

Syllabus for
GBIB 764—Biblical Aramaic
3 Credit Hours
Spring 2017

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An inductive and deductive study of the Aramaic portions of the Old Testament, with emphasis on grammar and translation.

Prerequisite: GBIB 511 or 561; Proficiency in Hebrew PRF 052.

Students interested in this course have no doubt already recognized the immense benefits to be gained from studying the Old Testament in Hebrew, the language of its original composition. There are a few passages, however, which were written not in Hebrew but in Aramaic, a language bearing many similarities with Hebrew. Hence, a study of Aramaic provides the reader with the same advantages with regard to these passages as Hebrew does with the rest of the Old Testament.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Study the fundamentals of biblical Aramaic.
- B. Study Aramaic grammar and the translation of all occurrences of Aramaic in the Old Testament.
- C. Learn to develop reading skills and to identify grammatical forms.
- D. Learn to build a vocabulary.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the grammar of the Aramaic language on examinations and in recitation in class.
- B. Do simple exegesis, either by class recitation or examination.
- C. Translate any portion of the text in the Aramaic, identifying and parsing all grammatical elements.
- D. Identify and discuss basic grammatical forms and constructions.
- E. Successfully complete a final examination over the texts translated in the course.
- F. Demonstrate proficiency by the accuracy of translation, identification of forms, and clarity of understanding of the meaning of these forms.
- G. Demonstrate proficiency in translation of sources in additional language of the biblical era.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart, Germany: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2001. ISBN 3438052229

Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972. ISBN 9780802834133

Rosenthal, Franz. *A Grammar of Biblical Aramaic, Volume V Neue Serie*. 7th expanded edition. Porta Linguarum Orientalium. Wiesbaden, Germany: Otto Harrassowitz, 2006. ISBN 3447052511

Van Pelt, Miles V. *Basics of Biblical Aramaic: Complete Grammar, Lexicon, and Annotated Text*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011. ISBN: 9780310493914

B. Optional Materials

Wonneberger, Reinhard. *Understanding BHS: A Manual for Users of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Rome: Biblical Institute Press, 1984.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:

- a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
- b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
- c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
- d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
- e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.

By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.

4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
 5. Students are to be in compliance with university, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.
- B. School of Theology Policies and Procedures
1. **Completion of assignments**
 Assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date are penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline is received but is granted a grade of zero for that assignment. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.
 2. **Incompletes**
 On rare occasions, the grade of “I” may be given for work that is incomplete at the end of the course semester due to a catastrophic event.
 - a. The student must establish with the instructor and the academic dean that work is incomplete for good cause and submit a Petition for Incomplete Grade, with documentation.
 - b. **The Petition must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the end of the semester or summer course session, not exam week.**
 - c. **The submission of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an Incomplete.**
 - d. The petition must be approved by the academic committee of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry.
 - e. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate the petition, make up any incomplete work, and submit a completed Request for Grade Change form (which has been signed by the course professor) to the academic office.
 - f. If the work is not completed by the end of the subsequent semester, the incomplete will automatically convert to an “F,” unless an extension is formally granted.
 3. **Examinations**
 - a. Early examinations **are not** allowed. Late examinations without grade penalty are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams or a sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician).
 - b. A Petition for Late Examination must be submitted to the academic dean’s office. A **\$15 fee**, plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition. The academic committee reviews each petition and grade penalties are assessed. (Late exam fee is not a grade penalty.)
 - c. Students taking late exams should expect alternate versions of the original exams.

- d. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**

4. **Attendance**

The administration and faculty of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry believe that class attendance is crucial in order for students to receive impartation, spiritual formation, and a community experience. Therefore, the Official Attendance Policy for the GSTM is as follows:

- a. Students will receive one letter grade reduction after missing more than two weeks of classes.
- b. Students who miss more than one month of classes will fail the course.
- c. **The absences allowed prior to a grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses and are not designed for indiscriminate use.**
- d. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official university business and has received approval in advance from the university administration.
- e. Students are expected to be prompt for classes.
- f. Students are expected to remain for the entire class session.
- g. Leaving early without permission constitutes an absence.

5. The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual's needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to www.studentresources.oru.edu.

C. **Course Policies and Procedures**

1. **Evaluation Procedures**

- a. **Grading:**

Quizzes (vocabulary and oral)	25%
Translation exercises	25%
Midterm examination	25%
Final examination	25%

- c. **Grading scale:**

A=90-100%
B=80-89%
C=70-79%
D=60-69%
F=59% and below

2. **ePortfolio Requirements**

- a. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRF 059 ePortfolio—Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop skills needed to create an ePortfolio.
- b. ePortfolio requirements for this course:
 - (1) An example of the student translations must be uploaded to the student's ePortfolio.
 - (2) The student translations may be used as a required artifact for the M. A. Biblical Literature/Advanced Languages degree program.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

TBA in consultation with students.

Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes Graduate School of Theology and Ministry

Master of Arts Biblical Literature/Advanced Languages

GBIB 764 Biblical Aramaic

Dr. William L. Lyons, Instructor

Spring 2017

Degree Program Outcomes	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
Major Old Testament Themes				
Correlate the major Old Testament themes and formulate a coherent Old Testament theology.		X		
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Hebrew/Greek Languages				
Demonstrate proficiency in use of Hebrew and Greek for accurate translation of the Old Testament and New Testament.		X		
Additional Biblical Languages				
Demonstrate proficiency in translation of sources in additional language(s) of the biblical era.	X			
Thesis Research/Writing				
Write a thesis in the concentration of Advanced Languages utilizing knowledge of languages and critical exegetical methods.	X			

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the M. A. Biblical Literature/Advanced Languages degree as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.