Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary
GL960: Biblical Greek: Advanced Concepts
Directed Study – Any Term
Instructor: Dr. Roy E. Ciampa

Office hours: http://www.viceregency.com/OfficeHours.htm
If the posted hours are not convenient for you please call for an appointment.
Office: AC144
Email: RCiampa@gordonconwell.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course introduces a select set of advanced concepts in biblical Greek, including consideration of diachronic and synchronic approaches to Greek grammar (the importance of understanding the language at any given time in terms of both historical developments in the history of its use and the systematic relationships between parts of the language system and its usage at that given time), the history of Greek lexicography, discourse features, lexical and verbal aspect and their relationship to questions of tense (and temporal significance) and Aktionsart (the expression of a particular type of event structure) Special attention will be given to the application of these concepts to the interpretation of New Testament texts. (Note that the history of the Greek language, questions of phonology, morphology, poetry, and textual transmission are among issues that will not normally be covered in this course.) This Th.M.-level course is open to M.Div. and M.A. students willing to do Th.M. level work. Prerequisites for this course include a year of basic Greek, NT502 and either Intermediate Greek or at least one course in New Testament exegesis or Greek readings.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Having completed this course:

1. The student will demonstrate an understanding of debates regarding verbal aspect in NT (and Hellenistic) Greek and will have formulated their own initial conclusions on various facets of the subject and understand their implications for the interpretation of NT texts (Mission statements 1 & 2).

2. The student will demonstrate an understanding of and ability to evaluate recent proposals regarding discourse features of NT Greek in the light of their study of NT texts (Mission statements 1 & 2).

3. The student will demonstrate understanding of the history of NT lexicography and the ability to assess lexicographical work and to carry out such work according to the highest standards yet achieved (Mission statements 1 & 2).

4. The student will have developed a greater sensitivity to more subtle features of NT Greek and their contributions to the communication of biblical texts (Mission statements 1 & 2).

5. The student will have gained an overview of the subject area and enjoyed the opportunity to explore more advanced concepts in the study of biblical Greek (Mission statements 1 & 2).
REQUIRED TEXTS


See other required readings in the course outline below.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Meetings and Participation:** The student(s) will meet with the professor at least four times over the course of the semester to discuss the readings and any questions about the work. At least 48 hours before the scheduled meeting the student(s) should send the professor an email with an indication of the questions or topics they would like to discuss. Students should be prepared to translate assigned texts and discuss the application of the relevant concepts to those texts.

2. **Verbal Aspect paper:** Each student will write a brief (1,250 word) original research paper in which they study the use of a particular NT verb in ancient Greek (within or up to the Hellenistic period) and seek to explain patterns in the uses of tenses/aspects. Explanation will be given during supervision periods regarding the types of verbs that might be studied and how the study should proceed.
3. **Linguistic Commentary Paper**: Each student will write a paper on a passage in which they comment on discourse features, questions of lexical and verbal aspect and related issues (e.g., how temporal features are communicated), issues of lexicography, all in the light of the required readings, course lectures and discussions. The paper should be between 15 and 20 pages, double-spaced (except for footnotes), with one-inch margins and size 12 Times New Roman (or equivalent) font.

4. **Reading Report**: A final reading report, indicating how much of the required reading was completed (detailing pages of each assignment) and the total percentage of completed required reading must be submitted by the deadline for the submission of written work.

**COURSE EVALUATION**

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<tr>
<td>Linguistic Commentary Paper:</td>
<td>40 %</td>
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<td>Verbal Aspect Paper:</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<td>Student Prep/Participation</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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<td>Reading Report:</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**ACADEMIC POLICIES**

**Inductive Study**
The final paper must demonstrate the use of the tools/steps/methods taught in NT502 and in this course. A paper that primarily reflects a selection of insights from commentaries or other secondary sources will not be acceptable.

**Plagiarism**
All use of sources must be properly indicated. Read the document on plagiarism carefully and remember that use of authors’ words is indicated with quotation marks and a footnote and use of their ideas, but not their words, is indicated with a footnote.

**COURSE OUTLINE/PROPOSED SCHEDULE** (subject to change at professor’s discretion)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings, Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Questions of Lexical and Verbal Aspect</td>
<td>1 Cor. 7:10-11, 20-21; 11:6; 15:33-34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tools for the study of verbal aspect (including TLG and its grammatical tools, the LXX and ancient versions)</td>
<td><a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linguistics">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linguistics</a></td>
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<td>The review of Caragounis by Silva in <em>WTJ</em> (posted online).</td>
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<td>Campbell, <em>Basics of Verbal Aspect in Biblical Greek</em></td>
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<td>Steven E. Runge, “Contrastive Substitution and the Greek Verb: Reassessing Porter’s Argument.”</td>
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<td>Ciampa’s notes on verbal aspect and on ancient Greek references to the temporal features of verbs.</td>
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<td>On textual presentation and meaning (differences between our GNT and that of the original readers)</td>
<td>Luke 1:1-4; Heb. 1:1-4; Eph. 1:3-6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BDF pages 55–69, 239–56 (§102–126, 458–484) – scan for main points (not detailed discussion)</td>
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<td>Conrad, “New Observations on Voice in the Ancient Greek Verb”</td>
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<td>Pennington, Jonathan T. “Deponency in Koine Greek: The Grammatical Question and the Lexicographical Dilemma”;</td>
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<td>Pennington, “Is Deponency a Valid Category for Koine Greek?”</td>
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<td>Discourse Grammar: Forward-Pointing Devices (Part 2)</td>
<td>Mark 14:26-37</td>
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| Discourse Grammar: Thematic Highlighting Devices and Summary | Gal. 1:1-5; Rom. 1:1-7  
| Past, Present and Future of Greek Lexicography | Acts 17:10-15  
After reading Lee’s book, familiarize yourself with my page of Greek lexicons available to consult online: [http://www.viceregency.com/GreekLexicons.htm](http://www.viceregency.com/GreekLexicons.htm).  
Recommended:  

All written work (research paper, text comparison sheets, reading report) due on the last day to submit written work (including any earlier date indicated by the registration office for students graduating at the end of the semester.

## Select Bibliography

### History of the Greek Language


**Discourse Analysis**


**Verbal Aspect**


**Greek (and some Hebrew) Lexicography**


**Greek Grammars**


**Deponency in NT Greek**


Cognitive Linguistics


General Bibliography


See also: [http://www.greek-language.com/Palmer-bibliography.html](http://www.greek-language.com/Palmer-bibliography.html)