General Information

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These are the best ways to communicate with me. Please do not try to contact me through the email function on IQWeb.

Class hours:
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 – 8:50 a.m.

Office hours:
Monday 1– 3 p.m.
Tuesday 11 – 12 p.m.
Thursday 11 – 12 p.m.
Friday 1– 2 p.m.

Course Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this course is to encounter and deepen our experience of God’s Word as it is found in the Aramaic sections of the Old Testament (Gen 31:47; Ezra 4:8-6:18; 7:12-26; Jer 10:11; Dan 2:4-7:28). This purpose will be pursued through the careful study of Biblical Aramaic (BA) and the exegesis of selections from the BA corpus. During class gatherings, we will discuss the features of BA while reading through the Aramaic portions of the book of Daniel. While translation will be necessary for the student to participate in class discussion, it is not intended to be the end-product of our coursework. Translation is an important by-product of interpretation, and interpretation has to do with meaning. To this end, students will be expected to engage the linguistic, literary, historical and theological world of the biblical text and draw application from it.

Course Prerequisites

Biblical Hebrew 1 and 2

Course Materials

ISBN: 978-3438052223 (paperback)
978-1598561630 (hardback)

ISBN: 978-0802834133

ISBN: 978-0943872742
Optional Course Materials on Reserve


Due Dates

Weekly Quizzes
October 20  Mid-term Exam
December 10-15  Final Exam Period

Course Assignments

• Prepare for and participate in the readings for each class by analyzing, translating, and reading the passages for each day. Pay special attention to difficult verb forms, rare words, argument flow, and story logic (how the stories make sense). (10%)
• Weekly quizzes will test verb parsing, vocabulary, and grasp of syntax. (40%)
• Mid-term and final exams will test the same material as quizzes though on an expanded format. (50%)
Class Schedule

Week 1, Aug. 27: Introduction to Readings and Studies in BA

Week 2, Sept. 1, 3: Dan 1:1 – 10 (BH rapid reading)
Studies in BA Grammar #1
Johns Readings: Introduction

Week 3, Sept. 8, 10: Dan 1:11 – 21 (BH rapid reading)
Studies in BA Grammar and Text #2
Johns Readings: chs. 1 and 2

Week 4, Sept. 15, 17: Dan 2:1 – 6
Studies in BA Grammar and Text #3
Johns Readings: chs.3 and 4

Week 5, Sept. 22, 24: Dan 2:7 – 9
Studies in BA Grammar and Text #4
Johns Readings: chs.5 and 6

Week 6, Sept. 29, Oct. 1: Dan 2:10 – 12
Studies in BA Grammar and Text #5
Johns Readings: chs.7 and 8

Week 7, Oct. 6, 8: Dan 2:13 – 18
Studies in BA Grammar and Text #6
Johns Readings: chs.9 and 10

READING WEEK

Week 8, Oct. 20, 22: Mid-term Exam
Studies in BA Grammar and Text #7

Week 9, Oct. 27, 29: Dan 2:19 – 23
Studies in BA Grammar and Text #8
Johns Readings: chs.11 and 12

Week 10, Nov. 3, 5: Dan 2:24 – 28
Studies in BA Grammar and Text #9
Johns Readings: chs.13 and 14

Week 11, Nov. 10, 12: Dan 2:29 – 35
Studies in BA Grammar and Text #10
Johns Readings: chs.15 and 16

Week 12, Nov. 17, 19: Dan 2:36 – 40
Studies in BA Grammar and Text #11
Johns Readings: chs.17 and 18

Week 13, Nov. 24, 26: Dan 2:40 – 45
Studies in BA Grammar and Text #12
Johns Readings: chs.19 an 20

Week 14, Dec. 1, 3: Dan 2:46 - 49
Course Review
# MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.

In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Knowledge of the linguistic structure of Biblical Aramaic (BA) will be presented and articulated in written and oral assignments.</td>
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| Scripture | Strong | The course is primarily concerned with the Aramaic portions of the Old Testament as it has been received through the Masoretic Text. BA will be studied as a means to interpretation and exhortation. |

| Reformed Theology | Minimal | Reformed notions of the biblical text as inspired and authoritative provide the framework and justification for such a class, however implicit. |

| Sanctification | Moderate | Rigorous engagement with the biblical text for the purpose of learning, spiritual growth and maturity is encouraged. |

| Desire for Worldview | Minimal | Understanding cross-linguistic and cross-cultural communication is crucial to understanding worldview. |

| Winsomely Reformed | Moderate | Study of original biblical languages provides an avenue through which faithful scholars communicate the teaching of Scripture in a way that is less bound by native culture. |

| Preach | Strong | Capacity to work with original languages greatly enhances a student's ability to interpret and preach from Scripture. |

| Worship | Minimal | The topic of worship is limited to its presence in the text of Daniel. |

| Shepherd | Minimal | Again, knowledge of BA enhances knowledge of Scripture and ability to shepherd scripturally. |

| Church/World | Minimal | Only present in matters relating to cross-linguistic, cross-cultural interpretation and articulation of Scripture. |