



On-Campus Course Syllabus

HEB640

Biblical Aramaic

Fall 2019

Class Information

Day and Time: Monday 1:30-4:00 pm

Room Number: E209

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Kevin R. Warstler, Ph.D.

Instructor Email: kwarstler@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 214-818-1331

Instructor Office Hours: Monday 4-5:30 pm; Tuesday 2-4; Thursday 10:30-11 am, 2-4 pm

Course Description and Prerequisites

An introduction to the Aramaic language through the study of vocabulary, grammar, and analysis of the biblical Aramaic texts of Ezra and Daniel and an analysis of selected portions of a Targum. (Course may substitute for HEB610; Prerequisite: HEB502 or equivalent)

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course you should be able to:

1. Articulate the general historical development of the Aramaic language in its various dialects;
2. Describe the significance of the Aramaic language for biblical studies;
3. Identify the meaning of Aramaic vocabulary consisting of all words occurring more than once in the Hebrew Bible;
4. Translate with a reasonable degree of confidence the Aramaic portions of the Old Testament as well as some extra-biblical Aramaic texts;
5. Explain the grammatical and syntactical relationships between words in Aramaic texts and describe the significance of these relationships for the interpretation of those texts;
6. Know where to locate help with problems that surface in the study of biblical Aramaic; and
7. Examine an Aramaic Targum on a biblical text in order to compare it with its Hebrew text equivalent and to explain the interpretation of the Hebrew text that is reflected in the Targum.

Required Textbooks

Van Pelt, Miles V. *Basics of Biblical Aramaic: Complete Grammar, Lexicon, and Annotated Text*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011. (978-0310493914)

Course Requirements and Assignments

A. Homework

Homework is assigned for each week according to the class schedule. The assignments in Van Pelt will not be turned in and there will not be a homework grade since it is expected that the completion of the homework will be reflected in the class participation grade.

B. Class Participation (20%)

Students will regularly be called upon in class to answer specific questions regarding the assignments and/or to read their translations of assigned texts. You may use *your own* written translation of the text but you may not use other helps for the translation in class. Your grade will be based on your preparedness and ability to translate texts and answer questions each class period. Lack of preparation or an inability to participate will result in a grade reduction.

C. Quizzes (30%)

There will be 6 quizzes over the course of the semester (approximately one every two weeks). The content of the quizzes will be specifically identified on a study guide that will be distributed the week before each quiz. Quizzes may include vocabulary, morphological and grammatical issues, and translation of texts. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

D. Exams (30%)

There will be two exams in the course: a mid-term and a final. The content of the exams will include combinations of vocabulary, morphological and grammatical issues, translation, parsing of verbs, identification and explanation of specific Aramaic forms, and brief discussions or descriptions of the history and significance of the Aramaic language.

E. Targum Project (20%)

You will select a biblical passage from an Aramaic Targum and write a paper on it. The passage must be approved by the professor prior to the research and writing. For most texts, it is best to stay within the range of 15-20 verses; however, some adjustments can be made depending on the logical division of the text. The paper should include: 1) a translation of the Aramaic that will be done with the assistance of Jastrow's dictionary, 2) a comparison with the Hebrew (MT) text on the same passage, and 3) a brief discussion on the interpretation of the biblical passage that is reflected in the Targum and its significance for the study of that text. The paper should be at least ten double-spaced pages with a cover sheet. Our final day of class in the semester will be devoted to presenting the results of the project to the class.

Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-59	0.0 grade points per semester hour

Incomplete Grades

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An "I" may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their professors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar's Office. The "I" must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the grade was assigned, or the "I" will become an "F."

Academic Honesty

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

Institutional Email Policy

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students' institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to

respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

Disabilities

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the professor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

Resources and Support

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS for student data.

Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number, twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at studenttechsupport@criswell.edu.

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or studentservices@criswell.edu. Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students, at deanofstudents@criswell.edu.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, go to the library website, or email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu.

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to consult with writing tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence by practicing techniques of clear and effective writing. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Writing Center located on the first floor near the Computer Lab, or they can schedule an appointment by emailing writingcenter@criswell.edu or calling 214.818.1373.

Course Outline/Calendar

Class	Date	In-Class Topic	Van Pelt Reading and Homework	Assignment Due
1	August 19	Introduction to Course, Syllabus		
2	August 26	Aramaic Language, Pronunciation, Nouns	1–6	Gen 31:47; Jer 10:11
	September 2	LABOR DAY – NO CLASS		
3	September 9	Conjunctions, Prepositions, Pronouns, Suffixes	7–9	Quiz 1 Ezra 4:8-16
4	September 16	Adjectives, Numbers, Adverbs, Particles	10–11	Ezra 4:17-24
5	September 23	Aramaic Verbs, Peal Perfect and Imperfect	12–14	Quiz 2 Ezra 5:1-17
6	September 30	Peal Imperative, Infinitive, Participle	15–17	Ezra 6:1-18
7	October 7	Peil, Hithpeel, Ithpeel, Pael, Hithpaal, Ithpaal Stems; Daniel 2, Part 1	18–20	Quiz 3 Ezra 7:12-26; Daniel 2:4b-13
8	October 14	Haphel, Aphel, Shaphel, Hophal Stems; Daniel 2, Part 2	21–22	Daniel 2:14-25; Mid-Term Exam
9	October 21	Daniel 2, Part 3		Daniel 2:26-49; Quiz 4
10	October 28	Daniel 3		Daniel 3:1-30
11	November 4	Daniel 4		Daniel 4:1-37; Quiz 5
12	November 11	Introduction to Targums; Daniel 5		Daniel 5:1-30
13	November 18	Daniel 6		Daniel 6:1-28; Quiz 6
	November 25-29	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS		
14	December 2	Targum Presentations		Targum Papers
	December 9-13	NO CLASS – Final Exam Due Friday, December 13		Final Exam

Selected Bibliography

- Bartelt, Andrew H., and Andrew E. Steinmann. *Fundamental Biblical Hebrew/Fundamental Biblical Aramaic*. St. Louis, MO: Concordia, 2004.
- Beyer, Klaus. *The Aramaic Language: Its Distribution and Subdivisions*. Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 1986.
- Dotan, Aron, ed. *Biblical Aramaic: A Reader and Handbook*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2016.
- Fitzmyer, Joseph A., and Stephen A. Kaufman. *An Aramaic Bibliography*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University, 1992.
- Greenspahn, Frederick E. *An Introduction to Aramaic*. Corrected Second ed. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003.
- Holladay, William L. ed. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972.
- Jastrow, Marcus. *Dictionary of the Targumim, the Talmud Babli and Yerushalmi, and the Midrashic Literature*. New York: Title Publishing, 1943. Reprint, New York: Judaica Press, 2004.
- Johns, Alger F. *A Short Grammar of Biblical Aramaic*. Andrews University Monographs, no. 1. Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 1963, 1966, 1972.

Jumper, James N. *An Annotated Answer Key to Alger John's A Short Grammar of Biblical Aramaic*. Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2003. (To be used in conjunction with Alger John's grammar)

Koehler, Ludwig, and Walter Baumgartner. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament, Study Edition*. 2 vols. Translated by M. E. J. Richardson. Leiden: Brill, 2001.

Marcus, David. *A Manual of Babylonian Jewish Aramaic*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1981.

Margolis, Max. *A Manual of the Aramaic Language of the Babylonian Talmud*. C. H. Bech'sche, 1910. Reprint, Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2007.

Mitchel, Larry A. *A Student's Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic*. Grand Rapids: Academie Books, 1984.

Morgenstern, Matthew. *Studies in Jewish Babylonian Aramaic Based upon Early Eastern Manuscripts*. Harvard Semitic Studies, 62. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2011.

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

Schuele, Andreas. *An Introduction to Biblical Aramaic*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2012.

Stevenson, William B. *Grammar of Palestinian Jewish Aramaic*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1924. Reprint, Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 1999.