

General Information

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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.

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

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

Elliger, Karl and Willhelm Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. 5th ed. Stuttgart: United Bible Societies, 1997 (paperback), 2006 (hardback).

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

Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1988.

ISBN: 978-0802834133

Johns, Alger. *A Short Grammar of Biblical Aramaic*. Rev. ed. Berrien Springs, Mich.: Andrews University Press, 1972

ISBN: 978-0943872742

Optional Course Materials on Reserve

Greenspahn, Frederick E. *An Introduction to Aramaic*. 2nd ed. Society of Biblical Resources for Biblical Study 46. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003

Koehler, Ludwig and Baumgartner, Walter, *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Boston: Brill, 2001.

Rozenthal, Franz. *A Grammar of Biblical Aramaic*. 7th, expanded edition. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2006.

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 <i>Johns Readings: Introduction</i>
Week 3, Sept. 8, 10:	Dan 1:11 – 21 (BH rapid reading) Studies in BA Grammar and Text #2 <i>Johns Readings: chs. 1 and 2</i>
Week 4, Sept. 15, 17:	Dan 2:1 – 6 Studies in BA Grammar and Text #3 <i>Johns Readings: chs.3 and 4</i>
Week 5, Sept. 22, 24:	Dan 2:7 – 9 Studies in BA Grammar and Text #4 <i>Johns Readings: chs.5 and 6</i>
Week 6, Sept. 29, Oct. 1:	Dan 2:10 – 12 Studies in BA Grammar and Text #5 <i>Johns Readings: chs.7 and 8</i>
Week 7, Oct. 6, 8:	Dan 2:13 – 18 Studies in BA Grammar and Text #6 <i>Johns Readings: chs.9 and 10</i>

READING WEEK

Week 8, Oct. 20, 22:	Mid-term Exam
Week 9, Oct. 27, 29 :	Studies in BA Grammar and Text #7 Dan 2:19 – 23 Studies in BA Grammar and Text #8 <i>Johns Readings: chs.11 and 12</i>
Week 10, Nov. 3, 5:	Dan 2:24 – 28 Studies in BA Grammar and Text #9 <i>Johns Readings: chs.13 and 14</i>
Week 11, Nov. 10, 12:	Dan 2:29 – 35 Studies in BA Grammar and Text #10 <i>Johns Readings: chs.15 and 16</i>
Week 12, Nov. 17, 19:	Dan 2:36 – 40 Studies in BA Grammar and Text #11 <i>Johns Readings: chs.17 and 18</i>
Week 13, Nov. 24, 26:	Dan 2:40 – 45 Studies in BA Grammar and Text #12 <i>Johns Readings: chs.19 and 20</i>
Week 14, Dec. 1, 3:	Dan 2:46 - 49 Course Review

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: OT532 Biblical Aramaic
 Professor: Scott Redd
 Campus: Orlando
 Date: August to December 2009

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Knowledge of the linguistic structure of Biblical Aramaic (BA) will be presented and articulated in written and oral assignments.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	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	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	Reformed notions of the biblical text as inspired and authoritative provide the framework and justification for such a class, however implicit.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Rigorous engagement with the biblical text for the purpose of learning, spiritual growth and maturity is encouraged.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Minimal	Understanding cross-linguistic and cross-cultural communication is crucial to understanding worldview.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	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	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Capacity to work with original languages greatly enhances a student's ability to interpret and preach from Scripture.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	The topic of worship is limited to its presence in the text of Daniel.
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Minimal	Again, knowledge of BA enhances knowledge of Scripture and ability to shepherd scripturally.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Only present in matters relating to cross-linguistic, cross-cultural interpretation and articulation of Scripture.