

ARAMAIC

COURSE NUMBER: AR501 (1 hr. credit)

COURSE NAME: Introduction to Biblical Aramaic

Tuesdays 5:00-5:50 PM, Room B211

TERM AND DATES: Spring Semester, 2012

INSTRUCTOR: Lee Roy Martin, Phone 478-1131 (www.leeroymartin.com)
E-Mail Address: lmartin@ptseminary.edu

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Greenspahn, Frederick E., *An Introduction to Aramaic* (Resources for Biblical Study; Atlanta, GA: Society of Biblical Literature, 2nd edn, 2003). ISBN 1589830598

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to biblical Aramaic. The grammar of biblical Aramaic will be taught in comparison to the grammar of biblical Hebrew. Readings from the Old Testament will comprise a portion of the course. Hebrew I is a prerequisite.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES:

This course will help to prepare the student for Christian ministry by enabling him/her to study the Old Testament in one its original languages. Since the Seminary is committed to the authority of Scripture, it is vital that the student be able to exegete the text of Scripture. Exegetical skill is a part of the professional competency needed to carry out the mission of the Church in the world (cf. the statement of mission in the Seminary Catalog). The ability to read Aramaic is a helpful part of skilled Old Testament exegesis. This class will affirm the objectives of the Seminary in the area of Biblical Studies (see the Seminary Catalog).

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. demonstrate a basic knowledge of Aramaic grammar.
2. translate simple portions of the biblical Aramaic text.
3. appreciate the value the Aramaic language for understanding the Old Testament.
4. demonstrate a knowledge of the place and use of Aramaic within Jewish history.
5. appropriate the place and use of Aramaic within biblical studies.
6. compare Aramaic grammar to Hebrew grammar.
7. include Aramaic in his/her study of the Old Testament.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Read the textbook
- B. Complete the assigned exercises from the textbook
- C. Attend class.
- D. Complete a mid-term examination and a final examination

Late work will be penalized unless it is caused by an emergency. Any late work, quizzes, or exams must be finished within two weeks or they will receive a grade of F. A student who fails to hand in all assignments will receive a grade of F for the course.

EVALUATION/GRADING

A. The various course assignments will count in the following manner toward the final course grade:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Homework/class participation Avg. | 1/3 of final grade |
| 2. Mid-term exam | 1/3 of final grade |
| 3. Final Exam | 1/3 of final grade |

B. The following grade scale will be used:

4.0 A	95-100	2.3 C+	77-79
3.7 A-	90-94	2.0 C	74-76
3.3 B+	87-89	1.7 C-	70-73
3.0 B	84-86	1.3 D+	67-69
2.7 B-	80-83	1.0 D	60-66

C. Each student has the responsibility to attend class regularly and punctually. Although it may be necessary to be absent from class sometimes, the student should make every effort to attend the class when it meets. Any student who misses more than six hours of class, *whether excused or unexcused*, will be penalized on the course grade. If you are absent from class because you are not prepared, your classwork grade will be reduced.

Please take note of the following policy concerning incompletes:

An Incomplete is not lightly given. It is designed for the rare occasion when the student has been seriously ill or suffered some other hardship beyond one's control (procrastination is not an acceptable reason). Permission to receive an "I" must be requested on forms which are available in the Academic Dean's office and must be approved by the respective teacher and the Academic Dean, ***not later than the last regularly scheduled day of class.*** Under extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control, the student may apply to the Academic Dean and the instructor and with their approval register for an incomplete and pay the appropriate fee. **Application must be made within one month from the end of the course.**

If the "I" is not removed by one year from the date of enrollment in the course, it becomes an "F". **The student will then need to repeat the course.** No "F" resulting from an "I" may be changed to a passing grade. In such cases the course must be repeated to attain a passing grade and/or academic credit for the course. No "F" resulting from the failure to file for an incomplete may be changed to a passing grade.

In order for this instructor to give permission for taking an Incomplete, the following terms must be met:

1. The request must be based on an emergency which developed at a time and for a length of time that it interrupted work already in progress.
2. The student must describe the nature of the emergency. Matters of a private nature will be received as confidential material.
3. The student must present to the instructor the work that has already been completed. The instructor will evaluate the work in relation to the request.
4. The student must propose a completion date.
5. If the student does not submit the required work on the agreed upon date of completion, a grade of zero for that assignment will be entered on the student's record.

Grading System (excerpted from the Seminary Catalog)

Factors considered in assessing work and assigning grades:

1. Information Gained - demonstration of useable knowledge of pertinent data, accurately assembled and organized (to include: terms, ideas, theories, dates, names, events, people, places, institutions, processes, documents, etc.).
2. Ability to use Methodology - demonstration of ability to use advantageously the tools and resources of that particular discipline in a way that is fruitful for that course.
3. Ability to Communicate - demonstration of ability to organize and communicate material pertinent to that subject area, including written and, where applicable. verbal skills.
4. Evidence of Originality - demonstration of fresh and new insights into the subject matter and/or its methodology and application.

Details of Grading System:

The Church of God Theological Seminary uses letter grades. They are to be interpreted by the following guidelines:

A = EXCELLENT - represents a high level of information gained. ability to use methodology, ability to communicate and evidence of originality.

B = ABOVE AVERAGE - represents an above-average grasp of the information and methodology, a commensurate ability to communicate, an industrious attitude and thoroughness.

C = AVERAGE - represents acceptable work, but tends to be mechanical and lacking in originality and depth. It may reflect a lack of concern to excel or ability to demonstrate insight into material studied.

D = BELOW AVERAGE - represents unsatisfactory achievement in all areas! but is passing.

F = UNACCEPTABLE - represents work that fails to meet the requirements for a seminary course or failure of the student to file for an incomplete. If the course is repeated and successfully passed the new grade, rather than the "F", will be used in calculating the student's G.P.A. and the first course will be expunged from the transcript. **The course must be repeated if it is over a year old and the grade received was an "F".**

Absence Policy

Please observe the following statement from the Seminary catalog:

Regular attendance of all classes is required. Absences in excess of one for each hour of credit must be specifically excused by the professor. Unexcused absences in excess of two for each hour of credit will normally require that the student be dropped from the class or have his/her grade reduced for the course. In the case of those receiving VA benefits, the Veterans Administration will be promptly notified of any change in status.

Absences are excused for such things as personal illness, severe illness in the family, death in the family, and other such crises. These are not the only reasons for granting an excused absence but they are illustrative.

Excused absences permit a student to make up tests that have been missed as a result of the absence. Tests taken promptly after the absence will be given full value of the grade received. The student is responsible to contact the teacher and arrange for a test date. If an unexcused absence is taken on an announced test day, a make up test can be taken only on the recommendation of the Dean of the Seminary. Three tardies equal one unexcused absence.

Policy on Incompletes

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In order for this instructor to give permission for taking an Incomplete, the following terms must be met:

6. The request must be based on an emergency which developed at a time and for a length of time that it interrupted work already in progress.
7. The student must describe the nature of the emergency. Matters of a private nature will be received as confidential material.
8. The student must present to the instructor the work that has already been completed. The instructor will evaluate the work in relation to the request.
9. The student must propose a completion date.
10. If the student does not submit the required work on the agreed upon date of completion, a grade of zero for that assignment will be entered on the student’s record.

Grading System (excerpted from the Seminary Catalog)

Factors considered in assessing work and assigning grades:

4. Information Gained - demonstration of useable knowledge of pertinent data, accurately assembled and organized (to include: terms, ideas, theories, dates, names, events, people, places, institutions, processes, documents, etc.).
5. Ability to use Methodology - demonstration of ability to use advantageously the tools and resources of that particular discipline in a way that is fruitful for that course.
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