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| <b>TITLE:</b>                         | <b>BS400 READING BIBLICAL ARAMAIC</b>  |         |
| <b>WORKLOAD:</b>                      | Duration:  | 4 Terms |
|                                       | Teaching (1 hr p.w.):  | 26 hrs  |
|                                       | Language exercises and set reading:  | 30 hrs  |
|                                       | Text preparation:  | 40 hrs  |
|                                       | Examination preparation and writing:   | 24 hrs  |
|                                       | Total commitment:  | 120 hrs |
| <b>STATUS:</b>                        | Elective   |         |
| <b>CO/PREREQUISITE(S):</b>            | At least 60% in BS300 Hebrew 3, or at least 70% in BS200 Hebrew 2 if Hebrew 3 is taken concurrently.   |         |
| <b>GENERAL AIM:</b>                   | <p>This unit aims to build on students' knowledge of Biblical Hebrew by imparting a working knowledge of biblical Aramaic, enabling them to read all the passages in the Old Testament where Aramaic is employed. The unit focuses on building a comprehensive vocabulary of biblical Aramaic, understanding its grammar and syntax, and applying this knowledge to the translation of the relevant texts in Daniel and Ezra.</p> <p>The purpose of this unit is not only to enable students to work from the original language in all parts of the Old Testament, but also to lay a linguistic foundation for any subsequent study involving Aramaic texts.</p> |         |
| <b>LEARNING OUTCOMES:</b>             | <p>At the end of this course students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognise and distinguish biblical Aramaic from biblical Hebrew;</li> <li>• Translate all biblical Aramaic texts into good, accurate English;</li> <li>• Parse and reproduce regular forms of the biblical Aramaic verbal system;</li> <li>• Analyse and explain most grammatical and phrase-level syntactical constructions.</li> </ul>   |         |
| <b>CONTENT:</b>                       | <p><b>Part 1: Biblical Aramaic Grammar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to biblical Aramaic: occurrences; name; relationship to Hebrew; vocalization and phonology</li> <li>• Aramaic Nouns, pronouns, and adjectives</li> <li>• Prepositions and conjunctions</li> <li>• The Aramaic verbal system &amp; conjugations</li> <li>• Strong verbs</li> <li>• Weak verbs</li> <li>• Syntax</li> <li>• Numerals</li> </ul> <p><b>Part 2: Reading of set texts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading of Daniel 2 – 7</li> <li>• Reading of Ezra 4 – 7</li> </ul>   |         |
| <b>TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS:</b> | <p>Classroom teaching and tutorials;<br/> Private preparation of homework assignments, reviewed in class;<br/> Class tests and oral participation;<br/> Strong emphasis on peer learning and collaborative group work.</p>   |         |
| <b>QUALIFICATIONS TO TEACH:</b>       | <p>A first degree in theology with honours, or equivalent (including Hebrew to level III and Aramaic)</p>  |         |
| <b>ASSESSMENT METHODS:</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One 1-hour Aramaic grammar examination (35%)</li> <li>• One 2-hour reading and comprehension examination (65%)</li> </ul>   |         |

**SET READING:**

(that required in order to achieve unit learning outcomes.)

Greenspahn, Frederick E.

Williamson, H. G. M.

Goldingay, John E.

The set reading is available from Myrrh by clicking on 'Set Readings' and following the links.

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

*Ezra, Nehemiah*. WBC, 16. Waco, Tx: Word Books, 1985 (relevant sections).

*Daniel*. WBC, 30. Waco, Tx: Word Books, 1989 (relevant sections).

**REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY**

(Describes the scope of the unit: not required reading.)

Arnold, B.T.

'The Use of Aramaic in the Hebrew Bible: Another Look at Bilingualism in Ezra and Daniel'. *Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages* 22/2 (1996): 1-16.

Emerton, J.

'New Evidence for the Use of *Waw* Consecutive in Aramaic'. *Vetus Testamentum* 44 (1997): 255-58.

Johns, Alger F.

*A Short Grammar of Biblical Aramaic*. Rev. edn. Berrien Springs: Andrews University Press, 1972.

Muraoka, T., and M. Rogland,

'The *Waw* Consecutive in Old Aramaic? A Rejoinder to Victor Sasson'. *Vetus Testamentum* 48 (1998): 99-104.

Rosén, H.B.

'On the Uses of the Tenses in the Aramaic of Daniel', *Journal of Semitic Studies* 6 (1961): 183-203.

Rosenthal, F.

*A Grammar of Biblical Aramaic*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1961.

Sasson, V.

'Some Observations on the Use and Original Purpose of the *Waw* Consecutive in Old Aramaic and Biblical Hebrew'. *Vetus Testamentum* 47 (1997): 111-27.

Shepherd, M. B.

*The Verbal System of Biblical Aramaic: A Distributional Approach*. SBL, 116. New York: Peter Lang, 2008.

Stefanovic, Z.

*The Aramaic of Daniel in the Light of Old Aramaic*. JSOTS, 129. Sheffield: JSOT, 1992.

Steinmann, A.

*Fundamental Biblical Aramaic*. St. Louis, MO: Concordia, 2004.

Wesselius, J.W.

'Language and Style in Biblical Aramaic: Observations on the Unity of Daniel 2-7'. *Vetus Testamentum* 38 (1988): 194-209.

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'The Literary Nature of the Book of Daniel and the Linguistic Character of Its Aramaic'. *Aramaic Studies* 3 (2005): 241-83.