

# GREEK READINGS (06NT6100): REVELATION

## SYLLABUS, FALL 2022

### COURSE DETAILS

#### I. INTRODUCTION

##### A. PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is straightforward and simple: (1) to read as much of the titular book as we can in the original Greek, exploring the most relevant grammatical, syntactical, semantical, and text-critical issues as we proceed.

Along the way, however, we will accomplish much. (2) We will better understand the Greek language, particularly as it is given expression in the NT. We want to read a *lot* of Greek, and in so doing we will become more fluent with the language. (3) We will also learn a great deal about our chosen book—the readings selected will focus on central themes and the author's literary style, while simultaneously highlighting controversial passages. And (4) inevitably we will encounter contextual, redemptive-historical, and theological questions worthy of our time and attention, to which we will want to apply the Greek text of this particular book.

The goal, though, is to accomplish all this from a "bottom-up" perspective (purpose 1 above). This is not a theology class, or a study in hermeneutical methodology, or even a commentary on this particular book (though it's closest to that). This is a "book club." To be sure, this is an intense and formalized and structured and graded book club, *but our purpose is to read*. We want to "read it in the Greek," and to immerse ourselves in the book as we do so.

##### B. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

A study of selected Greek texts. This course will explore Revelation.

##### C. LEARNING GOALS

Upon conclusion of this course, the student will:

- be able to produce a justified translation of the texts in question, focusing particularly on the grammatical, lexical, and text-critical issues related to that translation
- better appreciate the Greek language, particularly as it is expressed in the titular book.
- describe the relationship between the Greek and at least one English translation of the book.
- demonstrate how the Greek text exposes the particular style, thesis, purpose, thematic content, and theology of the book in question

- relate the particulars of each of the above to the canonical, redemptive-historical, and theological coherence of Scripture

#### D. METHODS AND PROCEDURES

Class time will be spent reading through and translating the Greek text of the book verse by verse, pausing to discuss critical, exegetical, literary, and theological issues as they arise.

Each reader will be expected to prepare thoroughly for this by studying the assigned Greek for the day and producing a justifiable English translation (paying close attention to their chosen commentary, see below) of each verse.

In class we will work through the text verse by verse—I will call on someone at random to (1) read the verse out-loud in Greek; (2) translate that verse without looking at their notes, and (3) subject themselves to questioning by the class in an attempt to justify their translation (at which point they can look at their notes).<sup>1</sup>

Thus in class we will debate each translation as a group, which means that *every* participant should be prepared to explain the lexical, exegetical, and theological issues that arise in the given verse, either by contributing to the translation “on the floor,” or by arguing against it, or asking questions about it.

As a means to that end, each student will be additionally required to be an “expert” in an assigned commentary (selected on the first day of class). Your commentary will assist you in preparing for class each week and orient you to the exegetical and interpretive issues. You can then share that information with the rest of the class, representing your commentator in discussion.

#### E. DATES AND TIMES

Class will meet weekly on Mondays from 5:45 – 6:45 PM, August 22 through December 5. All assignments are due December 12 by 11:59 PM (unless otherwise noted below).

#### F. INSTRUCTOR

Thomas Keene

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<http://facebook.com/keenetommy>

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<sup>1</sup> The professor is not “above the fray” here. I will take my randomized turn with the rest of the class. Other readers should feel more than free to criticize the professor’s verbal reading, translation, grammatical justification, general knowledge, or appreciation of sports. Your grade will only be affected if I turn out to be wrong 😊.

## G. COURSE WEBSITE

Canvas (rts.instructure.edu) will be the “hub” for all course communications. All graded assignments should be submitted there, and any announcements, special readings, documentation, and additional information will be posted there.

## II. REQUIRED READING

### A. ENGLISH BIBLE READING

Each reader will choose an English translation to read and represent on the first day of class; this will be their **default native translation (DNT)**. (Non-native English speakers, or those wishing to learn a non-English language, are welcome to request a different translation, provided they speak with me beforehand).

Before **the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of class** read (or listen to) the respective book in your **DNT** in a single sitting.

Before **the 4th week of class** read through the same translation a second time, this time making a list of as many distinct textual and exegetical questions you can think of (from the DNT). You will present highlights from this list on the fourth week, and those highlights will (likely) be incorporated in upcoming reading assignments.

### B. GREEK BIBLE READING

Every week we will be reading 5-15 verses from the Greek text of the titular book, which means you will need an (1) accessible, (2) reliable, and (3) useful Greek New Testament (GNT). Many Greek Bibles fit the bill for this, and no specific one is required for this class, but here are my recommendations:

- If... you already have a “full featured” GNT, such as the NA27+ or UBS4+, and have no other reason to “upgrade” to the most recent addition (see below), then stay put. Enjoy it (while you can).
- If... you have not yet purchased a “full featured” GNT **and want to purchase one**, you have two choices:
  - **UBS5, Reader’s Edition.** This is my recommendation for almost everyone. If you don’t already own something, buy the UBS5 Reader’s Edition. It’s available here: [https://www.amazon.com/Greek-New-Testament-Readers-English/dp/1619706180/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=2MBSU126SBG9W&keywords=ubs5+dictionary&qid=1566172071&s=gateway&sprefix=poldark%2Caps%2C248&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Greek-New-Testament-Readers-English/dp/1619706180/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2MBSU126SBG9W&keywords=ubs5+dictionary&qid=1566172071&s=gateway&sprefix=poldark%2Caps%2C248&sr=8-1)

- NA28 or UBS5. If you already own a Reader's GNT (above or equivalent) and/or you need a Greek Bible that has a critical apparatus, then you want the NA28 or UBS5. There is no difference between the two as far as the Greek text is concerned. The differences are in the critical apparatus. The UBS5 is easier to read and gives you some helpful information to process the notations, but it includes less manuscript evidence than the NA28.
- If... you do not at present want to purchase or cannot afford the kind of "full featured" GNT described above, you will be at no disadvantage for the present class. Grab a copy of the SBLGNT. It is available free through a number of platforms (Logos, Accordance, biblearc.com, biblia.com). You'll also find it in various formats here: <http://sblgnt.com/download/>
- If... you would like to use the Textus Receptus you may do so.
- Interlinears are not permitted.

### C. COMMENTARY READING

On the first day of class every student will be required to select one of the commentaries listed in the Bibliography. It is your job to be the class expert on your assigned commentary. When your commentary has something distinctive to say relating to class discussion, be sure to share it. You will thus "represent" your chosen commentary to the rest of the class, and as such you should have an attitude of critical appreciation as you read and research.

## III. ASSESSMENT

### A. ENGLISH BIBLE READING (15%)

You will need to affirm that you have completed the English Bible component of the reading by the 4<sup>th</sup> week of class.

### B. IN CLASS TRANSLATION (50%)

You will need to come to class each week prepared to discuss the Greek text of the assigned verses (see above under "Methods and Procedures." Your participation in the discussion will be a graded component of the class. Your grade will be determined more by the quality of your preparation and engagement than by the accuracy of your translation.

### C. COMMENTARY REPRESENTATION (15%)

You will need to properly represent your chosen commentary in the course of discussion. This doesn't mean you must slavishly agree with your commentator, but you should understand their views and be able to argue their case when relevant. In this manner the rest of the class will benefit from the insights of your commentator.

#### D. FINAL TRANSLATION SUBMISSION (20%)

Keep a running annotated translation of your work throughout the class. You will turn this in on the last day of exam week. As with your in class translation, your grade is determined by that quality of your preparation.

#### E. GRADING SCALE

96-100	A	87-89	B+	Etc.
90-95	A-	83-86	B	<60 F
		80-82	B-	

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER MATERIAL

### I. COMMENTARIES

The following is a list of commentaries from which you can choose for your selected commentary. We will do this together on the first day of class. Each student must select a different commentary. You are also welcome to suggest other commentaries that should be on this list, or which you would like to cover, and I will consider it.

Bock, D. L. *Luke*. Vol. 2. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.

———. *Luke*. Vol. 1. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.

Bovon, Francois. *Luke 1: A Commentary on the Gospel of Luke 1:1-9:50*. Edited by Helmut Koester. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2002.

———. *Luke 2: A Commentary on the Gospel of Luke 9:51-19:27*. Edited by Helmut Koester. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2013.

———. *Luke 3: Commentary on 19:28-24:53*. Edited by James Echo101ls. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2012.

Edwards, James R. *The Gospel According to Luke*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2015.

Evans, C. F. *Saint Luke*. 2nd Edition. London : Philadelphia: UNKNO, 1990.

Fitzmyer, Joseph A. *The Gospel According to Luke I-IX: Introduction, Translation, and Notes*. 1st edition. Garden City, N.Y: Doubleday & Co., 1982.

———. *The Gospel According to Luke X-XXIV: Introduction, Translation, and Notes*. 1st edition. Garden City, N.Y: Doubleday & Co., 1985.

Green, Joel B. *The Gospel of Luke*. Eerdmans, 1997.

Johnson, Luke Timothy. *Sacra Pagina: The Gospel of Luke*. Sacra Pagina edition. Collegeville, Minn: Michael Glazier, 2006.

Marshall, I. Howard. *The Gospel of Luke*. American ed edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.

Nolland, John. *Luke 9:21-18:34, Volume 35B*. Edited by Bruce M. Metzger, David Allen Hubbard, and Glenn W. Barker. Zondervan Academic, 2018.

Nolland, John, John D. W. Watts, James W. Watts, Ralph P. Martin, and Lynn Allan Losie. *Luke 1:1-9:20, Volume 35A*. Edited by Bruce M. Metzger, David Allen Hubbard, and Glenn W. Barker. Zondervan Academic, 2016.

Stein, Robert H. *Luke: An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture*. 1st Printing edition. Nashville, Tenn: Holman Reference, 1993.

Zondervan, Walter L. Liefeld, David W. Pao, Robert H. Mounce, and Richard N. Longenecker. *Expositor's Bible Commentary. Volume 10. Luke-Acts. Revised Edition*. Edited by Tremper Longman III and David E. Garland. Revised edition. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Academic, 2007.