GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Spring 2009
Instructor: Dr. Julian V. Hills
Course #: THEO 225
Course Title: Advanced Hellenistic Greek

Content:

Advanced grammar; readings in texts from 300 B.C. to A.D. 300. Emphasis on the language of the New Testament as reflective of continuity and change in Greek vocabulary, morphology, syntax, style; and on the historical context and theology of these texts. (from the Graduate School Bulletin.)

Format:

[NOTE: BEGINNERS — Please consult with Dr. Hills about the possibility of setting up a special beginner's contract, (see item 1. below) as other students have done in previous semesters.]
1. A rapid review of basic grammar as we do our initial prepared and sight readings;
2. Advanced grammar and NT readings + a selection of Jewish and Christian texts;
3. Additional readings in Greco-Roman pagan materials including papyri and inscriptions.
4. The pace of the class will of course depend on the students' previous work in Greek.

Assignments and/or Examinations:

1. The development of an individual "contract" with Dr. Hills, specifying work reasonably expected to be done — initially, I shall ask each student to prepare a "Greek autobiography," to be discussed individually.
2. Weekly assignments:
   (a) sight reading, in class and on your own;
   (b) very brief vocabulary and paradigm quizzes;
   (c) translation and analysis of texts from the following: the Septuagint; apocrypha and pseudepigrapha; Philo and Josephus; post-New Testament Christian authors; pagan writers; inscriptions. Most students will prepare a full set of analytical notes for at least three texts.
   ▪ 3. A final examination, probably 3-hour "Take Home" — use of Greek to English lexicon permitted (but NOT grammar).

Language Pre-requisites:

▪ None.

Required Texts:

1. Greek New Testament — preferably a modern "critical edition" (options to be discussed).
2. J. Gresham Machen, New Testament Greek for Beginners (New York: Macmillan, 1923; repr. with corrections 1927 and often): (widely available used; there is a second edition). Students at the intermediate level or beyond will be expected to review the final ten chapters to brush up on Greek composition.

Other bibliography (esp. lexicons, grammatical aids) will be recommended as the course develops.