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OT 760 Semitic Language Seminar

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OT 760 Semitic Language Seminar  
(Northwest Semitic Inscriptions)  
Spring Semester, 2000  
2:25-3:40 T & Th  
Instructor: Bill T. Arnold

I. 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.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES  
A. To provide the student with a basic understanding of Northwest Semitic grammar and particularly Classical Hebrew.  
B. To improve student’s basic vocabulary of Classical Hebrew by exposure to cognate languages.  
C. To demonstrate the elementary principles of comparative Semitics through comparison of Epigraphic Hebrew, Phoenician, Moabite, and Biblical Hebrew.  
D. To provide the student with the broad linguistic, historical, and sociological contexts of the Old Testament, which is illustrated by these texts.

III. COURSE PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS  
A. 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.

B. Textbooks  
C. 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.

D. 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.

IV. Student Evaluation

| Class preparation and performance | 25% |
| Seminar Papers | 75% |

V. Bibliography for Syro-Palestinian Languages (Reference #s are to the B. L. Fisher library).


________. *Kanaanäische Inschriften I-II*. Giessen, 1907. Not in our library.


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)


