

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – WASHINGTON, D.C.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Greek I – NT5100 - Residential

Fall Semester, 2026

September 14 – December 2, Monday, Wednesday, 12:00-2:00PM

Instructor: James A. Roh, M.Div., Th.M., Ph.D.

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Suggested Summer Preparation

*Note: Page numbers refer to Benjamin L. Merkle and Robert L. Plummer, *Beginning with New Testament Greek*.*

To begin the semester well, students are encouraged to complete the following preparatory work over the summer. This will provide a strong foundation for engaging the material more deeply and confidently when the course begins.

1. Read Chapters Intro–1 of Merkle & Plummer

- Focus on learning the Greek alphabet and mastering pronunciation.
- Memorize both the uppercase and lowercase forms of each letter.
- Practice reading Greek words aloud daily to build fluency and confidence in pronunciation.
- Consider writing the alphabet by hand multiple times and using flashcards to reinforce shape and sound recognition.

2. Memorize Vocabulary Occurring 50+ Times in the New Testament

- Refer to Metzger, *Lexical Aids*, pp. 7–14 (words occurring 500–100 times).
- Begin learning these high-frequency words in manageable chunks (e.g., 5–10 words per week).
- Focus on both recognition and recall. Knowing these words early will significantly ease your reading and translation work throughout the course.
- Use flashcards or a digital tool like Quizlet or Anki.

Optional: Listening to an audio resource can enhance retention and confidence with spoken Greek.

Course Description

This course offers an introductory study of New Testament Greek, with a focus on building foundational skills in vocabulary, grammar, and syntax. Students will learn to recognize and translate basic forms, understand core grammatical structures, and begin reading simple passages from the Greek New Testament. Emphasis will be placed on acquiring the most frequently used vocabulary, developing confidence in parsing, and understanding how Greek functions as a language. The ultimate goal is to equip students with the tools necessary for accurate interpretation and faithful exposition of the biblical text.

Goals for Student Learning

By the end of the course, students will demonstrate foundational competence in reading and translating New Testament Greek. This includes both technical knowledge and the disciplined habits necessary for long-term engagement with the biblical text in its original language. To that end, students will:

1. **Acquire a high-frequency Greek vocabulary**, focusing on words occurring 50 or more times in the New Testament, with an emphasis on recognition, pronunciation, and memorization.
2. **Understand the basic components of Greek grammar**, including the role and function of case, number, gender, tense, voice, mood, person, and aspect within the sentence.
3. **Demonstrate the ability to parse core parts of speech**—specifically **nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and verbs**—and explain their syntactical functions within context.
4. **Translate simple passages from the Greek New Testament**, drawing upon vocabulary, grammatical knowledge, and contextual observation.
5. **Cultivate disciplined study habits**, including regular review, written exercises, reading aloud, and use of supplemental tools, in order to establish a long-term capacity for reading Greek devotionally and exegetically.

Required Texts

- *Novum Testamentum Graece* (Nestle-Aland, 28th Edition). The standard critical edition of the Greek New Testament used for translation and exegetical work.
- Merkle, Benjamin and Robert L. Plummer. *Beginning with New Testament Greek*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2020.

Recommended Resources

- Mounce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek Grammar*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2019. A supplemental grammar used for vocabulary lists, additional exercises, and reference.
- Metzger, Bruce M. *Lexical Aids for Students of New Testament Greek*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1997. Helpful for memorizing vocabulary by frequency and root patterns.
- Greek New Testament Audio Recordings (e.g., by John Schwandt) Listening to the Greek text read aloud helps reinforce pronunciation, pacing, and retention.

Class Requirements

- **Attendance:** Regular and punctual attendance is required. If you anticipate being absent, you must notify the instructor in advance. Multiple absences will result in a grade reduction. Excessive absences—defined at the discretion of the instructor—may result in automatic failure of the course. Arriving more than 20 minutes late will count as half an absence.
- **Homework:** Students are expected to complete all assigned homework before class and come prepared to read and translate exercises aloud. In the event of an absence, students are responsible for contacting a peer to determine what was assigned. As graduate students, you are expected to exhibit initiative and independence by consulting the course schedule and staying current without needing repeated reminders.
- **Quizzes:** Weekly quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class (Mondays at 12:00 PM) and will cover cumulative grammar and vocabulary. Quizzes are designed to take no more than 30 minutes. Students arriving late should not expect to take the quiz. There are no make-up quizzes, but the two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.
- **Final Exam:** The final exam will be comprehensive, drawn directly from material covered in assignments and quizzes throughout the semester.
- **Vocabulary:** Students are expected to learn and review vocabulary consistently. This includes vocabulary assigned in class, as well as new words encountered in texts or through independent study. Students are strongly encouraged to maintain a dedicated vocabulary notebook or digital flashcard system for regular review.

Total Grade

Quizzes (50%)

Final Exam (50%)

Greek 1 Course Schedule (Fall 2026 – Mondays, Wednesdays, 12:00–2:00 PM)

Date	Chapter / Topic	Quiz
Sep 14, 16	Course Introduction, Syllabus Overview, The Greek Alphabet (Chs. Intro, 1)	
Sep 21, 23	First Declension Nouns, Second Declension Nouns (Chs. 2–3)	Quiz #1 – Ch. 1
Sep 28, 30	The Basics of Greek Verbs, Present Indicative Verbs (Chs. 4–5)	Quiz #2 – Chs. 2–3
Oct 5, 7	Imperfect Indicative Verbs, Contract Verbs (Chs. 6–7)	Quiz #3 – Chs. 4–5
Oct 12, 14	— <i>Reading Week</i> — <i>No Class</i> —	
Oct 19, 21	Prepositions, Personal & Relative Pronouns (Chs. 8–9)	Quiz #4 – Chs. 6–7
Oct 26, 28	Future Indicative Verbs, First Aorist Indicative Verbs (Chs. 10–11)	Quiz #5 – Chs. 8–9
Nov 2, 4	Second Aorist Indicative Verbs, Liquid Verbs (Chs. 12–13)	Quiz #6 – Chs. 10–11
Nov 9, 11	Third Declension Nouns, Perfect & Pluperfect Indicative Verbs (Chs. 14–15)	Quiz #7 – Chs. 12–13
Nov 16, 18	Adjectives & Adverbs, Present Participles (Chs. 16–17)	Quiz #8 – Chs. 14–15
Nov 23, 25	— <i>Thanksgiving Week</i> — <i>No Class</i> —	
Nov 30 (Mon)	* Final Review Session	
Dec 2	Final Exam – Grammar, Vocabulary, Parsing, Translation	Cumulative (Chs. 1–17)

Note:

While the schedule above provides a structured plan for covering the material and administering quizzes, we may adjust the pace depending on the overall progress and needs of the class. At times, we may move ahead or slow down slightly. On the whole, however, we will aim to remain aligned with the posted quiz schedule. Additionally, some sessions may be held over Zoom if circumstances require—students will be notified in advance.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Greek I – NT5100

Professor: Dr. James A. Roh

Campus: Washington DC

Date: September 14 – December 2

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p>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.</p> <p>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	<p>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.</p>	Moderate	<p>The majority of the class is devoted to language acquisition—specifically learning to read, parse, and translate New Testament Greek. Emphasis is placed on building a working vocabulary, mastering core grammatical forms, and developing the skills necessary for interpreting Scripture in its original language.</p>
Scripture	<p>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.)</p>	Strong	<p>We will be translating directly from the Greek text of the New Testament. Since all translation involves interpretation, students will learn to make informed decisions based on grammar, context, and theological nuance.</p>
Reformed Theology	<p>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</p>	Strong	<p>All our study is grounded in the framework of Reformed theology, which shapes how we approach language, interpretation, and application. This theological lens is not merely assumed but actively informs our understanding of Scripture and its original language.</p>
Sanctification	<p>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</p>	Strong	<p>Given that I am first and foremost a pastor, I teach with a view toward spiritual formation and personal growth. The goal is not only to master content, but to be shaped by it for faithful service in Christ’s church.</p>
Worldview	<p>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact</p>	Strong	<p>See comments under “Reformed Theology.”</p>

	within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.		
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.)	Strong	See comments under "Sanctification."
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	See comments under "Sanctification."