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LG1200-50: New Testament Greek
Luther Seminary
Fall 2009
Professor Mary Hinkle Shore
mshore@luthersem.edu

Syllabus

General Information

Professor Mary Hinkle Shore

My name is Mary Hinkle Shore. (Hinkle is my middle name, so if you prefer a formal way of addressing me, it is Dr. Shore, or Professor Shore. It's perfectly OK to call me Mary, too.) I have taught at Luther Seminary for 12 years. This is my fourth time through online Greek.

I'm ordained in the Lutheran church (ELCA) and was a parish pastor in North Dakota for six years before going back to school to receive a Ph. D. from Duke University in New Testament and Christian Origins. I'm almost as interested in the academic discipline of homiletics (preaching) as I am in New Testament studies, and I help with some preaching labs and teach both New Testament and Preaching courses in Luther Seminary's continuing education program. I look forward to working with you to see the difference Greek can make in your preaching, teaching, and study of the New Testament.

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MyLutherNet Class Site

https://myluthernet.luthersem.edu/ics/Academics/LG/LG__1200/2009_FA-LG__1200-50/

Teaching Assistant: Peter Speiser

Peter will be working with the Monday morning precept (conference call) group. He will also be available to check any work that you do on Croy's exercise sentences if something about Croy's answers do not make sense to you. Here is Peter's introduction:

“My name is Pete Speiser and I’m an M. Div. Middler. I graduated from Luther Seminary in 2007 with an M. A. in New Testament Studies and spent last year studying at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. Now I’m excited to be back at Luther to finish my requirements for ordination. I began learning Greek as an undergraduate at the University of Minnesota and continue to enjoy the challenge of reading New Testament texts in their original language. I look forward to working with you this semester.”

Online Class Support

Web Support

For an overview of Luther Seminary’s online environment, check out the Orientation to Online Learning (<http://www.luthersem.edu/orientation>).

For answers to many common questions, including how to access Luther Seminary resources remotely, check the TechnologyHelp Wiki (<http://wiki.luthersem.edu/bin/view/TechnologyHelp/WebHome>).

For answers about how to use BibleWorks, see the Luther Seminary BibleWorks Wiki. You may contribute to this wiki as well. <https://wiki.luthersem.edu/bin/view/BibleWorks>.

Real People Available by Email

With questions about MyLutherNet, contact the Learning Design and Technology team at <mailto:online@luthersem.edu>.

To troubleshoot computer problems, contact <mailto:helpdesk@luthersem.edu>.

Course FAQ

Maybe if you have a question about the class, others have wondered about it too. Ask your question on the FAQ discussion forum within the *Forums* area in the class site and see if anyone knows the answer to it (or maybe someone has already asked it before you). You can also write email to anyone in the class from within the *Roster* of your MyLutherNet class site.

Course Information

Catalog Description

An introduction to Greek grammar and syntax. Reading and analysis of selected New Testament texts explores the nature of translation and its relation to interpretation. Help is given in effective use of resources such as grammars, lexicons, concordances, parsing guides, and interlinears.¹ Mastery of basic vocabulary is stressed. Prerequisite course for Master of Divinity degree program (from the Luther Seminary 2007-09 catalog, p. 116).

¹ [An “interlinear” is a text that has two languages on successive lines. In this case, Greek would be on one line and English on the next line, all the way down the page. Because we have BibleWorks and a textbook with Greek and English on facing pages, we do not use an interlinear in the class.](#)

Course Objectives

As a prerequisite to the Luther Seminary M Div curriculum, LG1200 is meant to accomplish these things:

1. To introduce you to the Greek language as it is used in the New Testament, which was originally written in Greek.
2. To give you practice using helps for study of the Greek New Testament: things like Greek-English lexicons (or dictionaries), BibleWorks or other concordance and search tools, and so on.
3. To give you a chance to read a few longer portions of the New Testament in Greek.
4. To anchor in your memory the vocabulary used most frequently in the New Testament.
5. To prepare you for the Greek study required in the M Div curriculum.

Enduring Understandings

What will your “big picture” take-away be from this course? Six months after the course, I hope you will understand that:

1. While Bible translation is art as well as science, requiring judgment calls and educated guessing, it need not be thought of as either too mystical or technical for you to understand.
2. Bible software, diglot texts, lexicons, and other helps for working with the New Testament in Greek enhance the experience of reading the New Testament and reflecting on its relevance for today.
3. You can do this. That is, you will have a sustainable method for gleaning insights from the Greek text of the New Testament that inform your study, teaching, and preaching.

Key Knowledge

By the end of the course, you will:

1. Be able to translate the 300 most common Greek words in the New Testament from Greek to English.
2. Grasp the fundamentals of English and Greek grammar.
3. Recognize the basic principles of determining the reliability of manuscripts of the Greek New Testament.
4. Articulate why any particular translation difference exists and defend your own translation preference for a given New Testament text.

Key Skills

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

1. Use Bible study software to glean data for interpreting New Testament texts.
2. Analyze different translations of the same New Testament text and explain why they differ.
3. Complete word studies informed by an understanding of the multiple contexts in which a word is used.
4. Make the transition from discovering something about a New Testament text to designing a way to share that discovery with others in a teaching or preaching event.

Required Texts & Software

Textbooks

Boyce, James. "Grammar Notes for New Testament Greek," privately printed.

Available at the Luther Seminary Duplicating Office and in the handouts area as a [.pdf](#).

Croy, N. Clayton. *A Primer of Biblical Greek*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

The second edition has a CD-Rom in the back from which we will use material. If you want an electronic copy of the text of the book (without the CD-Rom materials), you can purchase it as a BibleWorks add-in.

Danker, Frederick, et al. *A Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature* 3rd edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.

This is known as BDAG in the biz (pronounced BEE-Dag). You may use the second edition (probably on your pastor's bookshelf, and known as "Bauer") if you do not have the resources to purchase the 3rd edition.

Rather than spending \$150. or so on the print version of BDAG, I recommend purchasing the add-in module of this lexicon for BibleWorks for the way it integrates with the Greek texts in BibleWorks (lexicon entries show up, if you like, when you hover over a Greek work). You can get BDAG and a very good Hebrew lexicon (abbreviated HALOT) as a [module bundle](#)² in BibleWorks for \$212. If you are using Accordance, its makers also have an electronic version of BDAG available for purchase.

Mounce, William D. "Biblical Greek." Four-page laminated study guide from Zondervan, in the "Get an A" study guides series. Available at the Luther Seminary Bookstore or online.

² <http://store.bibleworks.com/BDAG-HALOT.html>.

NET & *Novum Testamentum Graece Diglot*. The word, “diglot” (pronounced DYE-glot) means “two languages.” This Bible has Greek on one page and English on the facing page. It is available either from the Luther Seminary bookstore or at <http://store.bible.org/product.asp?ProductID=56>. Different bindings mean that this book ranges in price from \$70. to \$100.

Software

BibleWorks 8 (for the Windows operating system) <http://www.bibleworks.com/> is required (unless you choose Accordance for the Mac). BibleWorks is available off campus via the homelab or on campus on lab and library computers.

The [Homelab](#)³ version of BibleWorks is fully functioning for both Mac and PC users except for these things:

- It does not allow you to customize your workspace.
- You cannot listen to audio tutorials and flash card pronunciations.
- You cannot save your work inside the program.

If you can see your way clear to spend the money, I recommend you purchase a copy for your own use. You will be using this program in this Greek class, as well as in your Hebrew class and in other Bible courses and Preaching courses during seminary.

The Luther Seminary bookstore can get a discount on BibleWorks by making orders of 10 copies or more, bringing the cost down about \$100. to around \$260. Go to <http://www.luthersem.edu/bookstore/> for contact information. The bookstore will not place an order until they have 10 requests, so ask them a.s.a.p.

If you work on a Mac (as I do), you have these options:

- Connect to Homelab and use Bibleworks remotely.
- If you have an Intel Mac, you can use the Mac to run Windows and Bibleworks. (I do this with the help of VMWare Fusion.)
- Buy Accordance Scholar’s Collection. Accordance is very good, native Mac software. I cannot support it at the level I support Bibleworks, with weekly tutorials and helps. It is also more expensive than Bibleworks if you want as broad a collection of English Bibles. If you work on a Mac, however, you may want to go this route. New Testament Professor Eric Barreto (ebarreto001@luthersem.edu) uses Accordance and is available to offer some support. I own the program and know a little about it too.

³ http://www.luthersem.edu/computer_services/account/HomeLab.asp.

Course Assessments

<i>Part of Course</i>	<i>% of Grade</i>	<i>Description</i>
Quizzes, including "Pre-assignment"	30	<p>The pre-assignment is available in the Weekly Assignments area of MyLutherNet. I intend by it to ensure that you are technologically ready for the class. It is due by Wednesday noon (central time) of Week One. You may attempt the pre-assignment twice, and your highest score will count. There is no other quiz in Week One. We will have conference calls.</p> <p>All quizzes will also be available in MyLutherNet from the Exams-Submissions link. You may take each grammar quiz up to three times. When you have exhausted your attempts and/or are satisfied with your highest score, mark the test as "final" and the highest score will be saved.</p> <p>We have designed grammar quizzes that should not take you more than 60 minutes if you have done the week's background work before you begin the quiz. The grammar quizzes are open-book and open-BibleWorks unless otherwise indicated.</p> <p>The vocabulary quizzes are not open-book or open-BibleWorks! That would be cheating. They are cumulative throughout the semester. They are simple Greek-to-English multiple choice and will take less time than the grammar quizzes. You may take vocabulary quizzes up to three times also, and after your mark an attempt as "final," the highest score is saved.</p> <p>Completed quizzes must be uploaded by each Saturday at noon (central time). There is a one-hour grace period in case of technical difficulties. You will be able to see the correct answers to the grammar quiz after 1:00 p.m. Saturday.</p>
300-word Vocabulary Final	10	<p>To pass the course, you must score at least 80% on a test of the words used 50 times or more in the New Testament. This is a seminary-wide requirement so that when you open BibleWorks or a Greek New Testament, you feel a little like you are among friends—you recognize several faces—and the conversation between you and the text will get started faster.</p>
Conference Calls	30	<p>Each week, you and 4-5 classmates will phone in for a conference call study session. Peter will lead the Monday morning sessions. Mary will lead the Tuesday evening sessions. Phone number is 651-523-1772. Conference number is 72. We will practice reading Greek aloud and translating. Attendance is required and participation counts for this nearly a third of the class grade. If you cannot make your own call during a week, you may attend at a different time.</p>
Final Project	30	<p>The final project asks you to integrate the skills in translation and in the use of reference tools and BibleWorks/Accordance you have practiced through the semester. Specifications and a sample project are available in the Exams-Submissions area of MyLutherNet. The final project is due by noon on Monday, December 14.</p>

Study Tips and Time Commitment

LG1200 counts as 1.5 courses (the equivalent of 4.5 semester hours). This class will take you between 12 and 15 hours a week to do well. Here are some study tips:

- Work on the language 5 or 6 days a week. If you take more than two days away from the books, everything looks foreign again when you go back.
- Keep vocabulary cards with you and flip through them when waiting for something else to happen.
- When you are learning new material or translating, work in small, concentrated chunks of time. Thirty minutes at a time is about right unless you get in a flow and feel good about doing more than that.

- Between 30-50 minute study sessions, move your body, preferably somewhere besides “to the refrigerator” (☺). Walk up and down a couple of flights of stairs. Spend five minutes throwing a ball for the dog. Move through a few sun salutations. Physical activity improves mental activity.
- Take one day a week completely off (ancient advice, as you know).

Course Activities

Here is one way to imagine the 12-15 hours I’m estimating you will need each week. You may, of course, split things up differently, depending on what your other time commitments require.

<i>Day</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Time Estimate</i>	
Monday & Tuesday	Participate in conference call.	60 min.	4 hours
	Read web page and watch mini-lecture videos.	30 min.	
	Study handouts for the week.	30 min.	
	Read Croy as needed.	90 min.	
Wednesday	Begin studying the week’s vocabulary.	30 min.	2 hours
	Work through 2 practice sentences & check your work with Croy’s answer key. As you work, review handouts and mini-lectures as needed.	60 min.	
	Begin any needed memory work on grammar concepts or endings.	30 min.	
Thursday	Study vocabulary.	30 min.	2 hours
	Work through 2 practice sentences & check your work with Croy’s answer key. As you work, review handouts and mini-lectures as needed.	60 min.	
	Continue needed memory work on grammar concepts or endings.	30 min.	
Friday	Study vocabulary.	30 min.	2 hours
	Review materials and take the vocabulary and grammar quizzes.	120 min.	
Saturday	Review materials and retake the quizzes if needed.	120 min.	2 hours
Sunday	Take a Greek-free day.		

Schedule of Topics

Each week in MyLutherNet, you will find handouts, links to mini-lectures (usually about 4 minutes), and other resources needed for the week. Here is the schedule for our work.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Wk</i>	<i>Chapter in Textbook</i>	<i>Vocabulary Quiz Notes</i>	<i>Topics</i>
Sept 8	1	Croy, 1	Pre-assignment (quiz) due by Wednesday noon. No vocabulary quiz.	Orientation to course, software, assignments. Alphabet: writing & sounds.
Sept 14	2	Croy, 2-3	Croy, lessons 1-3.	Greek verbs. Nouns. First declension. Second declension.
Sept 21	3	Croy, 4-6	Croy, lessons 1-6.	The article. Adjectives. Prepositions. εἶμι.
Sept 28	4	Croy, 7-8	Croy, lessons 1-8.	Personal pronouns. Demonstrative pronouns. Special uses of αὐτός. Middle & passive.
Oct 5	5	Croy, 9-11	Croy, lessons 1-11.	Deponent verbs. Uses of the dative. Imperfect. Future.
Oct 12	6	Croy, 12-14	Croy, lessons 1-14.	Aorist. Principal parts of verbs. Perfect.
Oct 19	7	Croy, 15-17	Croy, lessons 1-17.	Aorist passive. Third declension.
Oct 26	8	Croy, 18-20	Croy, lessons 1-20.	Participles. Contract verbs. Liquid verbs.
Nov 2	9	Croy, 21-23	Croy, lessons 1-23.	Subjunctive mood. Choose focal text for exegetical assignments (list provided).

<i>Date</i>	<i>Wk</i>	<i>Chapter in Textbook</i>	<i>Vocabulary Quiz Notes</i>	<i>Topics</i>
Nov 9	10	Croy, 24-25 Metzger reading (e-reserve)	Croy, lessons 1-25.	Infinitive mood. More on the Third Declension. Exegetical skill: Text Criticism. Imperative mood. Prohibitions.
Nov 16	11	Croy, 26-27	Croy, lessons 1-27.	Interrogative and relative pronouns. Conditional statements. Exegetical skill: Lexicon Use.
Nov 23		No conference calls or assignments. Thanksgiving Break		
Nov 30	12	Croy, 28-30	Croy, lessons 1-30.	-μι verbs. Exegetical skill: Word Study Comparative adjectives. More conditional statements.
Dec 7	13	Croy, 31-32	Vocabulary Final (pass with 80% or better).	Questions expecting a “yes” or “no” answer. Other uses of cases. Final project due noon, Monday, Dec. 14.