

GREEK EXEGESIS
NT5150
MINI-SYLLABUS
Summer 2026
Professor: Robert J. Cara, Ph.D.

Note: There are class-preparation requirements that need to be completed for the start of each weekend. See below.

Prerequisites: Must have passed (D- is good enough) both Greek 1 & 2, or have transcript for six hours of graduate Greek credit, or passed RTS exemption exam(s), or have given Yankee tickets to the Professor.

Dates:

First weekend classes: May 29–30 (Friday 6:00–9:00 pm; Saturday 9:00 am–3:00 pm)
Second weekend classes: June 19–20 (Friday 6:00–9:00 pm; Saturday 9:00 am–3:00 pm)
Third weekend classes: July 17–18 (Friday 6:00–9:00 pm; Saturday 9:00 am–3:00 pm)
Submittal date for final exam and exegetical paper: August 15, Saturday, 11:59 pm.

Required Texts:

Trinity Psalter: Psalms 1-150: Words—Only Edition. Pittsburgh: Crown & Covenant Publications, 1994. (Used for class worship/devotions.)

UBS or NA Greek NT text. No interlinears.

Metzger, Bruce M. *Lexical Aids for Students of New Testament Greek.* 3d ed. n.p.: Allenson, 1969.

Wallace, Daniel B. *The Basics of the New Testament Syntax: An Intermediate Greek Grammar: The Abridgment of Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000. [Student may use Wallace's larger version, *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament.*]

Cara, Robert J. *1 & 2 Thessalonians.* EP Study Commentary. Webster, NY: EP, 2009.
<http://epbooks.org/product/epsc-1-2-thessalonians-by-robert-j-cara> or
RTS Charlotte bookstore, 704-688-4212.

Recommended Texts:

* Silva, Moises, revision ed. *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology and Exegesis.* 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014. This is an update of Brown's *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology.*

* Every student ought to have a Bible program (e.g., Accordance or Logos or “defunct” Bible Works).

Purpose of Course

- * To prepare students to begin serious exegesis of Greek text. This will be done by:
 - * Re-enforcing and adding to current Greek vocabulary. (*Lexical Aids*)
 - * Re-enforcing and adding to current Greek syntax. (*Syntax*)
 - * Translating portions of writings of John, Mark, and Paul.
 - * Learning various exegetical principles from translated portions.
 - * Introducing students to various standard exegetical tools (e.g., Bible programs, lexicons, grammars, exegetical dictionaries, commentaries).
 - * Giving students six categories of hermeneutical methodologies to determine modern meaning for sermons; i.e., hermeneutical preaching-theory.
- * Course objectives as coordinated with MDiv Student Learning Outcomes are shown at the end of this document.

Class-Preparation Requirements

Because of the intensive nature of the three weekends, the student must prepare ahead of time for these three weekends. Below are the requirements to be completed for the start of each weekend.

First Weekend:

- * Translate the Greek texts and bring personal hand-written parsing/vocab notes to class for:
 - * 2 John 1-13; John 20:24-31
 - * Student should bring sufficient personal notes to parse any word in class without using a computer.
- * Be prepared for a vocabulary quiz on all words occurring more than 91-100 times (ends with φοβέομαι).
 - * Words are in Metzger's *Lexical Aids*.

- * Read pages 1–173 of *Basics of New Testament Syntax*.
 - * Student will simply report whether 100% of reading was completed or not.
 - * Bring *Syntax* to class.

Second Weekend:

- * Translate the Greek texts and bring personal hand-written parsing/vocab notes to class for:
 - * Mark 1:1–8; Mark 12:35–40; 1 Thess 1:1–10.
 - * Student should bring sufficient personal notes to parse any word in class without using a computer.
- * Be prepared for a vocabulary quiz on all words occurring more than 46–49 times (ends with *χρεία*).
 - * Words are in Metzger’s *Lexical Aids*.
- * Read pages 174–321 of *Basics of New Testament Syntax*.
 - * Student will simply report whether 100% of reading was completed or not.
 - * Bring *Syntax* to class.

Third Weekend:

- * Translate the Greek texts and bring personal hand-written parsing/vocab notes to class for:
 - * 1 Thess 2:1–16; 3:11–13.
 - * Student should bring sufficient personal notes to parse any word in class without using a computer.
- * Be prepared for a vocabulary quiz on all words occurring more than 32–33 times (ends with *φυλάσσω*).
 - * Words are in Metzger’s *Lexical Aids*.
- * Read pages 1–75 of Cara’s *1 & 2 Thessalonians* and associated end notes.
 - * Student will simply report whether 100% of reading was completed or not.
 - * Bring *1 & 2 Thessalonians* to class.
- * Bring *Syntax* to class.

Final Requirements

The following will be due by August 15.

- * Exegetical paper. (Requirements of paper will be explained in class.)
- * Final exam which will include:
 - * Vocabulary for all words occurring more than 24 times (ends with σωτήρ).
 - * Noun and verb parsing.
 - * Translation and related grammar.
 - * Questions from hermeneutical lectures.
 - * Reading completion-question for Cara's *1 & 2 Thessalonians* pages 76–303.

Grading

- * Class Preparation of translation/hand-written notes: 15% of grade.
- * Class Preparation of reading assignments: 15% of grade.
- * Three vocabulary quizzes: 15% of grade. (Quizzes will be on Saturday mornings.)
- * Final exam: 20% of grade.
- * Exegetical Paper: 35% of grade.
- * Singing *Psalter* in class: No grade, but loose points if one does not participate!

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Greek Exegesis

Professor: Dr. Cara

Campus: NYC

Date: Summer 2026

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><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></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None 	
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Serious academic paper. 2. Paper must include both conservative and critical viewpoints.
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student exegetes many Greek NT verses.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reformed sermon hermeneutics are included.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Psalm singing in class.
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exegesis paper should reflect appropriate respect for other viewpoints.
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reformed sermon hermeneutics are included. 2. Exegesis of texts.