



NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

OTBA6350 BIBLICAL ARAMAIC FALL 2020

Dr. R. Dennis Cole
Sem. Ext. 3248

2 Sem Hours
Tues 6:00-8:50p

Seminary Mission Statement:

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for the 2020-21 academic year is Mission Focus. We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.

Our confessional commitments are outlined in the Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith & Message 2000.

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership.

The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Servant Leadership, and Spiritual and Character Formation

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce the student to the essential elements of Biblical Aramaic. Grammar and syntax are studied and then illustrated through translation and exegesis of the Aramaic portions of Daniel and Ezra. The course also includes a brief introduction to the Syriac dialect developments based upon Aramaic grammar.

Prerequisite: OTHB5300 Introductory Hebrew Grammar

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will supplement and enhance their knowledge of Hebrew grammar and syntax through an introduction to the grammar and syntax of the Aramaic language of the Old Testament (Imperial Aramaic).
2. Students will read selected portions of the Aramaic sections of Daniel and Ezra in **BHS** to facilitate their understanding of the grammar and syntax of Biblical Aramaic.
3. Students will study the early Syriac dialect of the Aramaic language so as to utilize the Targumic literature and Syriac inscription materials.
4. Students will gain a knowledge of the Aramaean people as an introduction to the historical setting and development of Aramaic as the lingua franca of the Ancient Near East.

NOBTS Core Values Addressed in This Course:

1. Doctrinal Integrity: Knowledge and Practice of the Word of God
2. Characteristic Excellence: Pursuit of God's Revelation with Diligence
3. Spiritual Vitality: Transforming Power of God's Word

Course Textbooks:

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia. Stuttgart: Warttembergische Bibelanstalt. (**BHS**).

Alger F. Johns. ***A Short Grammar of Biblical Aramaic.*** Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 1972. **AJ**

Benjamin J. Noonan, ***Advances in the Study of Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic: New Insights for Reading the Old Testament***, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020

Course Evaluation:

MID-TERM EXAM	30%
TERM PAPER	40%
CLASS PARTICIPATION	30%

RESEARCH PAPER

Choice of Two: Exegetical Paper or Topical Research Paper

Suggested Research Paper Topics (if chosen option)

1. Imperial Aramaic and the Dating of the Book of Daniel
2. Aramaic Diplomatic Correspondence in the Persian Empire and Its Relationship to Ezra 4 - 7
3. Musical Instruments in the Book of Daniel: A Study of Early Greek Influence in the Ancient Near East
4. Daniel Among the Dreamers: Dream Patterns in the 1st Millennium B.C. Ancient Near East
5. Daniel Among the Wisemen: Wisemen, Enchanters, Magicians and Soothsayers in the Neo-Babylonian Empire
6. The Political Structure of the Neo-Babylonian Empire (and/or Persian Empire)
7. Exegetical Papers in Daniel, Ezra or Aramaic portions of other OT books

(Other topics may be selected in consultation with the professor.)

Exegetical Research Paper (if chosen option)

The student may choose to write an exegetical research paper (18-20 pages) on a section of Daniel or Ezra (approx. 10-20 verses) which will include the following elements:

Introduction. To the passage (not the entire biblical book) including the historical and cultural setting, important biblical background material, etc.

Translation. Your own translation, having the following quality goal: the precision of the *NASB* or the *NKJV*, with the readability of the *NIV* or *NLV*.

Textual Footnotes. Address the issues in important text critical notes, as well as any key words which you have translated in a nuanced manner.

Exegetical Outline. Provide an exegetical outline of the chosen passage, with at least one but no more than two sub-levels. Option: Structural Analysis Outline.

Exegetical Notes and Discussion Explicate the meaning of the text, highlighting words studies, structural elements, pertinent background material.

Homiletical Outline Assuming you will be teaching or preaching from this material, provide an outline of your presentation, including Title, Theme or Key Point, Outline with one sub-level, Conclusion.

Course Schedule:

- Week 1
8/25 Course Introduction: Aramaic in the Semitic World: History and Developments
AJ preface-p. 4
I. Phonology *AJ*: 5-8 Read the following articles in the *Anchor Bible Dictionary*: “Aramaean” “Aramaic Script” “Aram (Place)” (p. 338-351)
- Week 2
9/1 II/VII. Nouns and Adjectives *AJ*: 9-11, 28-31 Exercises
Translate Daniel 2:1-4
III. Independent Personal Pronouns and Suffixes on Nouns
AJ: 12-15 Exercises
IV. Other Pronouns *AJ*: 16-18 Exercises
- Week 3
9/8 V. The Verbal System: The Perfect *AJ*: 19-22 Exercises
Translate Daniel 2:5-19
VI. The Verbal System: Imperfect, etc. *AJ*: 23-27 Exercises
- Week 4
9/15 VIII. Derived Active Conjugations *AJ*: 32-36 Exercises
Translate Daniel 2:20-35
IX. Passive and Reflexive Conjugations *AJ*: 37-40 Exercises
- Week 5
9/22 X. Laryngeal Verbs *AJ*: 41-46 Exercises
Translate Daniel 2:36-49
XI. Pe Nun, Pe Yodh, Pe Aleph Verbs *AJ*: 47-53 Exercises
Translate Ezra 4:1-13
- Week 6
9/29 XII. Hollow Verbs ('Ayin Waw/Yodh) *AJ*: 54-58 Exercises
Translate Ezra 4:14-24
XIII. Geminate ('Ayin-'Ayin) Verbs *AJ*: 59-62 Exercises
Translate Ezra 6:8-18
- Week 7
10/6 XIV. Lamedh He Verbs *AJ*: 63-68 Exercises
XV. Other Doubly Weak and Irregular Verbs *AJ*: 69-73 Exercises
Translate Daniel 3:1-33
- Week 8
10/13 XVI-XVII. Verbal Suffixes *AJ*: 74-79
Translate Daniel 4:1-18
- Week 9
10/27 XVIII-XIX. Noun Types and Classes *AJ*: 80-86
Translate Daniel 4:19-37
- Week 10
11/3 XX. Numerals *AJ*: 87-89 Translate Ezra 6:1-22
- Week 11
11/10 Translate Daniel 5:1-30

Week 11/17	12	Translate Daniel 6:1-29
Week 12/1	13	Translate Daniel 7:1-28 Online
Week 12/8	14	Research Paper Presentations Online Presentations

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bauer, Hans and Pontus Leander. *Grammatik des Biblisch-Aramaischen*. Hildesheim: Georg Olms, 1962.
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