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OT 706 Semitic Language Seminar

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OT 706 SEMITIC LANGUAGE SEMINAR
(Northwest Semitic Inscriptions)
Instructors: Bill T. Arnold and Dale F. Walker

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Professor Walker's office: SH319 ♦ 859.858.2355

SPRING SEMESTER, 2006

4:00-5:15pm T/TH

Prerequisites: OT501/502

3 Units/Enrollment limit: 15

1. Course description

This course introduces the student, who already has a working knowledge of Biblical Hebrew, to the larger family group of Syro-Palestinian languages traditionally known as "Northwest Semitic Languages." The course is devoted to reading and interpreting texts designated as "Canaanite" (i.e., Hebrew, Phoenician and Moabite) in order to provide a wider linguistic and cultural context for the interpretation of the Old Testament.

2. Course Objectives

- 2.1. To provide the student with a basic understanding of Northwest Semitic grammar and particularly Classical Hebrew.
- 2.2. To improve student's basic vocabulary of Classical Hebrew by exposure to cognate languages.
- 2.3. To demonstrate the elementary principles of comparative Semitics through comparison of Epigraphic Hebrew, Phoenician, Moabite, and Biblical Hebrew.
- 2.4. To provide the student with the broad linguistic, historical, and sociological contexts of the Old Testament, illustrated by these texts.

3. Course Procedures and Requirements

- 3.1. Method of Instruction. The course will have few lectures, primarily at the beginning to introduce and orient the student to the study of Epigraphic Hebrew and other cognate languages. Most of the course will assume a seminar format in which the group will examine grammatical principles of selected texts from the corpus of Northwest Semitic inscriptions, and students will present brief papers on selected topics related to the texts.
- 3.2. Textbooks. **Required:** Sandra Landis Gogel, *A Grammar of Epigraphic Hebrew* (Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1998). **Recommended:** Simon B. Parker, *Stories in Scripture and Inscriptions: Comparative Studies on Narratives in Northwest Semitic Inscriptions and the Hebrew Bible* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997); Randall W. Garr, *Dialect Geography of Syria-Palestine, 1000-586 B.C.E.* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1985).
- 3.3. Assignments. Students will be required to complete grammatical exercises and reading assignments throughout the course, and to participate in group discussions on the assigned readings.

3.4. Seminar Papers. Students will write three papers of 5-7 pages in length on selected topics relating to the texts assigned. These papers will be offered to the seminar in 15-minute presentations

4. Bibliography for Syro-Palestinian Languages (Reference #s are to the B. L. Fisher Library; more extensive bibliography will be provided via the course icon.)

- Avigad, Nahman. *Bullae and Seals from a Post-Exilic Judean Archive*. Jerusalem: Institute of Archaeology, The Hebrew University, 1976. CD5354 .A88
- Avigad, Nahman, and Benjamin Sass. *Corpus of West Semitic Stamp Seals*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 1997.
- Bange, L. A. *A Study of the Use of Vowel-Letters in Alphabetic Consonantal Writing*. München: Verlag UNI-Druck, 1971. PJ3019 .B3 1971
- Bardowicz, L. *Studien zur Geschichte der Orthographie des Althebräischen*. Frankfurt a. M., 1894.
- Beyer, Klaus. *Althebräische Grammatik*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1969.
- Brøno, E. *Studien über hebräische Morphologie und Vokalismus*. Leipzig, 1943. PJ4601 .B76
- Cooke, G. A. *A Text-book of North-Semitic Inscriptions: Moabite, Hebrew, Phoenician, Aramaic, Nabataean, Palmyrene, Jewish*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1903. PJ3085 .C7 1965
- Cross, Frank Moore and David Noel Freedman. *Early Hebrew Orthography: A Study of the Epigraphic Evidence*. New Haven, CT: American Oriental Society, 1952.
- Daniels, Peter T. and W. Bright, *The World's Writing Systems*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.
- Davies, Graham I. *Ancient Hebrew Inscriptions: Corpus and Concordance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991. PJ5034.8 .P3 D38 1991
- Dearman, Andrew, ed. *Studies in the Mesha Inscription and Moab*. Atlanta: Scholars, 1989. PJ4149 .S7 1989
- Donner, H. and Röllig, W. *Kanaanäische und Aramäische Inschriften I-III*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1962-64. PJ3081 .D6 (on reserve)
- Friedrich, J. *Phönizisch-Punische Grammatik*. Rome: Pontificium Institutum Biblicum, 1951.
- Gibson, John C. L. *Textbook of Syrian Semitic Inscriptions I: Hebrew and Moabite Inscriptions*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1971.
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- Hackett, Jo Ann. *The Balaam Text from Deir 'Alla*. Chico, CA: Scholars, 1980. PJ5208.J63 H32 1984
- Halpern, Baruch, "The Stela from Dan: Epigraphic and Historical Considerations," *BASOR* 296 (1994), 63-80.
- Harris, Zellig S. *A Grammar of the Phoenician Language*. New Haven, CT: American Oriental Society, 1936.
- Harris, Zellig S. *Development of the Canaanite Dialects: An Investigation in Linguistic History*. New Haven, CT: American Oriental Society, 1939.

- Kaufman, Stephen A. "The Pitfalls of Typology: On The Early History of The Alphabet," *HUCA* 57(1986), 1-14.
- Krahmalkov, Charles R. *Phoenician-Punic Dictionary*. OLA: Studia Phoenicia 90.15. Leuven: Uitgeverij Peeters en Department Oosterse Studies, 2000.
- Krahmalkov, Charles R. *A Phoenician-Punic Grammar*. HO 54. Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2001.
- Layton, Scott C. "Old Aramaic Inscriptions: Literary Sources for The History of Palestine and Syria," *BA* 51.3 (1988), 172-189.
- Lidzbarski, M. *Handbuch der nordsemitischen Epigraphik I-II*. Weimar, 1898. PJ3085 .L6 1962.
- Lidzbarski, M. *Ephemeris für semitische Epigraphik I-III*. Giessen: Ricker, 1902-1915.
- Lidzbarski, M. *Kanaanäische Inschriften I-II*. Giessen, 1907.
- Sass, Benjamin, and Christoph Uehlinger, eds. *Studies in the Iconography of Northwest Semitic Inscribed Seals: Proceedings of a Symposium Held in Fribourg on April 17-20, 1991*. Fribourg: University Press/Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1993. CD5344 .S880 1993.
- Smelik, Klaas A. D. *Writings from Ancient Israel: A Handbook of Historical and Religious Documents*. Louisville, Ky: Westminster/John Knox Press; 1991.
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- Torczyner, N. H. (Tur Sinai). *Lachish I: The Lachish Letters*. London, 1938. DS110 .T38 L2
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- Renz, Johannes, and Wolfgang Röllig. *Handbuch der althebräischen Epigraphik*. Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1995. (Band 1, Die Althebräischen Inschriften, Teil 1, Text und Kommentar; Band 2/1, Die Althebräischen Inschriften, Teil 2, Zusammenfassende, Erörterungen, Palaographie und Glossar; Band 3, Texte und Tafeln.) (on reserve)
- Richter, Wolfgang. *Grundlagen einer althebräischen Grammatik: B. Die Beschreibungsebenen. II. Die Wortfügung (Morphosyntax)*. St. Ottilien: EOS Verlag, 1979; *III. Der Satz (Satztheorie)*. St. Ottilien: EOS Verlag, 1980.
- Segert, Stanislav. *A Grammar of Phoenician and Punic*. München: C. H. Beck, 1976.
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- Zevit, Ziony. *Matres Lectionis in Ancient Hebrew Epigraphy*. ASOR Series, 2; Cambridge, MA: American Schools of Oriental Research, 1980.
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