

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**BAR 630 Biblical Aramaic**

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Summer III, July 2009  
M-F 8:00-10:10 AM

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course covers the essentials of Biblical Aramaic, basically the same language that Jesus and his disciples spoke, by working through the translation of the Aramaic sections of the books of Ezra and Daniel, with some excellent tools, in a seminar format. The Aramaic section of Daniel is the very well-known chapters 2-7 which become much more colorful when read in the Aramaic. The study of Aramaic is a great way to strengthen the student's understanding of Biblical Hebrew because of the very close relationship between the two languages.

**OBJECTIVES**

Upon the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Explain the basic features of the Biblical Aramaic language.
2. Translate any passage of Biblical Aramaic using a lexicon.

**TEXTBOOKS**

Goldingay, John E. Daniel. WBC. Vol. 30. Dallas: Word Books, 1989.

Greenspahn, Frederick E. An Introduction to Aramaic. 2d ed. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 2003.

Jerusalmi, Isaac. The Aramaic Sections of Ezra and Daniel: A Philological Commentary. 2d rev. ed. Cincinnati, OH: Hebrew Union College--Jewish Institute of Religion, 1970.

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

Also: a Hebrew Bible is recommended—the student needs to have the Aramaic texts of Ezra and Daniel in class.

**BASIC OUTLINE**

Class

Lessons in Greenspahn

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1. Mon	July 6	Introduction and Chaps 1-3
2. Tues	" 7	Chaps 4-5
3. Wed	" 8	" 6-8
4. Thurs	" 9	" 9-14 (give out take home Mid-term exam)
5. Fri	" 10	" 15-18
6. Mon	" 13	" 19-22
7. Tues	" 14	" 23-26
8. Wed	" 15	Take-home midterm exam due.
9. Thurs	" 16	Begin daily translation assignments from Daniel.
13. Wed	" 22	Give out take-home final exam
20. Fri	" 31	Take-home final exam due

**METHODOLOGY**

Detailed, sequential coverage of the lessons in Greenspahn, supplemented by Jerusalmi, with daily translation assignments, culminating in a mid term take-home translation exam from Ezra. Then daily translation and discussion assignments working through the Daniel material in a seminar format, culminating with a take-home exam over the main distinctives of Aramaic applied to Daniel, and translation of some non canonical texts.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Class attendance is expected; maximum allowable absences is three (3) class periods. Please tell the professor before you are absent, if possible.

1. Be prepared each day to answer questions orally on the lessons including pronouncing the Aramaic.
2. Turn in each day's written assignment from the lessons in Greenspahn or Bible translation.
3. Turn in the exams on the scheduled dates.

**Late Work**

Late work may be penalized 1 point per day using a 12 point scale (12=A, 1=F).

**Grading Procedure**

Class participation and daily translation		34%
Exams	Midterm	30%
	Final	36%

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Barr, James. Comparative Philology and the Text of the Old Testament. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1968.

Bergstrasser, Gotthelf. Introduction to the Semitic Languages. Translated with notes, bibliography, and appendix by Peter T. Daniels. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1977.

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia. Edited by K. Elliger, and W. Rudolph. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelstiftung, 1977.

Bible Works. Hermeneutika. Big Fork, MT.

Bowman, Raymond A. "Arameans, Aramaic, and the Bible." Journal of Near Eastern Studies 7 (April 1948): 65-90.

Brown, Francis, S.R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs, eds. A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament by William Gesenius. Translated by Edward Robinson. Oxford: Clarendon, 1907.

Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon. On line at <http://call.cn.huc.edu>. Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College, accessed 3/6/07.

Fitzmyer, Joseph A. A Wandering Aramean: Collected Aramaic Essays. Missoula, MT: 1979.

Harris, R. Laird, Gleason L. Archer, Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke, eds. Theological Workbook of the Old Testament. 2 vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.

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Koehler, Ludwig, and Walter Baumgartner. The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament. (5 Vols). Revised by Walter Baumgartner and Johahn Jacob Stamm. Translated and ed. By M. E. J. Richardson. New York: E. J. Brill, 1994-00.

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Nida, Eugene A., and Charles R. Taber. The Theory and Practice of Translation. Leiden: E. S. Brill, 1974.

Owens, John Joseph. Analytical Key to the Old Testament. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1989-93.

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Rowley, H.H. The Aramaic of the Old Testament. London: Oxford University Press, 1929.

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Stevenson, William B. Grammar of Palestinian Jewish Aramaic. 2d ed. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1962.

Van Gemeren, Willem A., ed. New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.

Waltke, Bruce K., and M. O'Connor. An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

Williams, Ronald J. Hebrew Syntax: An Outline. 2d ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1976.

**Commentaries on Ezra and Daniel**

Archer, Gleason L., Jr. "Daniel." In The Expositors Bible Commentary, ed. Frank E. Gaebelin, 7: 3-157. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985.

Baldwin, J. G. Daniel. TOTC. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1978.

Blenkinsopp, J. Ezra-Nehemiah. OTL. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1988.

Breneman, Mervin. Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther. NAC. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1993.

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SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Roger D. Cotton, Th.D., March, 2009