

Greek Reading Notes Assignment

Westminster Seminary California

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Objectives

This assignment has two objectives: (1) to help you develop a way of making personal notes from the Greek text for future use in preparing sermons or Bible studies; (2) to facilitate the evaluation of your work in Greek for class purposes.

Please read all the assignment requirements below carefully!

Description

The assignment is: To produce your own reading notes from the assigned passages in the Greek New Testament. The actual form of the notes may vary according to your own preferences; however, the content of the notes must demonstrate careful study of the Greek text and the use of certain required and recommended reference works. The notes may be typed or handwritten (in *legible* handwriting!). These notes will form the core of your future use of the assigned passages when you prepare sermons or Bible studies.

If you have your own system of shorthand, you will obviously need to turn in a version which the instructor can read and understand. You may use standard abbreviations for Greek reference material as found in Patrick Alexander, *et al.* eds., *The SBL Handbook of Style* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1999).

*You must cite **all** of your sources in your notes!* It will be assumed that anything which has no citation after it (see sample below) is your own work. Also, you may consult with others while preparing your notes; however, once again, you must do your own work. Do not copy the work of others without citing your sources. If it is discovered that the Reading Notes you hand in are not your own work, you are subject to penalties including failure of the class and possible expulsion from the Seminary for repeated offenses. (See the Student Handbook for the Seminary's policy on plagiarism.) ***Take this warning seriously!***

The use of computer resources on your notes is allowed; however, your professor does **not** want to simply see a printout of what your computer resources. *Do your own work; don't simply print out what your computer knows!* This means that computer parsing or other material that is printed out on your notes will be ignored and do not constitute part of the minimum requirements for this assignment.

Requirements

You are **required** to consult the following reference works or types of reference work in your Reading Notes **as a bare minimum**:

1. BDAG (recommended: Louw & Nida and LSJ)
2. One reference grammar (Wallace, BDF, Moule, MHT, Robertson, etc.)
3. A Greek concordance (book or computerized)
4. One commentary on the assigned passage which refers to the Greek text.

Reading notes which do not include these minimum references will be penalized. Obviously, you may consult as many other reference works as you wish beyond those required.

Be sure that you give a list of references (bibliography) and abbreviations on the **first** page of your Reading Notes. Standard references with well-known abbreviations (BDAG, TDNT, BibleWorks, etc.) can simply be referenced by these abbreviations.

You may want to formulate one sentence provisional theses for the pericopes in the required passages and record them in your Reading Notes. This means you will have to establish the boundaries, structure, and integrity of the pericopes along with the other requirements of the Reading Notes. This is essentially the first phases of exegesis recommended in NT 501 New Testament Interpretation.

You should prosecute some sample word or phrase studies and report the results in your Reading Notes. As a rule of thumb, one such study per chapter is enough for this assignment, though you are free to do more!