

**Greek Exegesis (Matthew)**  
**NT 2I03/6I06**  
**Preaching Matthew Using Greek**  
**NT 2K03**

McMaster Divinity College  
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Fall 2017 (Term 1)  
Wednesday, 10:30am–12:20pm

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Being able to read the Greek New Testament opens up the possibility of a deeper and richer encounter with the scriptures. Also, being able to explicitly analyze the possible meaning(s) of a Greek wording makes it possible to discuss with clarity the foundation on which all interpretive and theological discussions must rest. In this class, students will grow in their ability to read and analyze the Greek New Testament through assigned readings and exercises, as well as through classroom lectures and discussions. By the end of the course, students will be better able to read through a passage of the Greek New Testament and appreciate how the wording of the text factors into interpretive debates regarding its meaning.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Through their active participation in this course, students will:

***Knowing***

- Understand how languages make meanings;
- Recognize more Greek words;
- Learn about the grammatical structures of Greek (i.e. words, word groups and clauses).

***Being***

- Appreciate the benefits of collaborative close reading;
- Become humble interpreters who are moving towards competency in Greek;
- Practice listening carefully to the original wording of the New Testament.

***Doing***

- Learn how to use a textual apparatus (NT 2I03/6I06);
- Learn how to use a Greek lexicon properly;
- Learn how to analyze Greek wordings as meaningful structures (NT 2I03/6I06);
- Practice moving from the Greek text to responsible interpretations and applications.

## **COURSE PREREQUISITES**

Prerequisite courses are: NT 1B03 and NT 1C03, or NT 1G03 and NT 1H03 (or equivalent).

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Note: Students are required to complete all of the following assignments. No unfinished assignments are permitted. *Written assignments must be uploaded to Avenue to Learn either as Word documents (.doc, .docx) or in Rich Text Format (.rtf). A penalty of 2% per day will be applied to all late assignments, including assignments submitted in incorrect file formats. Assignments cannot be submitted after December 13th without written permission from the Office of the Registrar ([thomn@mcmaster.ca](mailto:thomn@mcmaster.ca)).*

## **NT 2I03**

### **Seminar Preparation (40%)**

Each week, students in NT 2I03 will use their existing knowledge of Greek to read through an assigned passage from the Gospel of Matthew and to produce their own English translation. The translation should be brought to class and the student should be prepared to read it, discuss it, and then turn it in to the professor.

While working through these assigned passages, students in NT 2I03 will use Hypothesis ([www.hypothes.is](http://www.hypothes.is)) to annotate the passage with observations and questions related to its wording, its meaning, and its contemporary significance. These annotations will be visible to other students in the class, and students will have the freedom to read and reply to one another's comments and questions. (Hypothesis will be introduced to students during the first seminar meeting.) Because of the diversity of the class, students will be operating at numerous different levels of understanding, particularly with respect to Greek. What matters is that students make a solid effort to apply what they know, to ask good questions, and to participate in the process of collaborative close reading.

While exploring the assigned biblical passages, students in NT 2I03 should regularly consult a suitable commentary and at least one of the two assigned grammar textbooks (i.e. either Porter's *Idioms* or Mathewson & Emig's *Intermediate Greek Grammar*; see the schedule for the most relevant sections). If a student has already taken a Greek Exegesis course and used one of these two texts, then both books should be consulted each week. Comments made using Hypothesis should clearly demonstrate the application of the textbook material to the assigned passages.

The assessment of NT 2I03 seminar preparation will be partly based on whether the student completed the translation, made annotations online, and incorporated insights from the textbooks. It will also be partly based on the amount of effort and progress shown during these

activities. Half of the grade will be assigned midway through the semester, and the other half at the end of the semester.

### **Seminar Participation (20%)**

Students in NT 2I03 are expected to attend seminar meetings and to participate in seminar discussions. For those weeks where a passage from the Greek New Testament is being discussed, each student will receive credit for showing up to class prepared to read aloud from the Greek, to contribute his or her own English translation, and to inquire about anything that remains unclear following the online collaborative reading. If a student is unable to attend class *due to extenuating circumstances*, the relevant classes (to a limit of two) will be factored out of the participation grade—provided the student discusses his or her absence with the professor in a punctual manner (preferably in advance of the missed class).

### **Vocabulary Quizzes (10% First Course; 0% Second Course)**

On each of the starred dates in the calendar below, each student in NT 2I03 must complete a brief vocabulary quiz using A2L. Students can take the quiz up to five times (receiving randomly selected items each time), with the highest achieved score counting towards the final grade. The vocabulary for the quizzes includes all of the words assigned in Porter, Reed, and O'Donnell, *Fundamentals of New Testament Greek* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010). The relevant vocabulary lists are available on A2L, and some free study aids are available at [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com). Students can also use the practice quiz on A2L, which contains all of the words assigned in the course, broken down into four groups for the four quizzes. Students in their second Greek Exegesis course must take the quizzes, even though they do not count towards the final grade.

### **Exegetical Paper (30% First Course; 20% Second Course)**

Students in NT 2I03 will submit a 4,000-word paper that applies their knowledge of the Greek language to the exegesis of the Gospel of Matthew. In the first half of the paper, a specific Greek word must be described, with its meaning and interpretation discussed in relation to at least three passages in Matthew where the word occurs. In the second half of the paper, a specific feature or structure of Greek grammar must be described (either morphological or syntactic), with its meaning and interpretation discussed in relation to at least three passages in Matthew where the word occurs. The paper must follow the *McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses* and must demonstrate careful interaction with the Greek New Testament. It will be due on **December 6th at 11:59pm**.

### **Final Examination (0% First Course; 30% Second Course)**

All students in NT 2I03 will write a final examination on **December 13th at 10:30am**, but the exam will be part of the final grade only for students who have previously taken a Greek Exegesis course. The exam, which will last two hours, will test each student's familiarity with the Greek of the New Testament. First, students will be asked some vocabulary questions.

Second, students will answer some questions about the Greek language. Third, students will translate a passage of Greek and answer some questions about the passage.

### **GRADING SUMMARY (NT 2I03 — FIRST GREEK EXEGESIS COURSE)**

Seminar Preparation	40%
Seminar Participation	20%
Vocabulary Quizzes	10%
Exegetical Paper	30%
<u>Final Examination</u>	<u>0%</u>
Total	100%

### **GRADING SUMMARY (NT 2I03 — SECOND GREEK EXEGESIS COURSE)**

Seminar Preparation	40%
Seminar Participation	20%
Vocabulary Quizzes	0%
Exegetical Paper	20%
<u>Final Examination</u>	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

## **NT 2K03**

### **Seminar Preparation (20%)**

Students in NT 2K03 will undertake seminar preparation alongside students in NT 2I03 (including the submission of a rough English translation), but the Hypothesis comments and questions should reflect the competencies expected of students who have selected the pastoral languages option (i.e. Greek must be discussed, but it is equally important to explore the meaning and contemporary significance of Matthew's Gospel).

### **Seminar Participation (20%)**

Students in NT 2K03 are expected to attend seminar meetings and to participate in seminar discussions together with other students in the course.

### **Vocabulary Quizzes (10%)**

Students in NT 2K03 will take the same A2L vocabulary quizzes as students in NT 2I03.

### **Final Examination (0%)**

Students in NT 2K03 will write the same final examination as students in NT 2I03, although it will not count towards the final grade.

### **Word Study (20%)**

Each student in NT 2K03 will select a Greek word that appears in the Gospel of Matthew. Then, in consultation with at least three of the Greek lexicons listed below (both LSJ and BDAG must be consulted), they will provide a description of the Greek word and its range of meaning, showing how the word can be used differently in different contexts. Following this, the student will select one of the English glosses supplied by the Greek lexicons, and will repeat the same exercise using that English word, the *Oxford Dictionary of English*, and the *Oxford English Dictionary* (both available electronically). A final section of the study will then discuss the importance of careful attention to context, using the selected Greek and English words to exemplify the nonsense that results when people disregard the role that context plays in the interpretation of word meanings. Overall, the word study should be around 1,500 words in length, and it must follow the *McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses*. It is due on **October 25th at 11:59pm**.

### **Expository Sermon (30%)**

Each student in NT 2K03 will write a sermon on a passage from the Gospel of Matthew that responsibly exegetes the text and then applies it to contemporary life. Although the sermon need not explicitly discuss the Greek (generally, this is a bad idea!), it must demonstrate careful exegesis of the text and must use footnotes to supply supporting discussion and citations for its major exegetical points (whether linguistic or historical or whatever). The main body of the sermon should be around 2,000 words in length, and supporting footnotes/bibliography should be an additional 1,500 words. The overall submission must follow the *McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses*, including a title page and bibliography. It is due on **November 22nd at 11:59pm**.

### **GRADING SUMMARY (NT 2K03)**

Seminar Preparation	20%
Seminar Participation	20%
Vocabulary Quizzes	10%
Final Examination	0%
Word Study	20%
<u>Expository Sermon</u>	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

### **NT 6I06**

#### **Seminar Preparation and Follow-up (40%)**

Students in NT 6I06 will undertake the same seminar preparation as students in NT 2I03 (consulting both Porter's *Idioms* and Mathewson & Emig's *Intermediate Greek Grammar*), but their comments and questions should reflect the competencies expected of advanced degree

students. Wherever possible, students should answer the questions asked by professional degree students, using their greater knowledge and experience to help fellow seminar participants.

As a follow-up to each seminar lecture, students in NT 6I06 will read through the draft material on which the lecture was based, annotating the draft with comments and questions using Hypothesis. Downing's *English Grammar* must be consulted in this process, and comments should cite Downing when suggesting ways that the draft could be expanded or improved.

### **Seminar Participation (20%)**

Students in NT 6I06 are expected to attend seminar meetings and to participate in seminar discussions together with professional degree students.

### **Vocabulary Quizzes (0%)**

Students in NT 6I06 must complete the same vocabulary quizzes as professional degree students, although they will not count towards the final grade.

### **Final Examination (0%)**

Students in NT 6I06 will write the final examination together with professional degree students, although it will not count towards the final grade.

### **Research Paper (40%)**

Research degree students will submit a text-oriented paper that analyzes the language of the Gospel of Matthew in order to clarify or resolve a specific interpretive issue. The focus of the paper can be either the Greek language in general (with some application to Matthew) or a specific passage in Matthew (with reference to general features of the Greek language). The paper must be 7,000 words in length and must follow the *McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses*. It is due on **December 6th at 11:59pm**.

### **GRADING SUMMARY (NT 6I06)**

Seminar Preparation	40%
Seminar Participation	20%
Vocabulary Quizzes	0%
Final Examination	0%
<u>Research Paper</u>	<u>40%</u>
Total	100%

### **TEXTBOOKS**

All students are required to possess the following:

A standard edition of the Greek New Testament, such as the Nestle-Aland *Novum Testamentum Graece* (26th–28th ed.) or the UBS *Greek New Testament* (4th–5th ed.).

A suitable Greek–English lexicon (see bibliography below).

A suitable commentary on the Gospel of Matthew (see bibliography below).

Porter, Stanley E. *Idioms of the Greek New Testament*. 2nd ed. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994

and/or (see course requirements for details)

Mathewson, David, and Elodie Ballantine Emig. *Intermediate Greek Grammar: Syntax for Students of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016.

Students in NT 6I06 are also required to possess the following:

Downing, Angela. *English Grammar: A University Course*. 3rd ed. New York: Routledge, 2015.

Students are recommended to possess (or have access to) the following:

A parsing tool, such as biblewebapp.com, Bibleworks, Logos, or Accordance.

[Professional Students:] Omanson, Roger L. *A Textual Guide to the Greek New Testament: An Adaptation of Bruce M. Metzger's Textual Commentary for the Needs of Translators*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2006.

[Advanced Degree Students:] Metzger, Bruce Manning. *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1994.

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, ON M9W 6H3: phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; email [books@readon.ca](mailto:books@readon.ca). Other book services may also carry the texts.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Dates * = Quiz † = Prof. Away	Due @ 11:59pm	Lecture Topics	Passage for Subsequent Seminar	Relevant Grammar ( <i>Idioms/IGG</i> )
Sep 13		Welcome Introduction to the course Typing & speaking Greek Using a textual apparatus	Matt 1:1 (reading only)	
Sep 20		Introduction to Matthew Introduction to language	Matt 1:18–21	Intro / Intro

*Sep 27		How to use a lexicon	Matt 3:13–17	
Oct 4		How people build words	Matt 4:18–22	Ch. 4 / Ch. 1
Oct 11	Reading Week (No Class)			
*Oct 18		How people describe their experiences using language	Matt 4:23–5:12	Chs. 3, 7, 11 / Chs. 3, 7, 9
Oct 25	Word Study (2K03)	How people expand or shrink wordings	Matt 5:13–32	Chs. 9–10, 12, 14, 16 / Chs. 5, 10–12
Nov 1		How people do things using language	Matt 6:5–24	Chs. 2, 13, 18–19 / Ch. 8
*Nov 8		How people adopt different viewpoints on the events they describe	Matt 7:28–8:17	Chs. 1, 17 / Ch. 6
†Nov 15		How people organize the linear flow of information produced by language	Matt 14:13–33	Chs. 8, 15, 20 / Ch. 2
†Nov 22	Sermon (2K03)	Q&A on the Greek clause	Matt 16:13– 17:13	Ch. 21 / Ch. 13
*Nov 29		How people describe and indicate people and objects using language	Matt 27:32–61	Chs. 5–6 / Chs. 3–4
Dec 6	Exegetical Paper (2I03) Research Paper (6I06)	How people produce different kinds of texts		
Dec 13	Final Examination			

### SUITABLE GREEK-ENGLISH LEXICONS

[BDAG:] \*Bauer, Walter, Frederick W. Danker, W. F. Arndt, and F. W. Gingrich. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.

Danker, Frederick W. *The Concise Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009.

[LSJ:] Liddell, Henry George, Robert Scott, and Henry Stuart Jones. *A Greek-English Lexicon*. 9th ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1996. [Available @ <http://www.tlg.uci.edu/ljsj/>] [8th edition available @ <https://archive.org/details/cu31924012909697>]

Liddell, Henry George, and Robert Scott. *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1889. [Available @ <https://archive.org/details/intermediategree00lidd>]

\*Louw, J.P., and E.A. Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains*. 2 vols. New York: United Bible Societies, 1989.

Thayer, J.H., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. New York: American Book Company, 1897. [Available @ <https://archive.org/details/04508981.1536.emory.edu>]

### SUITABLE COMMENTARIES ON THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Allen, W.C. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Gospel according to S. Matthew*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1907.

Carson, D.A. "Matthew." In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, ed. F.E. Gaebelin, 1-599. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.

Davies, W.D., and D.C. Allison, Jr., *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Gospel according to Saint Matthew*. ICC. 3 vols. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1988-97.

France, R.T. *The Gospel of Matthew*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.

Gundry, R.H. *Matthew: A Commentary on his Literary and Theological Art*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.

Hagner, D.A. *Matthew*. WBC. 2 vols. Dallas: Word, 1993, 1995.

Lagrange, M.-J. *Evangile selon Saint Matthieu*. EB. Paris: Gabalda, 1923.

Lohmeyer, E., with W. Schmauch. *Das Evangelium des Matthäus*. KEK. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1967.

Luz, Ulrich. *Matthew: A Commentary*. Hermeneia. 3 vols. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2001–2007.

McNeile, A.H. *The Gospel according to St. Matthew*. London: Macmillan, 1915.

Meyer, H.A.W. *Critical and Exegetical Hand-Book to the Gospel of Matthew*. London: Funk & Wagnalls, 1884.

Osborne, Grant R. *Matthew*. ZECNT. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

Wiefel, W. *Das Evangelium nach Matthäus*. THNT. Leipzig: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 1998.

## **STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty (<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>).

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) for plagiarism detection. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com can submit an electronic copy of their work via email in PDF format and no penalty will be assigned, but all submitted work is subject to normal verification standards in order to ensure that academic integrity has been upheld (e.g. online search).

## **STYLE**

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses:

[https://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdc\\_styleguide.pdf](https://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdc_styleguide.pdf)

Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

## **GENDER INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE**

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

**This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.**