

Reformed Theological Seminary

NT5150 • Greek Exegesis

Course Syllabus • Spring 2026 • RTS-Atlanta (Zoom)

1. Instructor information

Dr. Zach Cole is professor of New Testament at RTS Orlando, where he has taught for five years. Prior to teaching at RTS, he served as a seminary lecturer and pastor in the Presbyterian Church of Ireland. His primary area of research is textual criticism of the New Testament. He is ordained in the PCA and serves as associate pastor at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Orlando, where he lives with his wife, Kayla, and their three daughters.



- E-mail: zcole@rts.edu
- Office phone: 407-278-8167
- Office hours: e-mail to arrange an appointment

2. Course details

- 2 credit hours
- Tuesday 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- August 25 – November 24, 2026 (Fall break: October 5–9)
- Description: “By studying the text of selected passages students learn grammatical analysis, apply hermeneutical principles, and develop exegetical skills.” (*RTS Catalog 2025–2027*, p. 77).
- Prerequisites: NT5125 (Greek II)

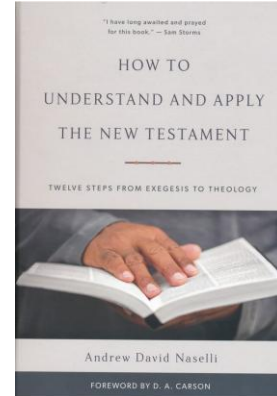
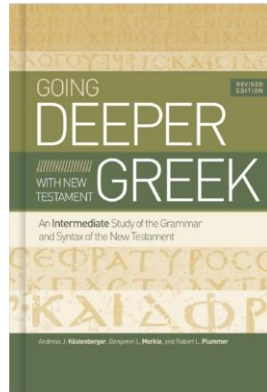
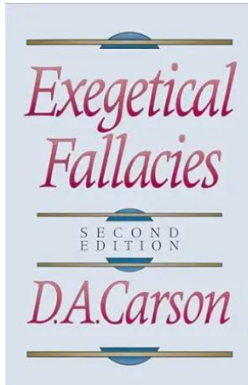
3. Course Objectives

- To understand and apply key categories of New Testament Greek syntax.
- To understand and responsibly apply key exegetical skills.
- To integrate exegetical skills in producing a significant project of New Testament interpretation.
- To grow in love and appreciation for God's Word.

4. Bibliography (Required Textbooks)

- D. A. Carson, *Exegetical Fallacies*, 2nd ed. Baker Academic, 1996. **Read all (at your own pace).**
- Andreas J. Köstenberger, Benjamin L. Merkle, and Robert L. Plummer, eds., *Going Deeper with New Testament Greek: An Intermediate of the Grammar and Syntax of the New Testament*, rev. ed. B&H, 2020 (= “KMP”). **Read chs. 1–7, 10–11 (schedule below).**
- Andrew D. Naselli, *How to Understand and Apply the New Testament: Twelve Steps from Exegesis to Theology*. P&R, 2017. **Read all (at your own pace).**

- **Either:** NA28 = Kurt Aland et al., eds., Nestle-Aland, *Novum Testamentum Graece*, 28th ed. United Bible Society, 2012.
- **Or:** UBS5 or UBS6 = Barbara Aland et al., eds., *The Greek New Testament*, 5th ed. United Bible Society, 2014 / 6th ed. 2026.



Suggested but not required resources:

- Bruce M. Metzger, *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*, 2nd ed. Stuttgart: United Bible Societies, 1994.
- Bruce M. Metzger, *Lexical Aids for Students of New Testament Greek*, 1969.
- Walter Bauer and Frederick William Danker, eds., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd ed. University of Chicago Press, 2000. [= BDAG]
- The professor has made a “student course packet” available (for free) as a PDF download or (for purchase) as a hardcopy through Amazon (<https://a.co/d/04fLL2I2>). However, note that the course will not follow the “course packet” exactly, since the material is being adapted/changed for the Zoom format. Students may nevertheless find the packet helpful.

5. Course Requirements

- **Exercises (15%):** Students will complete weekly assignments prior to class and will be ready to submit and discuss them. Many of these exercises come from the *Going Deeper* textbook (= “KMP”), but others will be specific assignments that prepare for the exegetical paper. All exercises are graded on a completion basis, which will be assessed by the professor in light of class participation.
- **Reading affirmation (10%):** Students will affirm what percentage of the reading assignments they have completed. There is a specific reading schedule for the *Going Deeper* textbook (see below), but *Exegetical Fallacies* and *How to Understand and Apply the NT* must be read at the student’s pace.

- **Quizzes (15%):** Students will complete three vocabulary quizzes. The vocabulary covered is **not** the list given in the *Going Deeper* textbook but is taken from Bruce Metzger, *Lexical Aids for Students of NT Greek*, pgs. 17–22 (word frequency 28x–49x). A list will be provided.
- **Test (15%):** Students will complete a test that covers the class material.
- **Exegetical Paper (45%):** Students will write a research-based exegetical paper on an assigned passage from Ephesians combining their newly-developed exegetical skills. Detailed grading criteria will be provided.

6. Grading System

A	97–100	4.00	D +	75–77	1.33
A –	94–96	3.66	D	72–74	1.00
B +	91–93	3.33	D –	70–71	0.66
B	88–90	3.00	F	Below 70	0.00
B –	86–87	2.66	I	incomplete	–
C +	83–85	2.33	W	withdraw	–
C	80–82	2.00	S	satisfactory	–
C –	78–79	1.66	P	Passing	–

7. Class Schedule

Class begins August 25 and ends November 24, 2026.

*Note: “KMP” = Andreas **K**östenberger, Benjamin **M**erkle, and Robert **P**lummer, eds., *Going Deeper with New Testament Greek: An Intermediate of the Grammar and Syntax of the New Testament*, rev. ed. B&H, 2020.

Week	In class	Homework
1	Intro / KMP ch. 2	Read KMP ch. 2; practice exercises ##1–5
2	KMP ch. 3 / text criticism	Read KMP ch. 3; exercises ##1, 2, 5–7
3	KMP ch. 4 / text criticism	Read KMP ch. 4; exercises ##1–5
4	KMP ch. 5 / text criticism	Vocab quiz 1
5	KMP ch. 5 / text criticism	Text critical exercise
6	KMP ch. 6 / word study	Read KMP ch. 6; exercises ##1, 4, 6, 7, 9
	<i>Fall break – no class</i>	(October 5–9)
7	KMP ch. 6 / word study	Word study exercise
8	KMP ch. 7	Vocab quiz 2
9	KMP ch. 10/ clausal analysis	Read KMP ch. 10; exercises ##1–5
10	Historical / clausal analysis	Clausal outline exercise
11	KMP ch. 11 / OT in the NT	Read KMP ch. 11; exercises ##1–4, 6
12	<i>No class</i>	Vocab quiz 3
13	Putting it together	(none)
	December 7	Term paper deadline
	December 1–7	Exam period

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Greek Exegesis (NT5150)

Professor: Zachary Cole

Campus: Atlanta

Date: Fall 2026

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		<u>Rubric</u> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Exegetical paper assesses student's ability to articulate biblical and theological information in written form, serving as a basis for preaching and teaching.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	Every assignment in this class is designed to increase and/or assess student knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture, focusing on the original language of the New Testament
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	None	
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	The course content fosters the discipline reading of God's Word daily and carefully
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	None	
Winsomely Reformed	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.)	Minimal	Reformed views of certain passages will be considered where relevant.
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.	Strong	Every lecture and assignment will seek to prepare students to minister the Word of God