

MTG210.9 Engaging the Biblical Languages

Name of Unit 1 (Unit Code 1)

Engaging the Biblical Languages (MTG210.9)

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Level	Unit Coordinator
Graduate Certificate Graduate Diploma Masters	One semester	Intermediate	Dr Chris Johnstone

Core or elective unit

Indicate if the unit is a

- core unit
 elective unit
 other (please specify below):

Core: Master of Divinity
 Elective for Graduate Certificate in Christian Studies, Graduate Diploma Christian Studies

Unit weighting

Using the table below, indicate the credit point weighting of this unit and the credit point total for the course of study (for example, 10 credit points for the unit and 320 credit points for the course of study).

Unit credit points	Total course credit points
6 credit points	24 / 48 / 144 credit points

Student workload

Using the table below, indicate the expected student workload per week for this unit.

No. timetabled hours per week	No. personal study hours per week	Total workload hours per week
3	6	9

For those students requiring additional English language support, how many additional hours per week is it expected that they will undertake?

Additional English language support: 0 hours per week

Pre-requisites and co-requisites

Are students required have undertaken a prerequisite or co-requisite unit for this unit?

Yes No

If **YES**, provide details of the prerequisite or co-requisite requirements below.

Prerequisite: MTG100.8 The Biblical Story for Everyone

SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS

Brief description of the content of the unit

This unit equips students with knowledge and skills to use interpretive tools based on Biblical Hebrew and New Testament Greek. It connects strongly with the MTC formation domain, *Engaging God’s Story*. Students learn the Greek and Hebrew alphabets & transliterations, analyse the grammatical building blocks in English, Greek and Hebrew, synthesise the discussions in various grammatical and lexical tools and commentaries based on the biblical languages, and develop skills for the effective use of academic level Bible software. On completion of this unit, students, with the aid of Bible software, will confidently and faithfully engage in lexical and grammatical studies at a basic level to provide exegetical insights that are informed by the biblical languages, and present their findings to diverse contemporary audiences.

- Learning outcomes for the unit**
- 1) Distinguish the alphabets and transliteration systems and analyse the basic grammar and syntax of biblical Hebrew and New Testament Greek
 - 2) Synthesise the discussions in various grammatical and lexical tools and commentaries based on the biblical languages, evaluating the contribution to the Bible’s interpretation
 - 3) Effectively utilise key Hebrew and Greek language resources, including academic level Bible software and commentaries that focus on the biblical languages, to provide exegetical insights on biblical Hebrew and Greek New Testament texts.
 - 4) Creatively communicate clear and coherent exegetical insights, based on the biblical languages, to diverse contemporary audiences

Assessment tasks			
Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
1. Tests - Students complete 6 tests, 3 based on Greek and 3 based on Hebrew, assessing student comprehension of the alphabet, transliteration, and basic grammar and syntax. (1000 words equiv.)	1	Greek Wks 3, 4 & 6 Hebrew Wks 10, 11 & 13	15% (equally weighted)

Assessment tasks			
Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
<p>2. Resources Exercises x 2 - Students synthesise the discussions in various grammatical and lexical tools (via Bible Software, e.g., Accordance) and commentaries based on the biblical languages, illustrating, and evaluating the contribution to the interpretation of various biblical Hebrew and New Testament Greek texts (3500 words equiv.: 1750 words each)</p>	1, 2 & 3	Greek Wk 7 Hebrew Wk 14	60% (equally weighted)
<p>2. Audio-Visual Presentations - Based on their analysis of one biblical Hebrew text and one New Testament Greek text in their Resources Exercises (see assessment task 2), students produce two 10-min audio-visual presentations, illustrating and explaining the insights gained from the analysis of the biblical languages. Each 10-min presentation includes:</p> <p>a) a 5-min teaching session for an academic audience (e.g., peers), following by</p> <p>b) a 5-min devotional for a non-academic audience.</p> <p>(1500 words equiv.; 750 words each)</p>	4	Greek Wk 7 Hebrew Wk 14	25% (equally weighted)

2.1 Prescribed and recommended readings

Prescribed reading:

Fields, L. *Hebrew for the Rest of Us: Using Hebrew Tools Without Mastering Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, Zondervan: 2008.

Mounce, W. *Greek for the Rest of Us*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, Zondervan: 2013.

Strauss, M. L. *The Biblical Greek Companion for Bible Software Users*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.

Williams, Michael. *The Biblical Hebrew Companion for Bible Software Users: Grammatical Terms Explained for Exegesis*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2015.

Recommended reading:

Black, David Alan. *Learn to read New Testament Greek*. 3rd ed. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2009.

Duvall, J. Scott, and Verlyn Verbrugge, eds. *Devotions on the Greek New Testament: 52 Reflections to Inspire & Instruct*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Eng, Milton, and Lee M. Fields, eds. *Devotions on the Hebrew Bible: 54 Reflections to Inspire and Instruct*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2015.

Greenwood, Kyle. *Dictionary of English Grammar for Students of Biblical Languages*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2020.

Hardy, H. H. II. *Exegetical Gems from Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019.

Howell, Adam, Benjamin L. Merkle, and Robert Plummer. *Hebrew for Life: Strategies for Learning, Retaining, and Reviving Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2020.

Jackson, Paul, ed. *Devotions on The Greek New Testament: 52 Reflections to Inspire & Instruct*. Vol. 2. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018.

Lamerson, S. *English Grammar to Ace New Testament Greek*. Grand Rapids, Zondervan: 2003.

Merkle, Benjamin L. *Exegetical Gems from Biblical Greek: A Refreshing Guide to Grammar and Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019.

Merkle, Benjamin L., and Robert Plummer. *Beginning with New Testament Greek: An Introductory Study of the Grammar and Syntax of the New Testament*. Nashville, TN: B & H Academic, 2020.

Mounce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek Grammar*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019.

Pratico, Gary D., and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019.

Van Pelt, M. *English Grammar to Ace Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, Zondervan: 2010.

Van Pelt, Miles V. *Biblical Hebrew: A Compact Guide*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019.

Wegner, P. *Using Old Testament Hebrew in Preaching: A Guide for Students and Pastors*. Grand Rapids, Kregel: 2009.