

Department of Theology

GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Spring 2010**

Instructor: Dr. Julian V. Hills

Course #: THEO 8211 - sec. 101

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).

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Students at the intermediate level or beyond will be expected to review the final ten chapters to brush up on Greek composition.

3. D. A. Carson, *Greek Accents: A Student's Manual* (Grand Rapid: Baker, 1985 and repr.).
4. Herbert Weir Smyth, rev. Gordon M. Messing, *Greek Grammar* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1956 and repr.): PA254.S6 1956 (in print). Available new and used.

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