

Greek I (NT5100) – 3 hours Fall 2026 Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR

The Rev. Ben Phillips, Associate Pastor, Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian Church

- Ph.D. Candidate: The University of Aberdeen, 2026
- ThM: Candler School of Theology at Emory University, 2017
- M.Div.: Reformed Theological Seminary-Charlotte, 2004
- BA: The University of South Carolina-Spartanburg, 1998

Office Hours

- Weekdays by appointment: on campus (Tuesdays) or virtually (Monday-Friday).
- Phone calls are welcome on weekdays before 8pm.

Contact Information

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- Cell: (678) 622-3409

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introductory study concentrating on basic vocabulary and analysis of the morphology and grammar of the Greek of the New Testament. Greek I is the first of a two-part sequence, covering the Greek nominal system and introducing the verbal system, which is continued in Greek II. This class is designed to begin training you to handle God's Word in a deeper and more substantial way. As you spend intentional time with the Greek New Testament it is our hope that you will become more confident with using the original language of Scripture so that 2 Timothy 3:16-17 may become even more manifest in your life and in your ministry.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Skills and Knowledge

- Upon successful completion of the course, students will:
 - be able to recognize and describe all basic Greek noun forms and the forms of the present and future in the indicative mood
 - be able to describe the basics of the grammar of the Greek nominal system (nouns, adjectives, and pronouns)
 - be able to recognize all vocabulary words covered in Chapters 1–20 of Mounce, *BBG*
 - be able to translate and explain the grammar of simple passages of New Testament Greek
 - begin to attain a reading knowledge of the Greek of the New Testament
 - appreciate the value of approaching the New Testament in its original language
 - appreciate the beauty, variety, complexity, and simplicity of God's word
 - by the Spirit, more skillfully apply God's Word to themselves and others.

Course Objectives Related to M.Div. Student Learning Outcomes

MDiv Student Learning Outcomes The MDiv is the core degree at RTS. To measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS defined the following intended outcomes for the student learning process. Each course contributes to these outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the outcomes.		Rubric • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None	Mini-Justification
Articulation (Oral & Written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Minimal	Students are required to read and recite orally in class, in both Greek and English.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of Scripture's original meaning. Also, the concepts for and skill to research this meaning and apply it to various modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	Students will begin to learn the vocabulary and grammar of the NT's original language.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. Taught from an explicit Reformed perspective. We interact with some texts with special relevance to our tradition.	Minimal	
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	God sanctifies by his Spirit through his Word, understanding which is the goal of faithful study in this course.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to God's Word.	Minimal	We interact with some texts of special relevance to worldview.
Winsomely Reformed Ethos	Includes: appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians; concern to share the gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.	Minimal	Resources from the broader evangelical scholarly world, and beyond, will be consulted with discernment.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to communicate God's Word to both church and unchurched (preaching, teaching, discipleship, evangelism).	Moderate	Our goal is to enhance your ability to interpret and preach the NT out of a proper understanding of its original language.

READING

Required Texts

- William D. Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek: Grammar*. 4th ed. Zondervan, 2019 (BBG) ISBN: 978-0310537434
- William D. Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek: Workbook*. 4th ed., Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019 (WB). ISBN: 978-0310537472
- *ESV Greek-English New Testament: Nestle-Aland 28th Edition and English Standard Version*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2012. ISBN-10: 9781433530319
- William D. Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek Vocabulary Cards*. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2019.
- Students are required to buy a small portable whiteboard and marker pens—or an iPad or equivalent device—which will be used to write out vocabulary, aiding them in both writing skills and in vocabulary memorization.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PREPARATION

Attendance

Attendance is required at all class meetings. Please contact your professor in advance if you know you will be unable to attend. Excessive absence will not only have a negative impact on final grades, but also, more importantly, on your accomplishment of the course objectives in general.

Every class will begin with either a short quiz covering the material from the previous week or a review exam of the material covered over the previous few weeks. Consequently, it is imperative that you arrive to class on time. You will get ½ hour (6pm-6:30pm) to take the quiz, so late arrival will mean reduction in time. At the last class of the semester there will be a review for a cumulative final exam. This final will be a take-home exam which can be downloaded after the final class and must be taken within one week (see dates below).

Class Preparation

For each session as indicated in the course schedule below, students should: review vocabulary and grammar from previous chapters, complete workbook chapters corresponding to the prior week's lecture (see course schedule). Grammar and vocabulary must be reviewed daily.

For each session as indicated in the course schedule below, students should:

- Review vocabulary and grammar from previous chapters,
- Complete workbook chapters corresponding to the prior week's lecture (see course schedule). This includes the parsing and warm-up sections in their entirety and the translation of odd and even numbered passages (under both "Translation" and "Additional") for odd and even numbered chapters, respectively.

GRADING, SUBMISSION, AND EXTENSION

Grading

The final course grade is comprised of the following components:

- 30% – Quizzes
- 30% – Review Exams
- 40% – Final Exam

Quizzes: Ten quizzes will be given (see course schedule). These will focus on the week's previous lesson(s) and consist of vocabulary, forms, parsing, and brief translation.

Review Exams: Two review exams will be given, covering multiple previous weeks (see schedule).

Final Exam: The final exam will cover the entire semester of grammar, forms, and vocabulary. This exam will be untimed and available on Canvas. The exam must be sent to me via email by midnight on December 7, 2026.

General Outline: The chapter assignments (see below) refer to the textbook (*BBG*). After the lecture on a particular lesson the student is responsible for completing the workbook (*WB*) portion of the lesson. The student should complete the parsing and warm-up sections in their entirety and translate the odd or even number passages based on whether the chapter is odd or even.

Course Schedule

Date	Before Class	Assessment	Class Lecture
August 25, 2026	Read <i>BBG 1-4</i>		<i>BBG 1-4</i>
September 1, 2026	Review <i>BBG 1-3</i> ; Read <i>BBG 4-5</i>	Quiz 1: <i>BBG 1-3</i>	<i>BBG 4-5</i>
September 8, 2026	Review <i>BBG 4-5</i> ; Read <i>BBG 6-8</i>	Quiz 2: <i>BBG 4-5</i>	<i>BBG 6-8</i>
September 15, 2026	Review <i>BBG 1-8</i>	Review Exam: <i>BBG 1-8</i>	
September 22, 2026	Read <i>BBG 9-10</i>		<i>BBG 9-10</i>
September 29, 2026	Review <i>BBG 9-10</i> ; Read <i>BBG 11-12</i>	Quiz 3: <i>BBG 9-10</i>	<i>BBG 11-12</i>
October 5-9, 2026	Fall Break		
October 13, 2026	Review <i>BBG 11-12</i> ; Read <i>BBG 13-14</i>	Quiz 5: <i>BBG 11-12</i>	<i>BBG 13-14</i>
October 20, 2026	Review <i>BBG 9-14</i>	Review Exam 2: <i>BBG 9-14</i>	
October 27, 2026	Read <i>BBG 15-16</i>		<i>BBG 15-16</i>
November 3, 2026	Review <i>BBG 15-16</i> ; Read <i>BBG 17-18</i>	Quiz 6: <i>BBG 15-16</i>	<i>BBG 17-18</i>
November 10, 2026	Review <i>BBG 17-18</i> ; Read <i>BBG 19-20</i>	Quiz 7: <i>BBG 17-18</i>	<i>BBG 19-20</i>
November 17, 2026	Review <i>BBG 19-20</i>	Quiz 8: <i>BBG 19-20</i>	Final Exam Review
November 24, 2026	Thanksgiving Break		
December 7, 2026	Final Exam Due. The exam will be comprehensive (<i>BBG 1-20</i>)		

Submission

Written work should be submitted to the instructor via Canvas in .pdf or .doc/x format. PDF documents are preferable for all assignments and required for assignments containing Greek characters.

Extension

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class. Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the professor.

- Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.
- Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed (*RTS Catalog*, p. 42 and *RTS Atlanta Student Handbook*, p. 14).
- Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request (*RTS Catalog*, p. 42).
- Your professor may allow you to Zoom into class or watch Zoom recordings for excused absences based on the professor's discretion and subject to the availability of equipment. Students should contact their professor well in advance of the class meeting.
- For a third absence the Registrar should be consulted. Your professor may require additional interactive assignments to offset the absence of classroom interaction. Sync or Remote Live courses have priority for the limited Zoom equipment.