



**ERSKINE**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*For Christ and His Church*

## **AM 711CO: BIBLICAL ARAMAIC**

Columbia Campus, January Term 2012

Class Sessions: Saturday, 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Professor: Dr. Max Rogland

[Syllabus revised September 15, 2011]

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course emphasizes the fundamentals of Biblical Aramaic vocabulary and grammar for the purpose of translating and analyzing selected passages from the books of Ezra and Daniel. The course also exposes students to other dialects of Aramaic (such as the dialects in which ancient inscriptions, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Targums were written) relevant to the study of the Bible.

*Prerequisites: HB 501, 502, 601 (Hebrew I, II, and III) or equivalent. Elective. Three hours.*

### **COURSE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:**

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian church. As one component of preparing for that mission, competence in Biblical Aramaic is a powerful resource for Gospel preaching, teaching and ministry by improving one's ability to read and accurately interpret the breadth of genres in the Old Testament, including apocalyptic prophecy as found in the Book of Daniel.

### **OFFICE HOURS FOR JANUARY TERM 2012:**

During January Terms 2012 my office hours are variable. Please call or email and I will be glad to set up an appointment to meet with you.

### **TEXTBOOKS:**

For this advanced course in Biblical languages it is assumed that the student already owns the *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* and at least one advanced, unabridged lexicon such as Brown-Driver-Briggs or Koehler-Baumgartner (the latter is particularly recommended for the study of Aramaic). In addition to these, note the following:

#### **REQUIRED:**

Miles Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Aramaic: Complete Grammar, Lexicon, and Annotated Text* (Zondervan, 2011; ISBN: 978-0-310-49391-4)

**RECOMMENDED:**

Franz Rosenthal, *A Grammar of Biblical Aramaic* (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 6<sup>th</sup> rev. ed. 1995; ISBN: 978-3447035903)

Other recommended resources for studying Aramaic will be discussed in class.

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at:

<http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>

There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD, Amazon, B&N, and Books-A-Million) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

**PLEASE NOTE:** When ordering a book that has been published in more than one edition, make certain that you acquire the correct one (check the ISBN number when ordering); do not attempt to substitute an older edition of a required textbook.

**ERSKINE VIRTUAL CAMPUS (EVC):**

This course utilizes Erskine's EVC website as a place to make a number of required class resources available to you. Thus, you will need frequent access to a computer with a reliable internet connection. Students should ideally have their online accounts set up by the first class session. As soon as you have received information for accessing the online classroom, you may check for important information pertaining to the class.

**HEBREW/ARAMAIC FONTS:**

SBL Hebrew is the font used in the instructor's files and documents. You will need to have this installed on your computer in order to read many resources. This font can be downloaded at: [http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/BiblicalFonts\\_SBLHebrew.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/BiblicalFonts_SBLHebrew.aspx)

To facilitate your capability to manipulate Hebrew/Aramaic texts in documents, you may also be interested in the Shibolet software program, a free program offered by Logos software. This user-friendly program may be downloaded at: <http://www.logos.com/shibolet>

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

Your course grade will be calculated based upon a combination of homework, quizzes, and exams. There is no requirement to write a research paper for this course.

A detailed class schedule will be provided at the first class session. Please keep checking the seminary website for updates to this syllabus. To prepare for this intensive study of Aramaic, you will do well to thoroughly review your Hebrew grammar in the weeks prior to the course.

**OVERALL GRADING SCALE:**

100-95	A	85-84	C+	71-70	D-
94-93	A-	83-80	C		
92-91	B+	79-78	C-	69-0	F
90-88	B	77-76	D+		
87-86	B-	75-72	D		

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND SEMINARY POLICIES:**

For official seminary policies on Course Drop/Add/Withdrawals, Required Textbooks, Language About God and Humanity, Conduct in Theological Discussions, Course Incompletes, Class Attendance, Style and Bibliographic Formatting Requirements, Exegesis Credit for Bible Electives, Chapel Attendance, Portfolio Requirements, and Plagiarism, see the following link:

[http://seminary.erskine.edu/content\\_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.pdf](http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.pdf)

In addition to the information provided there, please note the following:

**Policy on Absences and Late/Incomplete Work:** Please be aware that due to the intensive nature of this class, no class absences will be allowed for this J-Term 2012 course. If you miss a class session, you need to complete an official course withdrawal form.

**Taping Class Lectures:** If you wish to tape a lecture using your own recording device, you must complete an “Audio Recording Request” form, which can be downloaded from the Seminary website at: <http://www.erskineseminary.org/Academics/PdfDownloads.html>