GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2013
Instructor: Dr. Julian Hills
Course #: THEO 8211
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. (Graduate School Bulletin.)

[NOTE: BEGINNERS — Please consult with Dr. Hills about the possibility of setting up a special beginner's contract, as other students have done in previous semesters.]

1. A rapid review of basic grammar as we do our initial 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.

"In-class" time will be spent on grammar, sight-reading, and prepared reading.

Format:
(see also the "Outcomes" on the Syllabus):
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. Most students will prepare a full set of analytical notes for at least three texts.
2. Weekly short lectures on major points of grammar.
3. Weekly assignments in translation and analysis, from the LXX to Josephus, Philo, and patristic and later pagan materials; very brief vocabulary / paradigm quizzes.
3. Working through J. Gresham Machen, New Testament Greek for Beginners (New York: Macmillan, 1923; repr. with corrections 1927 and often): PA817.M3 1923 (still in print and widely available used). This is the assigned "teaching grammar" for basic instruction and review, to the extent needed. Students at the intermediate level or beyond will be expected to review the final ten chapters, and do exercises from and into Greek, to brush up on Greek composition.

Assignments and/or Examinations:
- A final examination, 3 hours. Use of Greek to English Lexicon (NOT Grammar) Permitted:
  - (a) 20% = 10 sentences, 5 into English and 5 into Greek, from the last 10 Lessons in Machen, New Testament Greek;
  - (b) 80% = Choice of 2 out of 3 sight reading passages, each of approx. 20 lines, the 3 being from [i] the Apostolic Fathers; [ii] Hellenistic Jewish or Christian literature; and [iii] a Hellenistic pagan author. Recent selections were from [i] The Epistle of Diognetus, [ii] Clement of Alexandria Protrepticus, and [iii] Diogenes Laertius Lives.

Language Pre-requisites:
- At least basic Greek expected.