

Greek I

Reformed Theological Seminary Atlanta: Nashville Extension Site
NT5100-A1: Greek I, 3 hours

Fall 2026: August 25–November 24 (Fall Break: October 13) | 13 meetings
Tuesdays, 6:00–9:00 p.m.
Covenant Presbyterian Church, Room 205

Professor: Rev. Dr. Morgan Johnson
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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

“An introductory study concentrating on basic vocabulary and analysis of the grammar of New Testament Greek.” (*RTS Catalog*). Greek I is the first course in a three-part series that continues with Greek II followed by Greek Exegesis. These courses lay the foundation for training you to handle the word of God in a more substantial way. As you spend intentional and structured time with the Greek New Testament, it is my hope that you will become more confident with using the original language of the NT so that 2 Timothy 3:16–17 may become even more manifest in your life and ministry.

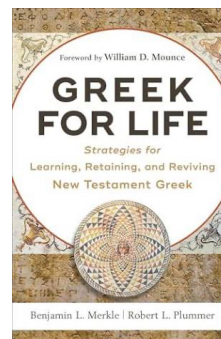
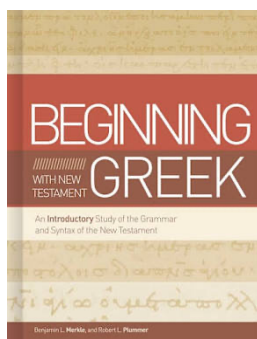
Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- understand the importance of the original biblical languages for ministry
- be able to recognize and describe basic noun and verb forms and prepositions covered in Chapters 1–12 of *Beginning with New Testament Greek*
- be able to recognize all vocabulary words covered in Chapters 1–12 of *Beginning with New Testament Greek*
- begin to attain a reading knowledge of New Testament Greek

Required Texts

1. Benajmin L. Merkle and Robert L. Plummer, *Beginning with New Testament Greek: An Introductory Study of the Grammar and Syntax of the New Testament* (B&H Academic, 2020)
2. *The UBS6 Greek New Testament: A Reader's Edition*, (Hendrickson, 2025)
[5th edition (UBS5) is okay too]
ISBN: 978-3-43805-311-4
3. Benjamin L. Merkle and Robert L. Plummer, *Greek for Life: Strategies for Learning, Retaining, and Reviving New Testament Greek* (Baker Academic, 2017)



Recommended Resources (helpful but not required)

- **Resources that coordinate with *Beginning with New Testament Greek***
 - <https://bhacademic.bhpublishinggroup.com/beginninggreek/>
 - For several resources, go to the above link and scroll down to “Ancillary Resources for Students and Teachers.”
 - Benajmin L. Merkle and Robert L. Plummer, *Beginning with New Testament Greek Vocabulary and Paradigm Cards*
 - Benajmin L. Merkle and Robert L. Plummer, *Charts for Beginning Greek Grammar and Syntax*
 - Andreas J. Köstenberger, Benajmin L. Merkle, and Robert L. Plummer, *Going Deeper with New Testament Greek: An Intermediate Study of the Grammar and Syntax of the New Testament* (B&H Academic, Revised edition, 2020)
 - Daily Dose of Greek: dailydoseofgreek.com, Daily Dose of Greek (app)
- Bible Software: Logos or Accordance. We will not use Bible software for Greek I, but it will become helpful as you progress through Greek.
- *Novum Testamentum Graece*, 28th ed. (Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2012). Aka: Nestle-Aland 28 (NA28)
- Daniel B. Wallace, *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament* (Zondervan, 1997)

Grades & Assessments

- **Participation & Discussion (10%)** Each student is expected to participate in class by answering and asking questions regarding vocabulary and grammar. Each student is also expected to participate in discussions about the reading from *Greek for Life*.
- **Weekly Quizzes (20%)** You will have 8 quizzes (2.5% each) that cover vocabulary and grammar from the previous week’s readings and lecture. These quizzes will be given at the beginning of most classes. Your lowest quiz score will be omitted and not factored into your final grade.
- **Midterm Exams 1 & 2 (15% each)** You will have 2 midterm/review exams. These will be written exams given in class.
- **Final Exam (40%)** The final exam will be cumulative, potentially covering anything from the readings, exercises, quizzes, exams, or lectures.

Assessment	Due Date	% of Total Grade
Weekly Quizzes	Most Classes	20% (2.5% each)
Participation & Discussion	Most Classes	10%
Midterm Exam 1: Chapters 1–3	9/15	15%
Midterm Exam 2: Chapters 4–8	10/20	15%
Final Exam: Chapters 1–12	11/24	40%

RTS Grading Scale		
Letter Grade	Percentage	GPA
A	97–100	4.00
A-	94–96	3.66
B+	91–93	3.33
B	88–90	3.00
B-	86–87	2.66
C+	83–85	2.33
C	80–82	2.00
C-	78–79	1.66
D+	75–77	1.33
D	72–74	1.00
D-	70–71	0.66
F	0–69	0.00

Course Schedule

BNTG=Beginning with New Testament Greek

GFL=Greek for Life

	Date	To Do Before Class	In-Class Assessment	Lecture
1.	8/25	Read: • <i>BNTG</i> Introduction–Chapter 1: The Greek Alphabet • <i>GFL</i> Chapter 1		<i>BNTG</i> Chapter 1
2.	9/1*	*Professor will be out of town. No in-person lecture. However, you will still read, study, take the quiz on Ch. 1, and watch a pre-recorded lecture about Ch. 2 on Canvas. Study Chapter 1 for quiz Read: • <i>BNTG</i> Chapter 2: First Declension Nouns • <i>GFL</i> Chapter 2	Quiz: Chapter 1 *Take Quiz 1 and grade at home on honor system.	<i>BNTG</i> Chapter 2 *Watch the pre-recorded lecture on Canvas.
3.	9/7	Study Chapter 2 for quiz Read: • <i>BNTG</i> Chapter 3: Second Declension Nouns • <i>GFL</i> Chapter 3	Quiz: Chapter 2	<i>BNTG</i> Chapter 3
4.	9/15	Study Chapters 1–3 for Exam	Midterm Exam 1: Chapters 1–3	
5.	9/8	Read: • <i>BNTG</i> Chapters 4–5: Basics of Greek Verbs & Present Indicative Verbs • <i>GFL</i> Chapter 4		<i>BNTG</i> Chapters 4–5
6.	9/22	Study Chapters 4–5 for quiz Read: • <i>BNTG</i> Chapter 6: Imperfect Indicative Verbs • <i>GFL</i> Chapter 5	Quiz: Chapters 4–5	<i>BNTG</i> Chapter 6
7.	9/29	Study Chapter 6 for quiz Read:	Quiz: Chapter 6	<i>BNTG</i> Chapter 7

		• BNTG Chapter 7: Contract Verbs • GFL Chapter 6		
8.	10/6	Study Chapter 7 for quiz Read: • BNTG Chapter 8: Prepositions • GFL Chapter 7	Quiz: Chapter 7	BNTG Chapter 8
	10/13	FALL BREAK: NO CLASS		
9.	10/20	Study Chapters 4–8 for Exam 2	Midterm Exam 2: Chapters 4–8	
10.	10/27	Read: • BNTG Chapter 9: Personal and Relative Pronouns • GFL Chapter 8		BNTG Chapter 9
11.	11/3	Study Chapter 9 for quiz Read: • BNTG Chapter 10: Future Indicative Verbs • Watch “Atomic Habits: Reading the Greek New Testament for Life” by Rob Plummer (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msV9ZLtwWeo)	Quiz: Chapter 9	BNTG Chapter 10
12.	11/10	Study Chapter 10 for quiz Read: BNTG Chapter 11–12: First & Second Aorist Indicative Verbs	Quiz: Chapter 10	BNTG Chapter 11–12
13.	11/17	Study Chapter 11–12 for Quiz	Quiz: Chapters 11–12	Final Exam Review
14.	11/24	Study for Final Exam	Final Exam: Chapters 1–12	

Guidance/Tips

In preparation for each lesson, you are expected to have read the relevant chapter(s) and completed the exercises in *Beginning with New Testament Greek* as well as the chapter in *Greek For Life* before class.

After class, you should review the material from the previous class and prepare for the quiz on that material. Homework (i.e., reading and exercises) will not be collected or graded. However, choosing not to do the homework will likely result in poor grades and poor acquisition of NT Greek.

You are strongly encouraged to review grammar and vocabulary everyday of the work week (Monday–Friday). You are encouraged to use Sunday as a day of rest. The more you put into Greek, the more you will get out of it. Consistent review on your own will be important, especially since our class meets only once per week. Greek cannot be learned by cramming; so, pace yourself in learning. It is immensely better to study a little bit each day than it is to cram once a week. Consistency wins the race.

You are expected to participate in class by responding to the instructor's questions and asking your own questions. Furthermore, we will not be using Bible software for anything in this course. So, you do not need to bring a computer to class. Learning the biblical languages well is mostly an analog process: physical books, physical paper, and a pen/pencil.

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 will discuss and recite orally in class. Grammatical instruction facilitates better grasp of language in general.
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 vocabulary and grammar of the NT's original language as well as basics of interpreting Scripture's original meaning.
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	Students will model the Reformed tradition's emphasis on studying the original languages of Scripture.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	We will open class with prayer. God sanctifies his people by the Spirit through the Word.
Winsomely Reformed Ethos	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	None	
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading, and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Moderate	Students will begin to gain the ability to interpret and preach the NT with a proper understanding of its original language.

RTS Extension Policy

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 Registrar's Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 46 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 18)

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. 49)