
Co-Lecturer: TBA
Office Hours: Tue 10-12pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

People like to talk about what the Bible means, sometimes even with reference to “the original Greek.” However, for readers and teachers of the Bible to access useful resources and make insightful observations about the meaning of a text without making regrettable errors, they need to understand how languages make meaning—and how Greek makes meaning. This course explores the world of human language: language theory and how it applies to understanding texts. It will also review basic English grammar—which many students were never taught—as a basis for understanding Greek grammar. This will enable students to be better prepared to engage with our main task: learning the basics of Greek, focusing on how the linguistic elements lead to meaningful and accurate interpretation. There will necessarily be some memorization of vocabulary and main paradigms, but this course will also significantly reduce the amount of memorization usually required in language learning, since the focus is on understanding and application.



This course will appeal to two types of students:

1. Those who want to begin the process of learning biblical languages, especially those who plan on doing more advanced learning. Subsequent courses will teach the intelligent use of Greek resources as well as a more detailed knowledge of the languages and application to the biblical text.
2. Those who do not plan to study biblical languages in depth (or those who are not sure whether they do) but want to understand how languages work, how to move from one language to another, and how to interpret the biblical text responsibly. Those who want to continue with deeper study may do so.

MODE OF DELIVERY

Synchronous learning is online or distance education that happens in real time, whereas asynchronous learning occurs through online channels without real-time interaction. This course is designed as an **online synchronous learning** course. Students must have a basic familiarity with computers to participate, including the ability to navigate Avenue to Learn (A2L) course site, participate in synchronous meetings using Zoom, and make and upload PDFs of assignments to A2L.

The synchronous session will be conducted as a “**flipped classroom**.” There are three main components to the course (“Mangled Language,” “Language Theory,” and “Practical Language”). All course contents are delivered asynchronously. Video lectures/tutorials will be made available each week on Monday. Students will view the assigned video lectures, study the handouts, and attempt to complete the practice exercises **BEFORE** the synchronous meetings (FRIDAY 9-10:50am). We will dedicate the session to answering questions, clarifying concepts, consolidating learning, and practicing skills.

Since this is an online course, all tests and exams will be proctored remotely. Detailed instructions will be given on A2L. Students are also encouraged to come to class to discuss any questions raised in the forum and/or the assignments. Students should expect to commit at least 4-5 hours per week on the course.

LEARNING OUTCOMES



Knowing

- To know the major grammatical categories in English and Greek
- To understand how language makes meaning
- To recognize and understand key biblical vocabulary in Greek
- To begin to learn the grammatical forms/paradigms in Greek



Being

- “To present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2 Tim 2:15)
- To be a mature interpreter of Scripture as taught by the Spirit (1 Cor 2:6–16)
- To allow the Scripture to motivate, form, and transform our faith, worship, and Christian way of life



Doing

- To describe how choices in language affect the meaning of the biblical text
- To describe the functions of the basic grammatical forms in Greek and use them in interpretation
- To interpret the biblical text meaningfully without committing common mistakes

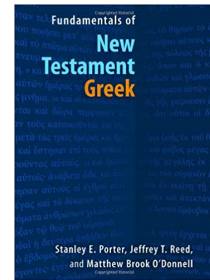
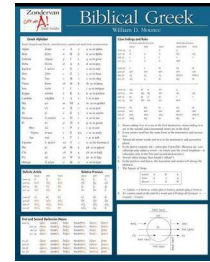
TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

1. Greek Summary:
Mounce, William D. *Biblical Greek Laminated Sheet. Zondervan Get an A! Study Guides*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.
2. Reference Grammar:
Porter, Stanley E., Jeffrey T. Reed, and Matthew Brook O'Donnell. *Fundamentals of New Testament Greek*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2010.
3. Online Greek Resource:
Tyndale House: Scripture Tools for Every Person (STEP): available free from stepbible.org. Supplemental handouts will also be provided.
4. Video Lectures (required)
A series of video lectures has been prepared by the professor specifically for this course, focusing on common linguistic fallacies, language theory, and biblical interpretation. They also review and expand textbook concepts. They are available on A2L.
5. Greek Material (required)
Greek material (video lectures, tutorials, practice exercises, handouts, etc.) will be posted on Avenue to Learn (A2L) weekly.
6. Vocabulary and Online Resources (keyed to the text):
A number of vocabulary and supplemental resources are given on A2L. A Quizlet (free online flashcard program) group will be created with study sets for student to memorize and review key paradigms and common vocabularies. Class invitation link to the Quizlet study set will be posted on A2L.
7. Suggested Resources:

This is a helpful resource for Greek students unfamiliar with English grammar:
Lamerson, Samuel. *English Grammar to Ace New Testament Greek*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004.

And this is an excellent resource for doing appropriate word studies:
Baxter, Benjamin J. *"In the Original Text It Says": Word-Study Fallacies and How to Avoid Them*. Critical Christian Issues. Gonzalez, FL: Energion, 2012.

All required and recommended books for this class are available from the Hurlburt Family Bookstore located beside the entrance to the Nathaniel H. Parker Memorial Chapel of McMaster Divinity College. To purchase in advance, students may contact the bookstore manager, Bernice Quek, by phone at 416.620.2934 or 416.668.3434 (mobile); or by email at books@readon.ca. The Hurlburt Family Bookstore also carries other books and merchandise and is open throughout the academic year during posted hours.



COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All assignments must be submitted to the appropriate Assignment Box on A2L in **PDF format** only.

Mangled Language Discussions (10%)

On selected weeks, a Mangled Language question (video) will be posted on A2L. It will deal with a debatable interpretation of a biblical text involving the use of language. For 10% of the final grade, students are expected to prepare a response before class and participate in the in-class discussion.

Practical Language Assignment: Weekly Exercises 25%

(Due on Sunday Oct 8, Nov 11 and Nov 29 at 11:59 pm) – Indicated on the schedule below.

Students will complete weekly exercises provided by the instructors that involve the use of material covered in the weekly Greek videos and tutorials. The online sessions will focus in part on discussing and answering questions about these exercises to help you learn. We will work through examples together. These exercises will be collected and graded on three different dates.

Language Theory Assignment: Sermon or Commentary Analysis 15%.

Due on Sunday, Dec 6 by 11:59 pm (Indicated on the schedule below)

Evaluate and critique a sermon, article, or an excerpt of a commentary (which will be provided by the instructors) in terms of the handling of the original Greek language. Students should utilize what they learn in class and identify the common exegetical and linguistic fallacies (which will be covered in language theory). The entire report should be under **6 pages** and must follow the “McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses.”

Weekly Vocabulary Quizzes: 10%

You will be responsible for learning 150-200 most common words in the Greek New Testament as well as the most common paradigms (the article, verb endings, etc.). The vocabulary and the paradigms will be quizzed WEEKLY on A2L.

Term Test: 20% (October 30)

On October 30, a term test will be conducted with a live video (Zoom) meeting with the students and the proctor (the instructors). More information will be given in class.

Final Exam 20%. (December 18)

There will be a final exam on December 18. Like the term test, the final exam will be conducted with a live video meeting. More information will be given in class.

Mangled Language Discussion	10%
Practical Language Assignment (Weekly)	25%
Language Theory Assignment	15%
Vocabulary Quizzes	10%
Term Test	20%
Final Exam	20%

Total Grade

100%

COURSE SCHEDULE

	Week	Mangled Language	Language Theory	Practical Language	Paradigm
1	Sept 14–18	Course Introduction and Syllabus		Alphabet, Vowels, Pronunciation: Names, Forms, Sounds.	Alphabet, Pronunciation and Vowels
2	Sept 21–25	“Loving God”	Functions of Language	Auxiliary System: Particles, Conjunctions, and Prepositions	
3	Sept 28–Oct 02	“How many kinds of love?”	Form and Function; Syntax and Semantics	Nominal Systems 1: Case, gender, number	The Greek Article
4	Oct 5–9 Exercise Due Oct 11	“Righteousness of God”	Words Study and Theology	Nominal Systems 2: Noun and pronouns	1 and 2 Declension Nouns
5	Oct 12–16	Reading Week			
6	Oct 19–23	“Divine Necessity”	Exegetical Fallacies	Nominal Systems 3: Nominal Group	Greek Adjectives
7	Oct 26–30 Term Test Oct 30	Term Test Review		Introduction to Greek Verb	
8	Nov 2–6 Exercise Due Nov 8	“Word Study Once Again”	TBA	Verbal Systems 1: Finite and Non-finite	
9	Nov 9–13	“Stay-at-home Dad?”	TBA	Verbal Systems 2: Voice	Primary Active endings
10	Nov 16–20			Verbal Systems 3: Tense and Aspect	Primary M/P endings
11	Nov 23–27 Exercise Due Nov 29			Verbal Systems 4: Mood	Secondary Active endings
12	Nov 30–Dec 4 LT Paper Due Dec 6			Verbal Systems 5	Secondary M/P endings
13	Dec 7–11	Exam Review			
14	Dec 13–18 Exam Dec 18	Exam			

VIRTUAL CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR AND PARTICIPATION

- All thoughtful student participation is welcome. There are no “dumb questions” or “stupid answers.” Students will respect the contributions of other students, although they may disagree, and respond to them without ridicule or scorn.
- While we are not going to introduce new content during our weekly online sessions, students are required to come to the online meetings to ask questions, clarify concepts, discuss interpretation, and most importantly, form a supportive learning community.
- Students are to observe proper online learning etiquette and manner.
- Please choose a location that allows you to attend the synchronous meeting with the least amount of (expected) distractions and interruptions. A busy café, for example, may not be the best environment for you to participate in various class activities.
- You are responsible for a device that meets the recommended requirements of running zoom and A2L smoothly and have a fast and reliable internet connection for the meeting.

LATE SUBMISSION POLICY

All assignments must be submitted on or before the due date, unless other arrangements are made in advance. A late penalty of 2% per day will be applied to all assignments submitted after the deadline, unless an extension has been obtained from the instructor prior to the deadline. Assignments cannot be submitted after **Dec 18, 2026** without written permission from the Office of the Registrar (mdcreg@mcmaster.ca).

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresenting the authorship or ownership of written work through deception or other fraudulent means. In an academic setting this may include copying or using unauthorized aids during tests or examinations; plagiarism, that is, presenting another person's (or generative AI's) words, ideas, data, or creative work as one's own without appropriate acknowledgement and citation; or submitting work for credit in more than one course without instructor permission.

A special note about Generative AI: Students are expected to do their own thinking and write their own papers and assignments. Generative AI is not to be used to do this work. The use of AI to produce content that is then submitted as though it were the student's own work constitutes plagiarism and is a violation of the Academic Honesty Policy. While AI tools may be used to correct errors in English grammar, usage, and mechanics, Generative AI must not be used to translate assignments from a student's native language into English. All degree programs at MDC are taught in the English language. Students are expected to be sufficiently proficient in English to engage fully in academic discourse in these programs.

AODA

In accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), McMaster Divinity College (MDC) is committed to supporting a learning environment that is inclusive and accessible to all students, including those with disabilities. Students who require academic accommodations to participate fully in this course must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) (<https://sas.mcmaster.ca/>) of McMaster University. SAS will work directly with the MDC Registrar to ensure reasonably appropriate accommodations are in place. Students with accommodations must use the SAS portal to activate the

accommodations relevant to each course at the start of each term in which they are enrolled. Please note that accommodations must be requested in advance to allow sufficient time for implementation. Accommodations are not retroactive and will not be applied to coursework or activities that have already concluded.

Contact Information:

- **Student Accessibility Services General Inquiries:** sas@mcmaster.ca
- **Roksana Sobota (SAS Representative for MDC):** sobotar@mcmaster.ca
- **MDC Registrar:** mdcreg@mcmaster.ca

GENDER INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all its publications. It is expected that student will use inclusive language in all MDC assignments. When referencing biblical texts, students should preserve the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God while using gender-inclusive language when referring to human beings. Biblical quotations should be taken from a gender-inclusive translation such as: NRSVue (2022), NIV (2011), CEB (2011), NLT (1996), or CEV (1995).

COLLEGE STYLE FOR SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the **McMaster Divinity College Press Style Guide** <https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/resources-forms/mdc-style-guide/>. Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS COURSE POLICY

Technology Requirements

- A reliable internet connection (tested before class time),
- A device with audio and video capability
- The correct video conferencing platform installed (e.g., Zoom, Teams).

Webcam & Environment

- Students must keep their microphones muted except when speaking to minimize background noise.
- Students must keep their webcams on throughout the class session.
- Students must dress appropriately.
- Students must ensure their surroundings are free from unnecessary distractions. Professional virtual backgrounds are permitted.