



Course Syllabus Wycliffe College Toronto School of Theology

This description is intended to assist in the course approval process and to assist students in determining whether this course will help them achieve their educational objectives and the learning goals of their program. It is not a learning contract. The details of the description are subject to change before the course begins. The course syllabus will be available to the class at the beginning of the course.

Course Identification

Course Number: WYB1101HF
Course Name: **TOOLS AND TIPS FOR THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE IN THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGES**
Campus: St. George

Instructor Information

Instructor: Glen Taylor Teaching Assistant: Joyce-ann Spinney
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Office Hours: Thursdays 2–3 p.m. or by appointment. Never immediately prior to class.

Course Prerequisites or Requisites

None.

Course Description

Without some familiarity with the original languages in which the Bible was written—primarily Hebrew and Greek—scholarly study of the Bible is greatly hindered. Fortunately, there are now many tools that enable the student to access the original languages without knowing these languages in their entirety. (In fact knowledge of the alphabets to these languages is all that is required to make significant inroads.)

This course will provide students with knowledge of, access to, and practice at using original language tools and resources that come in both hardcopy and electronic forms. Students will start by learning the Greek and Hebrew alphabets, including the convention of identifying Hebrew vowels. The course will follow with instruction on the meaning of the basic grammatical and syntactical features of these languages, so that reference made to them in these resources will assist students in exegesis. The resources to which students will be coached in accessing and understanding will include Interlinear Bibles, Concordances, lexicons, theological wordbooks and original-language based commentaries.

The learning of grammar will be tied to selected portions of the Bible that especially illustrate the value of knowing Greek or Hebrew

Course Methodology

Teaching tutorials, workshops, readings

Course Outcomes

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students	This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:	This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv)
• will be able to write from memory both the Greek and Hebrew alphabets without error;	Lectures, readings, tutorials	MTS: 1.7 MDiv: 1.7
• will be able to identify basic grammatical forms in both languages with the help of either Bible software or standard (hardcopy) reference works (e.g. parsing guide);	Lectures, readings, tutorials	MTS: 1.7, 2.2 MDiv: 1.7
• apply a basic understanding of the original languages (vocabulary, basics of grammar and syntax) to a better understanding of differences in Bible translation and thus to a better understanding of the Bible;	Lectures, readings, tutorials	MTS: 1.1, 1.7 MDiv: 1.1, 1.7
• read technical discussions in commentaries and other biblical tools that use Greek and Hebrew	Lectures, readings, tutorials	MTS: 1.7 MDiv: 1.7

Course Resources

Required Course Texts

In addition to photocopied language aid materials provided by the instructor, and in addition to Logos Bible Software to which the student will be given access, the following are:

Required Textbooks:

- Mounce, William D. *Greek for the Rest of Us. Mastering Bible Study without Mastering Biblical Languages*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. [Abbrev.: GRU]
- _____. *Greek for the Rest of Us Laminated Sheet*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.
- Fields, Lee M. *Hebrew for the Rest of Us: Mastering Bible Study without Mastering Biblical Languages*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008. Pp. 281.
- Van Pelt, Miles V. *Biblical Hebrew Laminated Sheet*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Strongly Recommended:

- Kendall H. Easley, *User-Friendly Greek: A Common Sense Approach to the Greek New Testament*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.
- Harris, R. Laird, Gleason Archer and Bruce Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Chicago: Moody, 1980. [Abbrev. TWOT] (Cross-coded to Strong's numbers.)
- Mounce, William D. *Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006. The modern equivalent of Vine's Expository Dictionary. Mounce contains three sections: 1) an English word dictionary that gives the meaning of the Hebrew and Greek equivalents to that word (along with the Strongs and K/B number); 2) a Scripture index that directs the reader to pages where a word found in a particular verse is discussed; and 3) a Hebrew-English dictionary that lists words according to the G-K number (which obviates the need to recognize and know Hebrew); and 4) a Greek-English dictionary that also lists words according to the G-K number (which obviates the need to recognize and know Greek). The discussion of the meaning of Hebrew and Greek words is more up to date than the old Vine's.

ALSO URGED FOR THOSE WITH LIMITED COMPUTER ABILITY/ACCESS:

- a) Mounce, William D. *Interlinear for the Rest of Us: The Reverse Interlinear for New Testament Word Studies*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006. Not just an interlinear, but also parses every Greek word. It also contains a short dictionary of biblical Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic words.
- b) Goodrick, Edward W. and Kohlenberger, John R. III. *The Strongest NIV Exhaustive Concordance* [formerly *The Zondervan NIV Exhaustive Concordance*]. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. Not only an exhaustive concordance to a popular English version, but also contains appendices cross-referencing Strong's numbers to GK numbers and vice versa. Also has a short dictionary of biblical Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic words. It is quite inexpensive as well.
- c) *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2008. [Abbrev. BDB] (Coded to Strong's numbers.)
- d) Green, Jay P. ed. *The Interlinear Bible: Hebrew-Greek-English*. 2nd ed. 1985; reprint ed. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2005.) (Coded to Strong's numbers.)

Suggested

Peter James Silzer and Thomas John Finley, *How Biblical Languages Work: A Student's Guide to Learning Hebrew and Greek*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2004.

- Gary A. Long, *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew: Learning Biblical Hebrew Grammatical Concepts through English Grammar*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002.

Key Book Resources (in addition to those listed above)

- Kohlenberger, John R. Edward Goodrick and James A. Swanson, *The Greek-English Concordance to the New Testament*. Zondervan Greek Reference Series. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997. (G/K numbers.) (An update of the classic Wigram's, *The Englishman's Greek Concordance of the New Testament*) (Strong's numbers.)
- Mounce, William D. and Robert H. Mounce. *Greek and English Interlinear New Testament (TNIV/NIV)*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008. (G/K numbers.) [N.B. This is essentially the same as Mounce, *IRU*.]
- Sakae-Kubo, *A Reader's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Zondervan Greek Reference Series. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975.
- Wigram, George V. *The Englishman's Hebrew Concordance of the Old Testament*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2005. (Strong's numbers.)

Key Electronic Resources

CrossWalk.com, Blue Letter Bible, SearchGodsWord.org, ESword, etc.

Course Website(s)

- Blackboard <https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask [xxx] for further help.]

Class Schedule

Week 1 (September 15) Introduction to the Course and to Alphabets— especially the Greek.

Assignment for following week: Review GRU chap. 2; study well on your own chaps 1 & 3. Prepare for quiz on: The Greek Alphabet: recite, write (not capitals), and transliterate.

Week 2 (September 22) Class Topic: Taking Up Material Assigned and Prepping for Material to Follow.

Assignment for following week: Study well on your own GRU chaps 5, 6 and 7. Prepare for quiz on English grammar based on Mounce, chaps 5–7.

Week 3 (September 29) Class Topics: Taking Up Material Assigned and Prepping for Material to Follow. Chapter 8: Bible Study Method & Further Tips and Tools.

Assignment for following week: Study well on your own chaps 9–12 and prepare for quiz on these chapters.

Week 4 (October 6) Class Topic: Chapter 13: Taking Up Material Assigned and Prepping for Material to Follow. Fine Tuning Phrasing & Further Tips and Tools.

Assignment for following week: Study well on your own chaps 14-18, and prepare for a quiz on these chapters.

Week 5 (October 13) Class Topics: Chapter 19: How to Use the Hardcopy and Electronic Tools & Further Tips and Tools.

Assignment for following week: Study well on your own chaps 20–23; read in prep for class chap. 24. Prepare for a quiz on chaps 20–23. *Additional Readings (Suggested):* Read my lecture notes on Structuralism.

Week 6 (October 20) Class Topic: Chapter 24: Word Studies; & Further Tips and Tools.

Assignment for following week: Study well on your own chaps 25–28; read in prep for class chaps 29 & 30 as well as my lecture on “Recovering the Text of the Hebrew Bible.” Prepare for a quiz on chaps 25–28.

Week 7 (October 27) Reading Week. *Assignment:* Refresh yourself by applying what you have learned to your personal study of a rich portion of God’s word as found in the NT. All I want in return is a one-page report on a) how you were enriched in your study, and b) what examples of Greek language and language aids you used and how they helped you understand the text better

Week 8 (November 3) Class Topic: The Hebrew Alphabet; Further Tips and Tools.

Assignment for following week: Study well on your own Fields, chaps 1 & 2 (i.e. pp. 1–17). Complete exercises on pp. 3–7, 10 (question 3, cases a-h). Prepare for a quiz on the Hebrew alphabet: recite, write and transliterate.

Week 9 (November 10) Class Topic: Review, Help and Tips and Tools.

Assignment for following week: Study well on your own Fields, chap. 3 (pp. 17–31); complete exercises on pp. 28–30 OR prepare to take a quiz on chap 3. Read chap 4 (pp. 32–48) in preparation for class.

Week 10 (November 17) Class Topic: Chapter 4: Canon, Texts and Versions; Review, Help, Tips and Tools.

Assignment for following week: Study well on your own Fields, chaps 5 (complete exercises, pp. 61–4), 6 (complete exercise, p. 75), and 7. In place of exercises prepare for a quiz on chaps 5–7. Read chapter 18 in preparation for class.

Week 11 (November 24) Class Topic: Chapter 18: Hebrew Word Studies.

Assignment for following week: Study well on your own Fields, chaps 9 (complete exercises, pp. 104–5), 11 (read the exercise on pp. 129–31 with a view to understanding), 12 (pp. 133–9 only). Read chapter 13 in preparation for class.

Week 12 (December 1) Class Topic: Types of Hebrew Verbs and Why They Matter.

Assignment for following week: Study well on your own chaps. 14–16. Prepare for a quiz on chaps 14–16. Read chapter 19 in preparation for next class.

Week 13 (December 8) Class Topic: Chapter 19: Resources for the Study of Hebrew in Paper and Electronic Form; Hebrew Poetry.

Evaluation

Requirements	
Weekly quizzes	40%
Exercises	25%
Class Preparation and Participation	25%
Attitude!	10%
Grading System	

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Grade Point	Grasp of Subject Matter
A+	90–100%	4.0	Profound & Creative
A	85–89%	4.0	Outstanding
A-	80–84%	3.7	Excellent
B+	77–79%	3.3	Very Good
B	73–76%	3.0	Good
B-	70–72%	2.7	Satisfactory
FZ	0–69%	0	Failure

Grades without numerical equivalent:

CR	Designates credit; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
NCR	Designates failure; has no numerical equivalent, but has a grade point value of 0 and is included in the GPA calculation
SDF	Standing deferred (a temporary extension)
INC	Permanent incomplete; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
WDR	Withdrawal without academic penalty
AEG	May be given to a final year student who, because of illness, has completed at least 60% of the course, but not the whole course, and who would not otherwise be able to convocate; has no numerical equivalent and no grade point value

Policy on Assignment Extensions

Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the written permission of the instructor, students may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar’s office.

One percentage point per day will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf>) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>), a student who plagiarizes in this course. Students will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges (http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

Turnitin.com. Students may be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

Writing Style. The standard reference work for biblical studies is the second edition of *The SBL Handbook of Style* (available in pdf; see further the SBL website). The writing standard for the Toronto School of Theology is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 7th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007), which is available at Crux Books. At a basic, and in some ways more helpful level refer also to Leslie E. Casson, ed. *a Writer's Handbook* (Kingston, ON: The Writing Centre, Queen's University, 2000).

Bibliography

General

Danker, F. W. *Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study*. Revised and Expanded ed. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1993.

Interlinear Hebrew

Green, Jay P. ed. *The Interlinear Bible: Hebrew-Greek-English*. 2nd ed. 1985; reprint ed. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2005. The Hebrew text appears to be the Second Rabbinic Bible, which was the basis of the King James Version. The English translation of the OT was done by Green; that of the NT was the KJV. (I owe this to Fields, p. 59.)

Kohlenberger, John. *The NIV Interlinear Hebrew-English Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979; reprinted 1985. The Hebrew text is based on the *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*; the English translation is of course the NIV. Neither the Strong's nor the G-K number is given, so to find it one has to go to the Strongest NIV Exhaustive Concordance.

New Testament Resources

Balz, Horst, and Gerhard Schneider. *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1980.

*Bauer, Walter. *A Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (BAGD)*. 3rd Ed. Revised and Edited by Frederick William Danker. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.

Black, David Alan. *It's Still Greek to Me: An Easy-to-Understand Guide to Intermediate Greek*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

———. *Learn to Read New Testament Greek*. Third Edition. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2009.

*Brown, Colin. Ed. *New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975.

Campbell, Constantine R. *Basics of Verbal Aspect in Biblical Greek*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

Croy, N. Clayton, *A Primer of Biblical Greek*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999. Pp. 264. A succinct introduction to Biblical Greek.

Duff, Jeremy, and John William Wenham. *Elements of New Testament Greek*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005. Pp. 340.

Easley, Kendall H. *User-Friendly Greek: A Common Sense Approach to the Greek New Testament*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.

Greenlee, J. Harold. *A Concise Exegetical Grammar of New Testament Greek*. Revised Edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986. Pp. 79. Concise introduction to principles of Greek grammar that are meaningful in exegesis.

Han, Nathan E. *A Parsing Guide to the Greek New Testament*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1971.

Kittel, Gerhard. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. 10 vols. Translated and edited by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964. [Available in a condensed one-volume version.]

Louw, Johannes P. and Eugene A. Nida. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains*. 2 vols. New York: United Bible Societies, 1988.

Miller, Paul A. *Gramcord 2.1b with GNT Morphological Database 5.1* Loizeaux Brothers Inc., 1988-2003. (The program for MacIntosh computers is called Accordance).

Mounce, William D. *Greek for the Rest of Us*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

———. *The NIV English-Greek New Testament: A Reverse Interlinear*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

Rogers, Cleon L. III and Cleon Rogers, Jr. *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.

*Trenchard, Warren C. *Complete Vocabulary Guide to the Greek New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998. Pp. 352.

Young, Norman H. *Syntax Lists for Students of New Testament Greek*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Old Testament Resources

Beall, T. S. and W. A. Banks. *Old Testament Parsing Guide*. 4 vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1986.

Bergman, Nava. *The Cambridge Biblical Hebrew Workbook: Introductory Level*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver and Charles A. Briggs. *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1979.

Chisholm, Robert B. Jr. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Dalrymple-Hamilton, Frances. Review of Lee M. Fields, *Hebrew for the Rest of Us*. RBL 6 (2009) pp. 3.

Fields, Lee M. *Hebrew for the Rest of Us*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

Harris, R. Laird, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K Waltke. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.

Holladay, W. L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1988.

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Todd J. Murphy, *Pocket Dictionary for the Study of Biblical Hebrew*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2003.

VanGemeren, Willem A. *New international Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.

Wigram, George V. *The Englishman's Hebrew and Chaldee Concordance of the Old Testament*. 5th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1976.

Other Resources

Bible Works Software. Norfolk, VA: Bible Works LLC, 2001.

DeWaard, Jan and Eugene Nida. *From One Language to Another: Functional Equivalence in Bible Translating*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1986.

Goodrick, Edward W. *Do it Yourself Hebrew and Greek*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980.

Silzer, Peter James and Thomas John Finlay. *How Biblical Languages Work*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2004.

Logos Bible Software. 2.1. Libronix Digital Library System. Bellingham, WA: Libronix Corp., 2002.

Selected Websites

www.Biblestudytools.com¹

biblos.com

www.read-the-bible.org/LearnLanguages.html

www.learnbiblicallanguages.com

Blogs.bible.org/net/bible/

www.greektutorial.com/biblestudy.php

www.tentmaker.org/ScholarsCorner.html

www.scrollandscreen.com/biblestudyresources/semresources.htm

www.bible-study-tools.org/bible-language-study-books.html

xiphos.org/manual/originallanguage

www.olivetree.com

www.biblewebapp.com

¹ Claims to be the “largest free online Bible website for verse search and in-depth studies.” Has many translations and includes Strong’s concordance, Matthew Henry’s commentary, Greek and Hebrew interlinear with word/phrase search capabilities, etc.