



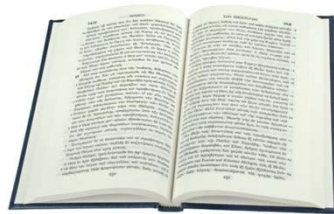
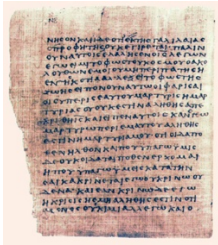
McMaster Divinity
College

MINING FOR MEANING: PRACTICAL WAYS TO ANALYZE THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT

NT 2L03

McMaster Divinity College
Dr. Christopher D. Land
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Winter 2019
Tuesday 2:00–3:50pm



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Computers have revolutionized many human practices, including the study of ancient texts. Today, it is common for preachers and teachers to examine the Greek New Testament using software tools or online resources. Unfortunately, this is often done with little understanding of the information provided by the tools and the importance of this information for understanding specific passages. This course will demonstrate how free online web resources can be used effectively in order to clarify what is “in the original Greek” so that interpretations and applications can rely upon a careful consideration of what the text actually says and how it says it. The course will be of benefit to a wide range of students, including not only those who hope to sight-read Greek but also those who do not anticipate learning to sight-read. It is recommended specifically for students who have already taken MDC’s “A Guide to Biblical Languages” (OT/NT 1L03) or who have some existing familiarity with biblical Greek.

Note: Students must have basic computer skills and must bring a laptop to all classes.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through their active participation in this course, students will:

KNOWING

- Know some of the most frequent words in the New Testament;

- Know how individual words combine in order to make meaningful units;
- Know the main grammatical choices that enable the making of meaning in Greek;
- Know what is involved in moving from grammatical analysis to interpretation and application.

BEING

- Become self-aware as a modern reader of the Bible, recognizing the antiquity of the texts;
- Dispense with over-confidence (or lack of confidence) concerning knowledge of the biblical languages, adopting instead an attitude of life-long learning;

DOING

- Have the ability to use free, online resources that provide information regarding the wording of the Greek New Testament;
- Have the ability to talk intelligently about what the available linguistic information reveals about specific wordings (i.e. to explain both *what* a wording means and *why* it means what it means);
- Have the ability to move cautiously from the available linguistic information to a preliminary understanding of an actual passage of scripture.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Note: You 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 12th without written permission from the Office of the Registrar (thomn@mcmaster.ca).*

VOCABULARY QUIZZES (10%)

During the semester, you will learn the 120 most common words (i.e. inflections) in the Gospel of John and the Johannine Epistles, because recognizing these forms makes it much easier to examine these texts. Various study aids will be made available to assist you in this, including digital flash cards that can be used to match the words with both pictures and English glosses. The vocabulary will be tested by means of two quizzes (worth 5% each) and the final exam (see below), with the first quiz covering the 40 most common words, the second quiz the 80 most common words, and the final exam the 120 most common words. Dates for these assessments are in the schedule below.

GRAMMAR QUIZZES (15%)

During the semester, three brief quizzes (worth 5% each) will test your ability to explain (in your own words) how the Greek language makes meaning. Because this will be the focus of the class handouts, lectures, and discussions, the quizzes will be testing whether you are paying attention and whether you are understanding the basic workings of the language. Each quiz will be based on a passage from the Greek New Testament, with a printed quiz sheet supplying the same linguistic information that is being accessed digitally throughout the course (i.e. English glosses, parsing information, syntactic information,

etc.). Given this information, you must provide brief written answers that explain what the passage means and why it means this.

FIRST ANALYSIS OF A PASSAGE (20%)

Following the first half of the course, you will submit a brief report (1,500 words) that answers a pre-determined list of interpretive questions related to the wording of a passage from the Greek New Testament. You are free to choose whichever passage you want to discuss, but it must be from the New Testament and should be between five to ten verses in length. In addition to the online resources used throughout the course, you must cite at least ten appropriate reference works that discuss your passage and/or its wording (i.e. major biblical commentaries and/or Greek reference books). An introduction to suitable reference books will be provided in class.

SECOND ANALYSIS OF THE PASSAGE (20%)

Near the end of the semester, you will submit an extended report (3,000 words in total, including approximately 1,500 words from the first analysis that have been updated/ revised in keeping with further learning) that answers another pre-determined list of interpretive questions related to the same passage you selected for your first analysis. The list will contain the same questions asked as part of the first analysis, as well as some new questions related to material from the second half of the course. This will give you a change to revisit your earlier answers, as well as to explore facets of the passage that were not considered in the first report. Here again, you must use the online resources and to cite at least ten appropriate reference works that discuss your passage and/or its wording.

ORAL READING OF THE PASSAGE (5%)

Following one of the class sessions (or online via an A2L video), you must read aloud your chosen passage to the professor (in Greek). This will force you to become consistent in pronouncing biblical Greek, so that you can talk *about* the wording of the Greek New Testament (even if you do not actually know how to sight-read or speak the language). Pronunciation aids will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

FINAL EXAM (30%)

For the final examination, you will be given a passage from the Greek New Testament and a few of the questions that were asked in the main written assignments (see above). You will be allowed to use online resources in order to answer the exam questions, which will require you to explain what (linguistically speaking) the passage means and why (linguistically speaking) it means this. There will also be a vocabulary component to the exam, involving 120 inflections taken from the Johannine literature (see above). A concluding section on the exam will ask you to provide some remarks about interpretive issues that are important for understanding the passage but that are *not* answered by the Greek wording of the passage itself, to ensure that you know the limits of Greek language study as well as the benefits.

GRADING SUMMARY

Vocabulary Quizzes	10%
Grammar Quizzes	15%

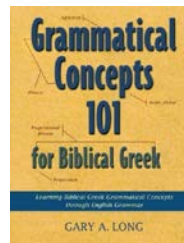
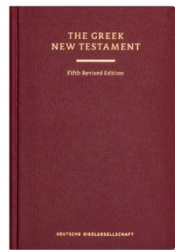
First Analysis of a Passage	20%
Second Analysis of the Passage	20%
Oral Reading of the Passage	5%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

TEXTBOOKS

All students are required to possess (or have access to) 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.).

Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Greek*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2006.



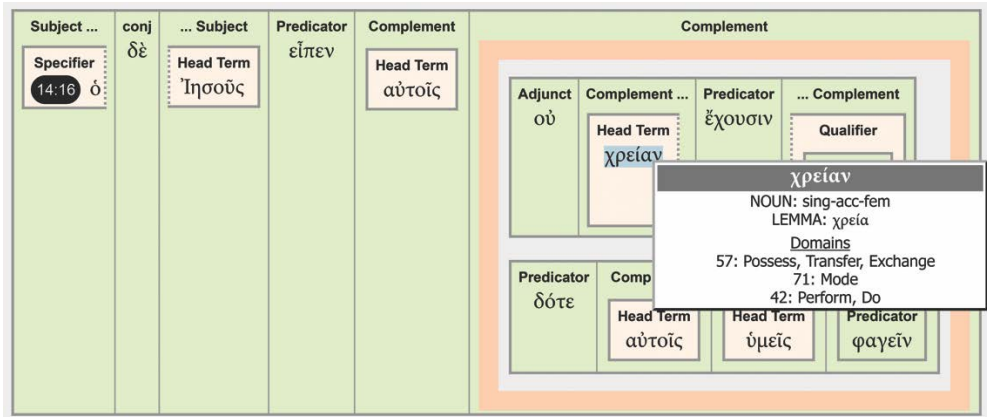
Students are required to have access to the following (free) online resources:

Website: Perseus Digital Library Scaife Viewer: <https://scaife.perseus.org> (free)

The screenshot shows the Scaife Viewer interface for the New Testament, Matthew. The main content area displays the Greek text and its English translation side-by-side. The Greek text is: **καὶ ἐπέθηκαν ἐπάνω τῆς κεφαλῆς αὐτοῦ τὴν αἰτίαν αὐτοῦ γεγραμμένην ΟΥΤΟΣ ΕΣΤΙΝ ΙΗΣΟΥΣ Ο ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΤΩΝ ΙΟΥΔΑΙΩΝ.** The English translation is: **They set up over his head the accusation against him written, "THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS."**

The interface includes a navigation bar at the top with "Scaife Viewer", "Browse Library", "Text Search", "Log in", and "Sign up". On the left, there are sections for "ANCESTORS", "PASSAGE REFERENCE" (with a search box containing "27.37"), and "TEXT SEARCH" (with a search box and radio buttons for "Form" and "Lemma (Greek only)"). On the right, there are sections for "CTS URN", "TEXT MODE", "TEXT SIZE", "HIGHLIGHT", "MORPHOLOGY" (with a description: "In HIGHLIGHT text mode, select a word to get morphological analysis (Greek and Latin only)."), and "WORD LIST" (with a description: "Number in parentheses is frequency per 10k in this work." and a list of words with their frequencies).

Website: The OpenText.org Syntactically Annotated Greek New Testament: <http://www.opentext.org> (free)



Website: Liddell, Henry George and Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon: <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus:text:1999.04.0057> (free)

All students are recommended to possess the following:

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

Porter, Stanley E. *Idioms of the Greek New Testament*. 2nd ed. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 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. Other book services may also carry the texts.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

	Workshop Sessions	Assessments	Follow-Up
Jan 8	Welcome & Introduction Practice: Alphabet & Pronunciation Practice: Word Studies Demo: Quizlet & LSJ & Scaife Viewer		Practice: John 9:1–7 Reading: “Word Classes”
Jan 15	Review: John 9:1–7 Demo: OpenText.org Segmentation Display		Practice: John 9:8–16 Reading: “Syntactic Relations”
Jan 22	Review: John 9:8–16 Demo: OpenText.org Relational Display		Practice: John 9:17–23 Reading: “Ranking Units”
Jan 29	Review: John 9:17–23 Demo: OpenText.org Unit Display	Grammar Quiz	Practice: John 9:24–34 Reading: “Nominal Groups”
Feb 5	Review: John 9:24–34 Demo: OpenText.org Nominal Groups	Vocab Quiz	Practice: John 9:35–41 Reading: “Clauses”
Feb 12	Review: John 9:35–41 Demo: OpenText.org Clauses	Grammar Quiz	Practice: John 5:1–18 Reading: “Adverbial Groups”
Feb 19	Reading Week (No Class)		
Feb 26	Review: The Course So Far Practice: John 5:1–18	First Analysis	Practice: 1 John 1 Reading: “Syntactic Markers”
Mar 5	Review: 1 John 1 Demo: Syntactic Markers in OpenText.org		Practice: 1 John 2 Reading: “Ordering”
Mar 12	Review: 1 John 2 Demo: Ordering in OpenText.org	Vocab Quiz	Practice: 1 John 3 Reading: “Discontinuity”
Mar 19	Review: 1 John 3 Demo: Discontinuity in OpenText.org	Grammar Quiz	Practice: 1 John 4 Reading: “Ellipsis”
Mar 26	Review: 1 John 4 Demo: Complex Units in OpenText.org		Practice: 1 John 5 Reading: “Metaphor”
Apr 2	Exam Review: 1 John 5 Course Evaluations	Second Analysis	
Apr 9	Final Exam		

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 at:

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>

In this course, we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) for plagiarism detection and the student's continuation in the course represents his or her consent to the use of this service. If a student has objections to the use of this service, alternate arrangements for assignment submission must be made with the professor in advance of the assignment deadlines.

A useful guide to avoiding plagiarism is the Harvard Guide to Using Sources:

<http://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do>

STYLE

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

<https://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.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 its publications. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected, but you will need to use gender-inclusive language for humans, and you will need to quote from a gender-inclusive version such as the following: NRSV (1989), NCV (1991), TEV/GNB/GNT (1992), CEV (1995), NLT (1996), TNIV (2005), and the Common English Bible (CEB 2011).

This syllabus is for information only and remains the property of the respective professor. This syllabus is prepared with the best information available, but the professor reserves the right to change the content and format of the course.