

**REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
NEW YORK CITY**

**COURSE SYLLABUS
Biblical Aramaic – OT6105**

Fall 2025

CLASS FORMAT

In person sessions will be Thursday afternoons:
1 credit (12 hours of instruction plus a take home final exam)
Thursdays, 4:45-5:45 PM EDT, Sept. 4 – Dec. 18 (no class Oct. 16, Nov. 20, 27, and Dec. 4)

INSTRUCTOR: Rev. William Fullilove, Ph.D.
bfullilove@rts.edu
703-581-2015

NOTE: Please do not email or text for questions on assignments or to request extensions. The following contacts should be via Canvas:

- 1) Extension requests must be made in the individual comment section where the student would submit that assignment on Canvas.
- 2) Questions about assignments should be made in the general comments section regarding that assignment (visible to all).
- 3) More general class questions should be made in the Professor/Student discussion forum in Canvas.

If the issue is not covered by these three categories, then please email me. You are welcome to have my cell phone, but please only text me for emergencies. The three categories above are not emergencies.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introduction to the Biblical Aramaic language of the Old Testament.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To glorify God by and while learning to read the Old Testament in its original language.
2. To enable the student to read and translate from portions of the Aramaic Old Testament.
3. To aid the student in the preparation of teaching the Scriptures.
4. To equip the student to understand lexical aids and commentaries on the Old Testament.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Ellinger and Rudolph (eds.), *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*
- Callahan, *Biblical Aramaic for Biblical Interpreters* – Ha'aretz/Glossahouse (2021)
- Rosenthal, *A Grammar of Biblical Aramaic* (Porta Linguarum Orientalum 5) – Harrassowitz, 7th ed. (2006)
- Fitzmyer, "The Phases of the Aramaic Language" (available on Canvas)

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

- Cook, *Biblical Aramaic and Related Dialects* – Cambridge UP (2022) ****HIGHLY Recommended****
- Vogt, *Lexicon of Biblical Aramaic: Clarified by Ancient Documents* (Subsidia Biblica), trans. Joseph Fitzmyer – Gregorian & Biblical Press (2011)

REQUIREMENTS:

Class preparation: Students are required to prepare the assigned section **BEFORE in-person sessions each week**. Students should prepare the text using both Vance *et al* and Cook as aids. Students should come prepared to read the text out loud and discuss areas of translation and grammatical questions.

Attendance: Students are required to attend class sessions with the professor each Thursday. If you know you cannot make it to a class session, you must notify the instructor **in advance**. Failure to attend a significant number of classes (*with “significant” being defined at the discretion of the instructor*) may result in a grade reduction or failure of the class.

Final: There will be a take-home final exam covering the Aramaic portions of the Old Testament covered in this class. Students will be responsible for parsing, vocabulary, and analysis of the text.

TOTAL GRADE:

The final grade for the course will be the total of each of the required assignments listed above.

Class Performance (60%)

Attendance (10%)

Final Exam (30%)

The instructor reserves the right to adjust grades based on each student's attendance at class and participation in classroom exercises.

OFFICE HOURS:

Thursdays before class. I am always also available by appointment, including before or after class or by phone.

I enjoy sharing thoughts with students, so do not hesitate to contact me

SCHEDULE:

Sept. 4

- Read Fitzmyer
- Read BABI ch.1-6, 11-12

Sept. 11

- Read BABI ch. 7, 13
- Study carefully Rosenthal p.64-67
- Translate Ezra 7:12-16

Sept. 18

- Read BABI ch. 8, 14
- Study carefully Rosenthal p.68-69
- Translate Ezra 7:17-22

Sept. 25

- Read BABI ch. 9, 15
- Study carefully Rosenthal p.30, 70-72
- Translate Ezra 7:23-26

Oct. 2

- Read BABI ch. 10, 16
- Study carefully Rosenthal p.75
- Translate Ezra 4:8-16

Oct. 9

- Read BABI ch. 17
- Study carefully Rosenthal p.73-74
- Translate Ezra 4:17-24

NO Class Oct 16

Oct. 23

- Read BABI ch. 19
- Translate Ezra 5:1-8

Oct. 30

- Translate Ezra 5:9-17

Nov. 6

- Translate Ezra 6:1-10

Nov. 13

- Translate Ezra 6:11-18

NO Class Nov. 20 or 27, Dec 4

Dec. 11

- Translate Dan. 2:4-11

Dec. 18

- Translate Dan. 2:12-24

Dec. 22 – Take Home Final Exam Due