Course Hours: TTh 1:40-3:00PM BE-221
Course Website:

Instructor: Charles Haberl
Office: Lucy Stone Hall, Room B-312
Office Hours: TTh 11:00AM-12:00M
Phone: (732) 445-8444
Email: haberl@rutgers.edu

Description:

01:013:145 / 01:563:145 "Introduction to Aramaic" aims to introduce students to the Aramaic language through Imperial Aramaic, which was one of the official languages of the Achaemenid Empire (550-330 BCE), and closely related dialects. The expansion of the Achaemenid Empire throughout the Middle East placed Aramaic into a privileged position as the *lingua franca* of the region, a position which it held for over a millennium, until the Islamic conquests of the region in the 7th century CE. Imperial Aramaic is the dialect in which the Aramaic (or "Chaldean") portions of the Bible were composed, and also the dialect from which all subsequently attested dialects of Aramaic developed, including those still spoken by certain small communities of Jews, Christians, and Muslims in the Middle East and in diaspora throughout the world.

Learning Goals:

Upon completion of "Introduction to Aramaic," students will be able to:

- demonstrate familiarity with the characters of the Aramaic alphabet and employ them in reading and writing;
- understand simple Aramaic texts that consist mainly of high frequency vocabulary, and more sophisticated literary prose with the aid of a dictionary; and
- write short, simple notes and messages in Aramaic.

Prerequisites:

None. Knowledge of another Semitic language (such as Biblical Aramaic, Arabic, and Hebrew) is helpful but not absolutely necessary.

Required Materials:

None. All course readings will be provided online.

Online Resources:

Masoretic Text of the Hebrew Bible	http://www.mechon-mamre.org/p/pt/pt0.htm
The Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon	http://cal.huc.edu/
ETANA	http://www.etana.org/
Digital Flash Cards	http://www.iflipr.com

Grading Policy:

Student progress toward fulfilling the course learning goals will be periodically assessed through regular exercises, four vocabulary quizzes, two grammar exams, and one final exam.

Online Exercises **20%**

Each lesson concludes with a set of twenty "grammar-translation" exercises suitable for online instruction, which cultivate reading and writing abilities in the target language by building vocabulary and drilling the grammatical rules introduced in the lesson. These twenty exercises will be submitted online for evaluation (satisfactory or unsatisfactory) and feedback. Each satisfactorily completed exercise contributes one point towards the final grade.

Vocabulary Quizzes **20%**

During the course of the semester, I will administer four unannounced online quizzes consisting of randomized and timed identifications to assess vocabulary acquisition. Once assigned, these quizzes must be initiated within a 24 hour period.

Quiz 1	Aramaic to English	(5%)
Quiz 2	English to Aramaic	(5%)
Quiz 3	Aramaic to English	(5%)
Quiz 4	English to Aramaic	(5%)

Grammar Exams **40%**

On fixed dates within the fourth and eighth weeks of the semester, I will administer short online exams to assess student acquisition of grammar. These exams must be completed within a 24 hour period.

Midterm 1	Week 4	(20%)
Midterm 2	Week 8	(20%)

Final Exam **20%**

The final exam will assess student reading proficiency in Aramaic through close readings of passages in Biblical Aramaic.

Final Exam	40%

Total **100%**

Final exam dates and times are assigned by the Registrar and must conform to the University schedule. They will be announced at http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/.

Participation Policy:

Students are expected to read all lessons and complete the accompanying exercises in a timely manner; if you are unable to complete your exercises on time for any reason, please use the University absence reporting website https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/ to indicate the date and

reason for your inability to participate. An email is automatically sent to me. As the course is accelerated, any absences will present a serious challenge to fulfillment of the learning goals.

Please note: Students who report their inability to take a scheduled exam date may reschedule for the following week. Students who miss a scheduled exam date without reporting their absence will not have the opportunity to make up the exam. Unannounced ("pop") quizzes are never eligible to be made up.

Academic Integrity:

Students taking "Introduction to Aramaic" abide by the Code of Student Conduct. I depart from the baseline assumption that you deserve my trust. Because knowledge of Aramaic is relatively uncommon, I have not taken any special precautions to ensure your identity beyond the immediate requirement to login to the course website with your unique RU NetID. Under the circumstances, questions may naturally arise as to what constitutes a breach of academic integrity within an online course and what does not.

I do **not** consider the use of paper or digital references in completing quizzes and tests to be a breach of academic integrity. I have designed all assigned tests and quizzes to be completed with the help of the full set of resources available to any translator working within Aramaic (grammars, dictionaries, online search tools, etc.).

I **do** consider the use of *human* resources to complete quizzes and tests to be a serious breach of academic integrity. This includes copying someone else's answers (even though quiz and test questions are randomly drawn from a pool of such questions each time you take the quiz or test) and especially soliciting someone else's aid to complete the test or quiz by assuming your ID online.

I will note any evidence of a breach of academic integrity and record it for potential disciplinary action, which may include a failing grade in this course and possibly even suspension or expulsion from the university.

Disabilities Policy:

The University disability policies and procedures are available at http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/. Students with disabilities who require accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html

Lesson Plan

All lessons are available online at the course website and can be consulted in any order and at any time as a reference. The set of exercises accompanying each exercise will be unlocked during the week in which the associated lesson has been introduced and be available for completion for a limited period, ending on the dates on which they are assigned as "homework."

Tuesday, 01/17: Introduction; Aramaic within Semitic
Homework: Read "Preliminary Matters"

Thursday, 01/19: Preliminary Matters; the Sounds of Aramaic
The Aramaic Script
Homework: Read "Lesson One"

Tuesday, 01/24: Nouns: the Definite Article, Gender, and Simple Sentences
Verbs: Simple Perfect
Prepositions
Homework: Read "Lesson Two"; Prepare **Exercise 1.**

Thursday, 01/26 Verbs: The Perfect (cont.)
Verbs: The Direct Object
Homework: Read "Lesson Three"; Prepare **Exercise 2**.

Tuesday, 01/31: Pronominal Enclitics
Predication of Existence
Relative Clauses
Homework: Read "Lesson Four"; Prepare **Exercise 3**.

Thursday, 02/02: Noun-Noun Possession
Possessive Pronouns
The Pronouns *kol* and *ʾoḥŏrān*
Homework: Prepare **Exercise 4**. Prepare for Exam.

Tuesday, 02/07: First Grammar Exam
Homework: Read "Lesson Five"

Thursday, 02/09: Nouns: Plurals and Duals
Homework: Read "Lesson Six"; Prepare **Exercise 5**.

Tuesday, 02/14: ***No Class***

Thursday, 02/16: Independent Pronouns
Pronominal Copulas
Demonstrative Pronouns
Homework: Read "Lesson Seven"; Prepare **Exercise 6**.

Saturday, 02/18 &
Sunday, 02/19: **The Fourtieth Annual Meeting of the**
North American Conference on Afroasiatic Linguistics (NACAL 40)
Rutgers University Continuing Studies Conference Center
178 Ryders Lane
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Tuesday, 02/21: **International Mother Tongue Day**
Teleconference/Lecture Hall
Archibald S. Alexander Library
169 College Avenue
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901-1163

Thursday, 02/23: Inflection of ל״ה Verbs
Perfect of הוה
The Perfect with Object Suffixes
Homework: Read "Lesson Eight"; Prepare **Exercise 7**.

Tuesday, 02/28: Active Participles
Uses of the Participle
Homework: Read "Lesson Nine"; Prepare **Exercise 8**.

Thursday, 03/01: Adjectives
Pronominal Enclitics (cont.);
Plural Nouns with Possessive Suffixes;
The Verb יהב 'To Give'
Homework: Read "Lesson Ten"; Prepare **Exercise 9**.

Tuesday, 03/06: פ״י Verbs
Object Suffixes (cont.)
Constructs – Singular and Plural Nouns, Adjectives
Adverbs
Homework: Read "Lesson Eleven"; Prepare **Exercise 10**.

Thursday, 03/08: Perfect of Hollow Verbs
Perfect of Geminate Verbs
Perfect of ע״א Verbs
Homework: Prepare for Exam; Prepare **Exercise 11**.

Tuesday, 03/13: ***No Class***

Thursday, 03/15: ***No Class***

Tuesday, 03/20: Second Grammar Exam
Homework: Read "Lesson Twelve".

Thursday, 03/22: Participles (cont.)
ל״ה Verbs with Pronominal Objects
Irregular Verbs
Homework: Read "Lesson Thirteen"; Prepare **Exercise 12**.

Tuesday, 03/27: Numbers
The Infinitive
Homework: Read "Lesson Fourteen"; Prepare **Exercise 13**.

Thursday, 03/29: The Imperfect and Imperative
Homework: Read "Lesson Fifteen"; Prepare **Exercise 14**.

Tuesday, 04/03: Uses of the Imperfect
The Imperfect with Pronominal Objects
Homework: Read "Lesson Sixteen"; Prepare **Exercise 15**.

Thursday, 04/05: The Derived Stems
The Pael (D-Stem)
Homework: Read "Lesson Seventeen"; Prepare **Exercise 16**.

Tuesday, 04/10: The Haphel (C-Stem)
Homework: Read "Lesson Eighteen"; Prepare **Exercise 17**.

Thursday, 04/12: Medio-passive Verbs (t-Stems)
The Ethpeel
Metathesis
Homework: Read "Lesson Nineteen"; Prepare **Exercise 18**.

Tuesday, 04/17: The Ethpaal
Homework: Read "Lesson Twenty"; Prepare **Exercise 19**.

Thursday, 04/19: The Ettaphal
Homework: Prepare **Exercise 20**.

Tuesday, 04/24:
Homework:

Thursday, 04/26: Review
Homework: Prepare for Final

Thursday, 05/03: **Final Exams Begin** (Exact Time and Date TBD)