



NT 2C03  
**Greek II (Morphology):  
 Picking up the Pace**

McMaster Divinity College  
 July–August  
 Online – Summer 2021

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the second half of a year-long introduction to the Greek of the New Testament (NT). It is intended for students who have taken Greek I (Introduction to Biblical Languages) under the new MDC language curriculum (NT 1B03). Continuing the journey of learning Greek from a functional perspective, we will follow a usage-based pedagogical approach to teaching elementary Greek, in which grammar and vocabulary are introduced according to frequency of usage, with the most frequent items introduced first. As a result, students are reinforced in learning the grammatical inflections that appear most frequently in the NT. This course assumes that the student has an awareness of the material taught in NT 1B03 and has already learned most of the Greek grammatical categories (e.g. you know what an aorist verb is even if you cannot recognize its various forms). Students will focus on mastering Greek at the word level in this course. Emphasis will be on acquiring a broad Greek vocabulary and morphology (words and their forms) for **sight reading**. We will explore the Greek nominal and verbal systems starting with a review of the most consistent and common forms and paradigms, and then gradually moving on to the more fluid forms. At the end of this course, students should be able to recognize a significant proportion of NT Greek words (and their forms) and hence read a portion of the New Testament in its original language with the help of a lexicon.

**A Note of Encouragement:** The study of any language is both challenging and rewarding. I once heard a scholar comparing learning Greek to daily gym workouts, or to learning a musical instrument. These require discipline, practice, and perseverance. They involve a hefty investment of time and energy (and even money), but the goal (whether it is getting in shape or the ability to create music) is extremely rewarding. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance to keep in view our goal—that is, to become responsible and competent exegetes of the Bible. To remind us, we will begin our weekly synchronous sessions with a brief example of how knowing the Greek helps us better interpret a specific biblical passage. And just as there are many fitness gadgets to help people get into shape, we will utilize various digital widgets (apps, games, and other web resources) to train our brain to recall Greek words. My goal as your instructor is to make your learning of Greek a positive, empowering, and fruitful experience. Remember, we are in this together.

COURSE OBJECTIVES**Knowing:**

- To become familiar with the basic morphology and vocabulary of the Greek New Testament (GNT);
- To know how to translate simple Greek sentences into contemporary English;
- To know the basic concepts needed for study of the GNT and exegetical methods that aid in the interpretation of individual passages.

**Being:**

- To appreciate the value of being able to exegete the text in its original language for use in ministry;
- To find pleasure in working with Greek in biblical studies;
- To allow the GNT to motivate, form, and transform faith and a Christian way of life.
- To build and appreciate a learning community characterized by camaraderie, diversity of learning styles, and mutual encouragement.

**Doing:**

- To demonstrate proficiency in incrementally building one's knowledge of biblical Greek so that it becomes an effective and lasting tool for Christian ministry;
- To be able to read the Greek New Testament with the aid of a lexicon, recognizing all major syntax and vocabulary.

**TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS**

Students are required to possess the following:

1. Porter, Stanley E., Jeffrey T. Reed, and Matthew Brook O'Donnell. *Fundamentals of New Testament Greek*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010. (NB: We will cover most of this material, but we will not be working through the book or the accompanying workbook. You will be using it as a reference tool.)
2. A standard edition of the Greek New Testament, such as the Nestle-Aland (26th–28th ed.), UBS (3rd–5th ed.) or Westcott-Hort.
3. Other material (videos, practice exercises, tutorials, presentations, handouts, etc.) will be posted on Avenue to Learn (A2L) weekly.

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, Ontario 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.

## INTERACTION WITH THE INSTRUCTOR

The instructor will be available via email, WebEx/Zoom, and the discussion forum on Avenue to Learn. This course is mostly asynchronous (you do things on your own time, week to week) but with one weekly synchronous session (we meet online, live). For the latter, we will set up a weekly tutorial to go over the modules and exercises together. A tutorial sign-up sheet will be posted on A2L for students to find common available time slot(s). Participation in the weekly synchronous tutorial session is not required but strongly encouraged to facilitate the development of a collaborative learning community and to ensure that all students are keeping up with the quick pace of this summer intensive course. If schedules for some reason simply cannot allow one synchronous time that works for everyone, we may record the sessions for the student(s) who wants to but cannot join the session live, but this is a last resort.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Learning Modules (Quizzes, Exercises, Online Activities) (4% per module = 40% total)

As language learning is cumulative, repetition and practice are essential. Students are expected to be actively participating in the online class activities. Class activities are grouped by learning modules. Each module includes video lecture(s), video tutorial(s), handouts, practice exercises, and a vocabulary and grammar quiz. **Note that since there are 10 learning modules and this is an intensive course, some weeks require us to cover two modules in one week.** These are noted on the course schedule. On these weeks, students will submit two sets of Practice Exercises (one for each module), but there will only be one quiz that will cover both modules (worth twice the points of a standard, one-module quiz).

**Weekly Synchronous Sessions:** Although NT 2C03 can function as a self-contained, totally asynchronous online course, synchronous (Webex) workshops will be available to clarify concepts, ask questions, and interact with the professor and other students. These will be arranged as convenient for the students and professor. While attendance is not required, students who attend typically do much better in the course.

**Practice exercises** are to be submitted electronically to corresponding A2L submission folders. No hard copy or scan is allowed. These exercises are given to help you master the material covered in the lesson and to prepare you for the quizzes and tests. Practice exercises will be graded with comments and returned to students. If necessary, the instructor may set up an appointment with students or post additional video tutorials to go over the pertinent material and common mistakes. The video lectures and tutorials are to be watched prior to completing the practice exercises and the quiz. **Exercises and Quizzes are due Friday night at the end of the week in which we cover a given module, by 11:30pm.**

The **quiz** will be on material learned previously (mostly on material to be memorized, such as endings, grammatical terms, paradigms, vocabulary, etc. and short translation questions). Towards the end of the term, students are expected to create short videos explaining the parsing of a word and collaborative translation exercises (more detail to come).

Grading Summary for **Each** Weekly Module:

Completion of Lectures/Tutorials	20%
Practice Exercise	40%
<u>Quiz</u>	40%
Weekly or (2x/Week) Total	100% (4% of the final grade)

2. Vocabulary (10%)

One of the goals of this course is to help students to familiarize themselves with the basic (and most common) vocabulary of the Greek New Testament. There will be twenty new words in each module. Counting the 200 words already learned in NT 1B03, students will have been assigned roughly 400+ words by the end of the term. A three-level vocabulary quiz on A2L will help students to learn these words. All students must start at the first level, which contains the 200 words that are covered in NT 1B03. A second level quiz contains 300 words, then a third level contains 400 words. For every quiz attempt, A2L will randomly select 20% of the total number of words from the word pool (i.e. 40 words for the first level, 60 for the second, 80 for the third). There is no limit to the number of quiz attempts allowed, but there will be a time limit (20 mins). You can take the quiz at a particular level as many times as it takes for you to master the words. Only your highest attempt will be used to calculate your overall grade. To complete a level (and if applicable, to advance to the next level), your highest attempt must obtain a grade of 90% or more. Your final grade will depend on which levels you complete: you will get 5% towards your final grade for completing level one, 7.5% for completing levels one and two, and 10% for completing all three levels.

3. Long Tests (20%)

There will be two long tests (10% each, 1.5 hours each). These tests may include sentence translations, grammar explanations, paradigms, parsing, vocabulary, etc. The tests are cumulative. The deadline to take the first long test is **Friday, July 23**, the end of the Week 3, in which we finish Module 3. The first test covers Modules 1–3. The deadline for the second test is **Friday, August 13**, the end of the week that we cover Modules 6 and 7. Failing to take the exams before the deadline will result in a zero grade.

4. Final Examination (30%)

The final exam is three hours long. The last day to take the exam is **August 31**. Failing to take the exam before this date will result in a zero grade.

## Course Grading Summary:

Vocabulary	10%
Learning Modules	40%
Long Tests	20%
<u>Final Examination</u>	30%
Total	100%

**\*Proctor for Tests and Final Exam:**

Each exam will be administered to the student to complete within an allotted time. Exams will be proctored. The student must choose someone to proctor the exam, and this person must be

approved by the instructors and Registrar of McMaster Divinity College. Examples of approved proctors are faculty or staff of any accredited seminary, university, or college, or a pastor or staff member of a local church. Alternatively, we can find one or two common timeslots for all students and the instructor will be proctoring the test/exam. A sign-up sheet will be posted 10 days before the test/exam for students to indicate their availability. If a student needs special accommodation due to unforeseeable circumstances, please email the instructor for further details on arranging the exams.

## SCHEDULE

Module(s) /Week	Topics	Grammatical Categories	Reference Chapters
0 Before July 5	(Optional): Review of NT 1B03	Auxiliary: Particles, Conjunctions, Prepositions Nominal: 1 and 2 Declension Nouns, 2-1-2 Adjectives, the Article Verbal: Indicative Verbs (Primary and Secondary Endings)	
1 Week of Jul 5	The Nominal System (I)	Contraction Rules 3 <sup>rd</sup> Declension Nouns, 1/3 Adjectives, 3 Adjectives Pronouns: Indefinite/Interrogative Pronouns	FNTG Chs. 1, 7
2 Week of Jul 12	The Nominal System (II)	Participle (Aorist, Present, Future) – Active, M/P, M; Proper Nouns	FNTG Chs. 10, 17
3 Week of Jul 19	The Auxiliary  <b>**Long Test I by Jul 23, 11:30pm</b>	Negative Particles, Conjunctions, Adverbs, Comparative and Superlative Adjectives Pronouns: Relative Pronouns	FNTG Chs. 4, 5, 9, 16, 19
4 Week of Jul 26	The Verbal System (I)	Contraction Rules Indicative Verbs Variations (Contract, Liquid, Stops)	FNTG Chs. 8, 16, 23
5 Week of Aug 2	The Verbal System (II)	Infinitives, Aorist/Future Passive Pronouns: Personal and Intensive Pronouns	FNTG Chs. 4, 8, 11, 13, 15, 20, 22
6–7 Week of Aug 9	The Verbal System (III & IV)  <b>**Long Test II by Aug 13, 11:30pm</b>	The Subjunctive Mood Pronouns: Reflexive and Reciprocal Pronouns The Imperative and Optative Moods	FNTG Ch. 14, 23, 24, 30
8 Week of Aug 16	The Verbal System (V)	Perfect and Pluperfect Pronouns: Demonstrative Pronouns	FNTG Chs. 12, 25–27
9–10 Week of Aug 23	The Verbal System (VI) and Above Word Level	Athematic Verbs ( $\mu$ verbs) Periphrastic/Catenative Construction, Clause Types, Conditional Statements, Genitive Absolute	FNTG Chs. 10, 14, 18, 21, 28–30
Week of Aug 30	<b>**Final Exam by Tues, Aug 31</b>	Exam Review	

## PREPARATIONS

To better prepare for this course, students are expected to review everything (practical language) covered in NT 1B03 (Spring 2021). An extra module (module zero) is added to the A2L course shell to provide a review of the material covered in that class. This module is not required and does not factor into the course grade but will provide an overview review prior to our first week of this course. Students are expected to have already memorized roughly 200 most common Greek words (from last term). Students should also be able to recognize the following endings and paradigms (with the corresponding chapters of FNTG in square brackets):

- Nominal System:
  - First and second declension endings [2; 5]
  - The article paradigm [3]
  - 2-1-2 adjective endings [2]
  - Verbless clauses and lexical structures [3]
- Verbal System:
  - Primary and secondary endings (Active and M/P)
  - Formations of the indicative mood: Aorist (first and second) [4, 6, 11], Future [8, 11], Present [8, 13], and Imperfect [6, 13]
  - The paradigm of εἰμί [7.5, 8.4.2]
- Auxiliary:
  - Preposition with one case [12]
  - Preposition with two or three cases [15]
  - Conjunctions and particles
- Phonology:
  - Vowel lengthening and compensation [1.3.7.3]
  - Vowel contraction [1.3.7.4]

## POLICY ON LATE QUIZZES AND ASSIGNMENTS

In an online course, there is some flexibility in when students complete assignments and quizzes, but they must be completed by a deadline during the week assigned. It is essential in a language course not to fall behind in the material. Marks will be deducted for late assignments or quizzes if there is no valid reason, such as major illness or a family crisis. The **deduction will be 3% per day**. If you have a valid reason to request an extension, email me at [seald@mcmaster.ca](mailto:seald@mcmaster.ca) *before* the due date.

Note that the weekly Quiz and Practice Exercises are due Friday night of the week that we cover that module's material. The Vocabulary component is completed on your own schedule by the day/time of the final exam. The final exam is Tuesday, August 31. **\*\*The instructor cannot give an extension on any assignment past August 31 without the student formally requesting an Incomplete and receiving approval from the Registrar\*\***

## 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 ~ <https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/rules-regulations/>

### **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), NIV (2011), and the Common English Bible (CEB 2011).

### **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 <http://mcmasterdivinity.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/mdcstyleguide.pdf>  
Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

### **DISCLAIMER**

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.