

GKC 4301-04
Readings from Greek Literature:
Greek Papyri and the New Testament

Spring 2006
Thursday 6–9 pm
MH 313

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COURSE GOALS AND DESCRIPTION

The course will focus on the value of papyri, both literary/biblical and documentary, when interpreting New Testament texts. After an introduction into papyrology as a particular field of research and its basic methods we will turn to the history and methods of New Testament Textual Criticism, and discuss specific passages, e.g. Rom. 16:7 (Junia vs. Junias), 1Cor. 4:6 and the gloss theory, the canonical ending of Mark, always with a focus on the papyrological evidence. Documentary papyri and ostraca (private letters, deeds, contracts etc. from antiquity) may often illumine the text, language, society, and thought of New Testament texts. We will have a closer look at some of the most important types of documents and their impact on the interpretation of the New Testament, e.g. birth announcements and census declarations (and the birth of Jesus, especially according to Luke 2), marriage contracts (and 1Cor. 7), apprentice contracts (and Paul as a tentmaker), sales of slaves and other documents concerning slavery (and Philemon), invitations to banquets (and 1Cor 8-11 concerning idol meals).

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Greek-English New Testament, ed. by Barbara and Kurt Aland, 10th edition 2005, Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft Stuttgart, ISBN: 3-438-05408-6 (or other edition of Greek New Testament)
2. Kurt and Barbara Aland: The Text of the New Testament. An Introduction to the Critical Editions and to the Theory and Practice of Modern Textual Criticism, 2nd ed., Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans, 1995. ISBN: 0802840981
3. E.G. Turner: Greek Papyri. An Introduction, Clarendon Press: Oxford 1980. ISBN: 0198148410
4. Further articles and texts of documentary papyri will be distributed.

ORGANIZATION

We will meet once a week (see above) as a seminar with special focus on primary texts and/or to discuss the readings in detail. Besides my own introductions, commentary and presentations, I will spend part of the time actually calling on you to translate the Greek texts. You are expected to do two presentations (depending on the number of participants) and write a paper.

If you do not understand reading materials, please ask.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATES

1. **Regular attendance** is taken for granted. Repeated unexcused absences will be reflected in the final grade. I take attendance. As a matter of courtesy, if you know that you will have to miss a class, please let me know in advance of your absence.
2. **Reading of all assigned texts and active participation in the discussions.** Class discussion is the responsibility of the group as a whole.
3. **One test** (i.e. the final exam in May) as a combination of some Greek translation plus interpretive essays: 10%.
4. **Two presentations** on assigned topics (5-6 pp. not including bibliography etc.): 40%, e.g. 20% each. If you need an extension on a paper, you must arrange it with me at least a week in advance of the due date.
5. **Seminar paper** at the end (circa 15 pp.): 50%.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATES

1. **Regular attendance.**
2. **Reading of all assigned texts and active participation in the discussions.**
3. **Two presentations** on assigned topics (circa 10 pp. not including bibliography etc.): 40%, e.g. 20% each.
4. **One book review** (7 pp.): 10%. A bibliography will be distributed. The review consists of three parts: a) a brief summary of the book's content and/or thesis, b) a critical analysis of the book's method and use of sources, c) an evaluation of the book's usefulness, and of the circumstances in which it is most likely to be useful. The first part of book review presentations will be on March 30, the second on April 13.
5. **Seminar paper** at the end (circa 25 pp.): 50%.

EVALUATION (GRADES)

I am using a point system for grading. Grades are determined on the total points you earn. You can use the table below to keep track of your grades.

Undergraduates:

	Possible points	Your points
Test	10	
Presentation 1	20	
Presentation 2	20	
Seminar paper	50	
Total points:		

Graduates:

	Possible points	Your points
Presentation 1	20	
Presentation 2	20	
Book review	10	
Seminar paper	50	
Total points:		

A	90-100
B+	86-90
B	80-85
C+	76-79
C	70-75
D	60-69
F	<60

TOPIC OUTLINE

I. Introduction to the Field

- DVD “The Desert Speaks: The World of Papyrus”
- Sources, Methods, Questions
- What is Literary Papyrology/Documentary Papyrology?

II. Biblical Papyri: Text Criticism of the New Testament

1. Short History
2. Criteria
3. Editions of the Greek New Testament
4. Selected Passages

III. Documentary Papyri: Introduction

1. Short History
2. Papyrus Collections, Excavations
3. Editions
4. Tools

IV. Documentary Papyri: Reading and Transcription

1. Private Letters
2. Mummy Labels

V. Comparing Biblical Texts with Documentary Papyri

1. Birth Announcements
2. Nursing Contracts
3. Death Announcements
4. The Census and Luke 2
5. Marriage Contracts, Divorce and 1Corinthians 7
6. Apprentice Contracts and Paul’s Craft
7. Roman Slavery
 - a. Philemon
 - b. 1Corinthians 7
8. Invitations to Banquets and 1Corinthians 8–11

SYLLABUS AND READING SCHEDULE

(subject to changes announced in class)

Jan 12 Introduction to the course

Syllabus, assignments, expectations.

I. Introduction to the field

DVD “*The Desert Speaks*”, *Sources, Methods, Questions; What is Literary/Documentary Papyrology?*

Jan 19 II. Biblical Papyri: Text Criticism of the New Testament

1. **Short History**
2. **Criteria**
3. **Editions of the Greek New Testament**

Aland/Aland, *The Text of the New Testament* 3–71; 280–282

Jan 26 4. Selected Passages

Romans 16:7 (Junia vs. Junias), 1Corinthians 4:6 and the Gloss Theory, Mark 16:9–20

Aland/Aland, *The Text of the New Testament* 222–267; 282–297; 312–316

Feb 2 III. Documentary Papyri: Introduction

1. **Short History**
2. **Papyrus Collections, Excavations**

3. Editions

4. Tools

Turner, *Greek Papyri* 1–73

Feb 9 IV. Documentary Papyri: Reading and Transcription

1. Private Letters

2. Mummy Labels

Paper: *Private Letters and Pauline Epistles: A discussion* (Rachel Miller)

Feb 16 V. Comparing Biblical Texts with Documentary Papyri

1. Birth Announcements

2. Nursing Contracts

3. Death Announcements

Paper: *Motherhood, Fatherhood, and Childhood in Graeco-Roman Antiquity (upper class and lower class)* (Katie Smith)

Turner, *Greek Papyri* 127–153

Feb 23 4. The Census and Luke 2

Paper: *Taxes and Privileges* (Garrett Phillips)

Mar 2 5. Marriage Contracts, Divorce and 1Corinthians 7

Paper: *Marriage and Divorce* (Katie Smith)

Mar 9 6. Apprentice Contracts and Paul's Craft

Paper: *Apprentice Contracts* (Ada Chiaghana)

Mar 23 Book Reviews (Part I): Seth, Brad (first)

“Brothers” and “Sisters”

Paper: *“Brothers” and “Sisters” in Graeco-Roman, Biblical, and Early Jewish Writings* (Josh Schaffner)

Letter Formulas

Arzt-Grabner, *“Brothers” and “Sisters”* (Reader 44–54)

Arzt-Grabner, *The “Epistolary Introductory Thanksgiving”* (Reader 34–43)

Mar 30 7. a. Roman Slavery and Paul (Philem.; 1Cor.), part I

Papers: *Roman Slavery I: Who Was a Slave? Occupations of Slaves* (Seth Boutin)
Roman Slavery II: Manumission of Slaves (Violet Williams)

Arzt-Grabner, *The Case of Onesimos* (Reader 55–68)

Apr 13 7. b. Roman Slavery and Paul (Philem.; 1Cor.), part II

Papers: *Roman Slavery III: Runaway and Truant Slaves* (Garrett Phillips)
Roman Slavery IV: Slaves in Early Christianity (Brad Arnold)

Manumission of slaves, slaves in early christianity

Book Reviews (Part II): Violet, Brad (second), Ada

Apr 20 8. Invitations to Banquets and 1Corinthians 8–11

Papers: *Guilds and Associations* (Ada Chiaghana)
Banquets and Symposia (Rachel Miller)

Apr 27 Conclusion