

Fall 2016 Comment Report

KELLI GIBSON

Course Sections

- A** BGRK 611 (W1): Elementary Greek I
- B** BIBD 640 (01): ST: Historical Theology

Comments -

- A**
 - I appreciate the engagement of the instructor. i thought the course would be more better structured over a longer period of time (14 weeks instead of 7). Also, I though interweaving a discussion of how theologians and researchers use the original Greek would be beneficial. Why is it important to learn Biblical Greek? What is the practical application of that skill?
 - Dr. Gibson takes a proactive approach toward helping students in her class, employing very helpful teaching assistants, communicating thoughtfully through email, helping students to trouble-shoot technical problems, and displaying unfeigned joy over students' accomplishments in the learning endeavor. Additionally, the lectures she has provided have been very helpful, breaking down complicated, translational tasks into simpler parts.
- B**
 - I really enjoyed how you allowed me to relate this course to ministry. Thanks.
 - The class material was very interesting. It caused me to think about things that I had previously taken for granted as part of church doctrine, having not given much thought to their development and the key figures that influenced their acceptance into "orthodox" beliefs.

What specific recommendations do you have for the improvement of this course? Name particular actions that the professor could do to improve learning in the classroom. Name concrete ways the course could better meet student learning outcomes. -

- A**
 - The only thought I could offer concerns the textbook: I'm not sure that the way the material is organized, therein, is optimal for student processing and memorization of principle parts.
- B**
 - Instead of making everyone do one big paper, maybe you could give us a choice like you did in church history. 1 big paper or 3 small papers.
 - Require more primary sources to be purchased for class-- close engagement with Augustine, Nyssa, or the like would be very helpful.
 - Perhaps require students to be prepared to discuss one (or more) key ideas encountered in their reading each week, whether new information or nuanced details about something with which they were familiar (time permitting). Also, at the beginning of the class, make it clear that the core of the class will entail the Trinity (among other things) and to allow class members to articulate their perspective of the Trinity (how one God is manifest in three persons) and then have the students to share at the end of the semester what may have changed or what was strongly affirmed in their perspectives.

What did the professor do that was effective? Be specific and name the actions that helped you as a learner. For example, you could mention specific handouts, AV presentations, particular lectures, presentations, discussions, assignments, or aspects of the syllabus. -

- A**
 - Most helpful to me was Dr. Gibson's patient approach in showing me how to convert a Pages document into a PDF document, in order to ensure my ability to capture professorial feedback on translation assignments. Also, the discussions were very helpful, since she broke down the complicated translational task into more manageable, smaller parts. Finally, Dr. Gibson's joyful enthusiasm over student learning was very encouraging; on that note, Ethan was a very good choice of hers for a teaching assistant!

What did the professor do that was effective? Be specific and name the actions that helped you as a learner. For example, you could mention specific handouts, AV presentations, particular lectures, presentations, discussions, assignments, or aspects of the syllabus. -

B

- In addition to the text book, the teacher included writings of some of the theologians that we studied. This broadened the awareness of the church leaders' thinking patterns. The handouts were very helpful.
- Very focused class, knew the material well, fostered a good environment for discussion.
- Breaking things down for me was really helpful. A lot of stuff I did not understand, unless you broke it down. Also, allowing me to relate this course to ministry. Me doing that allowed me to find interest in the class and outside when reading.

What specific actions and attitudes did you notice from your instructor that demonstrated his/her Christ-like character and conduct? -

A

- Dr. Gibson has demonstrated much patience with students who need assistance in technical trouble-shooting, much enthusiasm for her subject matter, and unfeigned joy over students' successes.

B

- The joy she always had before class and at the end of class.
- Listened very well, engaged thoughtfully and kindly with students of various capacities.
- Patient and engaging. Very respectful of the perspectives that the students brought to the table while still giving instruction to increase deeper understanding based on more details.