

Florida International University
Biblical Aramaic
REL 4937

Professor Erik Larson
DM 303
Office Hours: TR 9:30-10:45 and by appointment
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Spring 2015
TR 11:00-12:15
(305) 348-3518

Course Description: Aramaic was one of the most widely spoken languages in antiquity. Pagans, Buddhists, Zoroastrians, Jews, and Christians all used the language in one form or another. Royal decrees, literature, business contracts, private letters, and marriage and divorce documents have all been preserved through the centuries and are available to us. We will look at the phonology, morphology and syntax of the Aramaic language. We will study these features as the parallel or modify the similar features found in Biblical Hebrew. Thus, this course builds upon the student's previous study of Hebrew.

At the end of the course, students will have acquired a good knowledge of Aramaic vocabulary and have developed the ability to translate passages from the Aramaic sections of the Bible. If time permits, we will also try our hand at reading some passages from Qumran Aramaic as well as the Targumic translations of the Bible.

Syllabus

Week 1 [January 13, 15] Lessons 1-2.

Week 2 [January 20, 22] Lessons 3-4.

Week 3 [January 27, 29] Lessons 5-6.

Week 4 [February 3, 5] Lessons 7-8.

Week 5 [February 10, 12] Lessons 9-10.

Week 6 [February 17, 19] Lessonss 11-12.

Week 7 [February 24, 26] Lessons 13-14.

Midterm Examination handed out on Thursday.

Week 8 [March 3, 5] Lessons 15-16.

Midterm examination due at beginning of Tuesday class.

Week 9 [March 17, 19] Lessons 17-18.

Week 10 [March 24, 26] Lessons 19-20.

Week 11 [March 31, April 2] Lessons 21-22.

Week 12 [April 7, 9] Reading Biblical Aramaic.

Week 13 [April 14, 16] Reading Qumran Aramaic.

Week 14 [April 21, 23] Reading Targumic Aramaic.

Final examination handed out Thursday.

April 30

Final Examination due.

Textbook

Miles Van Pelt, Basics of Biblical Aramaic (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011)
ISBN: 978-0-310-49391-4.

Grading. The grading for this course will be as follows:

Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Vocabulary Quizzes	20%
Attendance and Participation	40%

Midterm and Final Examinations: The midterm and final exams will be take home examinations consisting of sentences in Greek that are to be translated into English. They are **not** open book examinations, though I will allow you to use a dictionary for vocabulary. If you don't have separate dictionary you can use the section at the back of your book, but you cannot look at the lessons in the book.

Quizzes: The first class each week will begin with a vocabulary exam with 10 words being chosen from the vocabulary lists in the lessons being studied that particular week. Your two lowest scores from the semester will be dropped. At the end of the semester, the scores from the 12 best tests will be added and the grading scale will be as follows:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	below 60

Attendance and Participation: Attendance and participation is very important in this class and the grade is weighted accordingly. You must come to class and come prepared. In each session we will have some time for discussion, but a large part of our time will be devoted to translating the sentences from each lesson. This we will do by each student

taking a turn. No one will be perfect in being able to translate every sentence, but you must try.

Academic Conduct: Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.