

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

Roger D. Cotton

Summer I, 2003

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The essentials of Biblical Aramaic focusing on translation of the passages in the books of Ezra and Daniel.

**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. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1999.

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.

**BASIC OUTLINE**

<u>Class</u>		<u>Lessons in Greenspahn</u>
1. Mon	May 5	Introduction and Chaps 1-3
2. Tues	" 6	Chaps 4-5
3. Wed	" 7	" 6-8
4. Thurs	" 8	" 9-14 (give out take home Mid-term exam)
5. Fri	" 9	" 15-18
6. Mon	" 12	" 19-22

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7. Tues	" 13	" 23-26
8. Wed	" 14	Take-home midterm exam due. Begin translation of Daniel.
9. Thurs	May 15	Begin daily translation assignments from Daniel.
13. Wed	" 21	Give out take-home final exam
16. Mon	May 26	NO CLASS Memorial Day
20. Fri	May 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**

Daily homework from the book	16%
Class participation and daily translation of Daniel	21%
Exams	
Midterm	28%
Final	35%

**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 Windows. Silver Mountain Software, Cedar Hill, TX.

Bible Works. Hermeneutika. Big Fork, MT.

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

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

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

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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Kautzsch, E. and E. E. Cowley, eds. Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar. 2d ed. Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1910.

Kelley, Page H. Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.

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

Rosenthal, Franz. A Grammar of Biblical Aramaic. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1974.

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

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Silva, Moises. Biblical Words and Their Meaning: An Introduction to Lexical Semantics. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983.

Stefanovic, Zdravko. The Aramaic of Daniel in the Light of Old Aramaic. JSOTSuppl. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1992.

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.

Yates, Kyle M. The Essentials of Biblical Hebrew. Rev. ed. Edited by John Joseph Owens. New York: Harper & Row, 1954.

**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.

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Williamson, H. G. M. Ezra-Nehemiah. WBC. Dallas: Word, 1985.

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**SPECIFIC DATA**

Prepared by Roger D. Cotton, Th.D. April, 2003