

SYLLABUS



TAYLOR
SEMINARY

To develop Christ-minded leaders who make a difference in the world.

BI 514 Greek and Hebrew Tools

Winter, 2019

INSTRUCTOR: Jerry Shepherd, Ph.D.
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SCHEDULE: Thursdays, 1:30—4:30 PM, January 24—April 25

CREDITS: 3 [Approximately 90 hours work outside class]

DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to biblical Hebrew and biblical Greek that will equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary for the proper use of the various lexicons, concordances, word-study aids, and critical commentaries.

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should:

1. Have a basic understanding of the nature of the biblical languages.
2. Be able to use the various lexicons, concordances, word-study books, and other aids that presuppose some knowledge of the biblical languages.
3. Be able to read critical commentaries more intelligently and critically.
4. Understand the different philosophies of translation and have an appreciation for the problems that scholars face in the translation and interpretation of the Bible.
5. Know how to exegete a pericope in the scriptures and the best tools to use in doing so.

TEXTBOOKS:

William D. Mounce. *Greek for the Rest of Us: Essentials of Biblical Greek*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013. Available on Kindle.

ISBN-10: 0310277108

ISBN-13: 978-0310277101

Silva, Moisés. *God, Language and Scripture: Reading the Bible in the Light of General Linguistics*. Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation 4. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, Academie, 1990.

ISBN-10: 0310409519
ISBN-13: 978-0310409519

For the Hebrew portion of the course there is no textbook to purchase. Instead there will be handouts from the instructor.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Readings, exercises, and other written assignments as specified each week.
2. Weekly quizzes.
3. Midterm and Final examinations.

EVALUATION:

1. Exercises and written assignments	30%
2. Quizzes	30%
3. Midterm and Final examinations	40%
Total	100%

COURSE OUTLINE:

The Greek section of the course will begin the week of January 26 and run through the week of March 7, with an exam to be given the last week. The weekly assignments will be specified on the website.

The Hebrew section of the course will begin the week of March 7 and run through the week of April 25, with an exam to be given the last week. The weekly assignments will be specified on the website.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Excessive, unexcused absences and lack of participation may adversely affect your grade. More than three unexcused absences may result in failure for the course.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. MOODLE

Taylor Seminary's Moodle is located on a shared platform with our partner seminary, Sioux Falls Seminary. Bookmark this site on your computer for easy, regular access: <https://moodle.sfseminary.edu>

Moodle log-in is the first initial of your first name and your last name - all in lowercase, with no spaces. For example, if your name is John Calvin, you would log-in as jcalvin
The default password is: TaylorSem123\$ (After your first login it will require you to change it)
The default enrolment key is the course code (all in lowercase, with no spaces). The course code consists of the course prefix followed by the course number.
For example, Old Testament Introduction's key is: ot417
If you are having trouble logging into Moodle or self-enrolling, please email teresa.seibel@taylor-edu.ca

2. COURSE WRITING

Formatting

All studies and papers should be typed and formatted according to the Society of Biblical Literature writing style as outlined in the Seminary's *Guidelines for Research Writing in Religion & Theology (SBL)*. For the full stylesheet, please refer to Patrick H. Alexander, et al., ed., *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Biblical Studies and Related Disciplines* (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014) which is in Reading Room.

Research Language.

You should employ acceptable research language for your paper which is not too informal yet reads inclusively. Avoid the use of gender specific language (e.g., Do not refer to “man” generically or to “mankind,” “men,” “he”; rather use “humankind,” “humanity,” “person,” etc.)

Plagiarism.

Academic honesty and integrity is essential to the academic enterprise and the Seminary community. All written work submitted *must* be your own. *Guidelines for Research Writing* defines plagiarism as the failure to give credit where credit is due: “To plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written something original which in fact you have borrowed from another without acknowledging that other person's work” (*Guide for Research and Writing*, 2016, p. 11-13). If you borrow ideas or distinctive phrases, or include direct quotations in your written assignments, you must acknowledge your source(s) properly by in-text citation or footnote. It is also wrong to copy another person's work or to submit an assignment previously handed in for credit in another course. **Students guilty of plagiarism may receive a grade of zero for the assignment and may be brought to the attention of the Seminary's Academic Committee.**

3. COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY

After the period for which tuition refunds are available, a “W” will be placed on the transcript of a student who withdraws from any course. Beyond those dates, an “F” will be recorded on the student's transcript.