

**THEO 3215**  
**New Testament Greek I 新約希臘文（一）**  
**First semester, 2025/2026**

Teacher: Colten Cheuk-Yin YAM 任卓賢  
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TA: WANG Zichao 王子超

Time and venue: 09:30 am – 12:15 pm (Mon) Chen Kou Bun Building (CKB) UG04

### 1. Course Description

This course introduces the basics of Koine Greek, the original language of the New Testament. We will learn Greek grammar step by step, covering the syntax of verbs, nouns, pronouns, prepositions, and more. The course also aims to equip students with effective methods for memorizing vocabulary and recognizing various syntactical features. In addition to grammar instruction, a substantial amount of time will be devoted to reading and analyzing texts to help students become familiar with the language. Emphasis will also be placed on practicing pronunciation and translating simple texts.

### 2. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Recognize frequently occurring Greek words in the New Testament.
2. Read aloud with confidence several New Testament Greek passages.
3. Develop a habit of reading the New Testament Greek Bible alongside the Chinese or English Bible.
4. Analyze and evaluate basic morphological transformations and syntactic structures.
5. Translate simple Greek sentences into English.

### 3. Course Syllabus

This course will cover chapters 1-12 of the textbook plus supplementary materials supplied by the teacher. Topics covered are as follows:

Topic	Content
Pronunciation of Greek words	Sound and rules of pronunciation of alphabet Rules on accent and syllables
Bible Reading and Analysis	Listening and reading Matthew 6 and John 1
Noun	Concept of declension; first and second declension Pronouns: personal and demonstrative pronouns Basic modifier of noun
Greek Verb System	Concept of inflection, mood, tense, aspect and voice Present and future indicative Imperfect and aorist active indicative
Preposition	Basic rules on the use of most commonly used prepositions

**4. Course Components (Learning activities)**

1) Lecture	2 hours per week
2) Tutorial	45 mins per week
3) Online videos	1 hour per week
4) Group meeting	45 mins x 3 meetings for the whole semester, self-arranged

Apart from the mandatory lectures, tutorials and group meetings, students are expected to spend weekly around 8 hours for learning, which includes:

- 5) Reading textbook before class (1 hour)
- 6) Doing exercises after class (3 hours)
- 7) Revision, memorizing vocabularies and tables (3 hours)
- 8) Reading and pronunciation practice of Greek Text (John 1 and Matthew 6) (1 hour)

**5. Assessment Type**

	Nature	Percentage	Tasks
<b>I. Self-preparation and Class Participation (15 %)</b>			
	Class Participation	5 %	To be present and actively participate in class activity, including: a) show up in class (lecture and tutorial) b) finish required reading on time c) answer questions in class d) actively participate in exercises of pronunciation and translations in class e) ask relevant questions in class
	All videos in the first month	5 %	View all pre-class videos
	John 1 and Matthew 6 (due 26 Nov)	5 %	Scope: John 1 and Matthew 6 a) listening to John 1 and Matthew 6 for at least 20 times (2.5 %) b) reading John 1 and Matthew 6 aloud for at least 5 times (2.5 %) * submit the declaration form of progress to the blackboard at the end of the semester
<b>II. Assignments and Tests (45 %)</b>			
	Group Exercises (due 26 Nov)	6 %	3 group meetings with tasks (2% each) Students will be divided into small groups (3-4 people in one group) and meet three times. Tasks for each time: Part I a) reading aloud the required texts b) share 3 words / grammatical rules in the (related) texts c) listen to other groupmates and comments d) write down the progress and submit a final worksheet. Part II e) making vocabulary cards, vocabulary quizzes
	Home Exercises	20 %	Completing exercises after every lecture (2 % for each) a) complete the exercises on time b) correct the exercises by yourself. Corrections / remarks needed to be shown in your worksheet c) upload the scanned copy / photo to blackboard * marks will be deducted for - late submission (each week -0.3%)

			- no corrected marks (-0.5%)
	3 Quizzes	15 %	Three quizzes (each 5 %) on the essential elements of the course
	Pronunciation test (due 11 Dec)	4 %	Scope: John 1 and Matthew 6 Submit a recording of your reading of two specified texts before the end of semester (details to be announced). * 0.2% will be deducted for each mistake.
III. Exam (40 %)			
	Final Examination	40 %	The final examination will cover i) Black, <i>Learn to Read New Testament Greek</i> , chapters 1-12, and ii) materials in Handouts.

### 1. Grading standards

For THEO 3215		For THEO 5305	
A	96-100%	A	97-100%
A-	90-95.9%	A-	92-96.9%
B+	80-89.9%	B+	82-91.9%
B	70-79.9%	B	77-81.9%
B-	60-69.9%	B-	70-76.9%
C+	55-59.9%	C+	65-69.9%
C	59-63.9%	C	60-64.9%
C-	54-58.9%	C-	55-59.9%
D+	50-53.9%	D+	50-54.9%

### 7. Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Requirements
1.	1 Sept	Syllabus & Introduction Chapter 1 Letters and sounds	Reading: Black, chapter 1
2.	8 Sept	Chapter 4 Nouns of the Second Declension	Reading: Black, Chapter 4 memorize 2 <sup>nd</sup> Declension table
3.	15 Sept	Chapter 5 Nouns of the First Declension	Reading: Black, Chapter 5 memorize 1 <sup>st</sup> Declension table
4.	22 Sept [Quiz I]	Chapter 2 Greek Verb System Chapter 3 Present and Future Active Indicative	Reading: Black, Chapter 2
5.	29 Sept	Chapter 3 Present and Future Active Indicative Chapter 6 Adjectives of the First and Second Declensions	Reading: Black, Chapter 3 memorize Pres. and Fut. active ind.
6.	6 Oct	Chapter 6 Adjectives of the First and Second Declensions	Reading: Black, Chapter 6 memorize adjective table

7.	13 Oct	Chapter 7 Imperfect and Aorist Active Indicative	Reading: Wallace, Chapter "Adjective" p 129-139 memorize adjective table
8.	20 Oct [Quiz II]	Chapter 7 Imperfect and Aorist Active Indicative	Reading: Black, Chapter 7 memorize verb table
9.	27 Oct	Chapter 8 Additional Prepositions	Revision of the whole verb table Reading: Black, Chapter 8
10.	3 Nov	Chapter 9 and 11 Personal and Demonstrative Pronouns Chapter 10 Perfect and Pluperfect Active Indicative	Reading: Black, Chapter 9 and 11 Reading: Black, Chapter 10
11.	10 Nov	Chapter 10 Perfect and Pluperfect Active Indicative Chapter 12 Present Middle and Passive Indicative	Reading: Black, Chapter 12
12.	17 Nov [Quiz III]	Chapter 12 Present Middle and Passive Indicative	
13.	24 Nov	Chapter 12 Present Middle and Passive Indicative Revisions (Nouns, Adjectives, Verbs)	
14.	8 Dec 09:30-12:30	Final Examination	

## 8. Readings

### A. **Textbook** (mandatory reading)

Black, David Alan. *Learn to Read New Testament Greek*. Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2009.

Ebook version available at CUHK library ([https://julac.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=CUHK\\_IZ51962428350003407&context=L&vid=CUHK&lang=en\\_US&search\\_scope=All&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=default\\_tab&query=any,contains,David%20Alan%20Black%20New%20Testament&sortby=rank](https://julac.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=CUHK_IZ51962428350003407&context=L&vid=CUHK&lang=en_US&search_scope=All&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=default_tab&query=any,contains,David%20Alan%20Black%20New%20Testament&sortby=rank))

### B. **Other references** (optional)

#### *Other textbooks*

1. Mounce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.
2. Duff, Jeremy. *The Elements of New Testament Greek*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
3. Black, David Alan. *Linguistics for Students of New Testament Greek*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.
4. Decker, Rodney J. *Reading Koine Greek: An Introduction And Integrated Workbook*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2014.

#### *Detailed Grammar book*

5. van Emde Boas, Evert, Albert Rijksbaron, Luuk Huitink, and Mathieu de Bakker, *The Cambridge Grammar of Classical Greek*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019.
6. Smyth, Herbert Weir. *A Greek Grammar for Colleges*. American Book Company, 1920.  
(<https://archive.org/details/agreekgrammarfo02smytgoog/page/n7>)

7. Wallace, Daniel B. *The Basics of New Testament Syntax: An Intermediate Greek Grammar*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.  
Ebook version available at CUHK library ([https://julac.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=CUHK\\_I2511020836870003407&context=L&vid=CUHK&lang=en\\_US&search\\_scope=All&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=default\\_tab&query=any,contains,2.Wallace,%20Daniel%20B.%20The%20Basics%20of%20New%20Testament%20Syntax:%20An&sortby=rank](https://julac.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=CUHK_I2511020836870003407&context=L&vid=CUHK&lang=en_US&search_scope=All&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=default_tab&query=any,contains,2.Wallace,%20Daniel%20B.%20The%20Basics%20of%20New%20Testament%20Syntax:%20An&sortby=rank))

#### *Greek Reader*

8. Decker, Rodney. *Koine Greek Reader: Selections from the New Testament, Septuagint, and Early Christian Writers*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2013.
9. Mounce, William D. *A Graded Reader of Biblical Greek*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

### **9. Academic Honesty**

- Students should pay serious attention to the policy and regulations of the University on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. For details, please refer to <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty>.
- With each assignment, students are required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. In the case of group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible should there be any plagiarized contents in the group project, irrespective of whether he / she has signed the declaration and whether he / she has contributed directly or indirectly to the plagiarized content. For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon student's uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers.

### **10. Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools**

- This course follows the CUHK policy on the use of Generative AI for assignments and adopts **Approach 3 - Use only with explicit acknowledgement** (as outlined in [https://www.aqs.cuhk.edu.hk/documents/A-guide-for-students\\_use-of-AI-tools.pdf](https://www.aqs.cuhk.edu.hk/documents/A-guide-for-students_use-of-AI-tools.pdf)).
- Students are allowed to use AI tools provided they explicitly cite and acknowledge their use. However, students should be aware of the tools' limitations and should not rely on them for generating information, essay frameworks, or assignment passages. The golden rule is that AI tools should not replace students' own efforts in completing assignments.

### **11. Feedback for evaluation**

Feedback and recommendation are welcome. Students are advised to give feedback either during the lectures or through email. Response will be made promptly according to the need of students.