

RTS

O R L A N D O



## COURSE SYLLABUS

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OT7015-01 BIBLICAL ARAMAIC

Dr. Nicholas Reid

Spring 2026

## PROFESSOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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**NAME:** Dr. J. Nicholas Reid, D.Phil.

**EMAIL:** [nreid@rts.edu](mailto:nreid@rts.edu)

**Class Meeting:** Thursdays, 1pm-3pm

## COURSE DATES

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January 27— Orientation

January 28 — Classes begin February 12 — Last day to add a class

March 4 — Last day to drop a class

March 16-20 — Spring Break

May 5 — Last day of spring semester classes

May 8 — Term paper deadline (11:00 a.m.)

May 11-14 — Examination period

May 15 — Graduation

## COURSE OVERVIEW

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### Description:

An introduction to the language of Biblical Aramaic, including basic grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. NOTE: Previous knowledge of Hebrew is required.

### Course Details:

#### 1. Grading Schedule.

The letter grading scale for this course is institutional catalogue and is summarized below.

A (97-100) 4.00

A-(94-96) 3.66

B+ (91-93) 3.33

B (88-90) 3.00

B-(86-87) 2.66

C+ (83-85) 2.33

C (80-82) 2.00

C-(78-79) 1.66  
D+ (75-77) 1.33  
D (72-74) 1.00  
D-(70-71) 0.66  
F (below 70) 0.00  
I (incomplete)  
W (withdrawn)  
S (satisfactory)  
P (passing)

## **2. Attendance and Late Assignments.**

Attendance and prepared participation is required. If class is not attended, the student's final grade will be affected. Late assignments are reduced one letter grade per day.

## **3. Special Needs.**

In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g. tape recorders, special adaptive equipment) is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor at the beginning of the course.

## **4. Disclaimer.**

This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may become necessary.

# **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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## **Textbooks:**

### **1. Required**

BHS = *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*, Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1998. ISBN: 978-3438052193.

Van Pelt, Miles, *Basics of Biblical Aramaic*. Second Edition. Zondervan, 2023.

### **2. Suggested**

Vance, Donald R., George Athas, Yael Avrahami, Jonathan G. Kline. *Biblical Aramaic: A Reader and Handbook*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson 2016. ISBN: 978-1619708914

Vogt, Ernst. *A Lexicon of Biblical Aramaic*. Clarified by Ancient Documents. Trans. and rev. by J. A. Fitzmyer. Gregorian & Biblical Press, 2008. ISBN: 978-8876536557.

### 3. Other Resources

Brock, S. "Three Thousand Years of Aramaic Literature." *Aram* 1 (1989): 11-23.

Fitzmyer, J. A. "The Phases of the Aramaic Language." Pp. 57-84 in idem. *A Wandering Aramean: Collected Aramaic Essays*. SBL, 1979.

Gesenius et al. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Oxford, 1952. ISBN: 978-0198643012

Holladay, William. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Eerdmans, ISBN: 978-0802834133.

Kitchen, K. A. "The Aramaic of Daniel." Pp. 31-79 in D. J. Wiseman et al, *Notes on Some Problems in the Book of Daniel*. Tyndale, 1965.

Koehler, Ludwig and Baumgartner, Walter. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Brill, 2001. ISBN: 978-9004124455.

Van Rompay, Lucus. "Aramaic." Pp. 28-30. "Arameans." Pp. 30-31. In S. Brock et al. *Gorgias Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Syriac Heritage* [GEDSH]. 3 Gorgias, 2011.

### 4. Optional Resources

Greenspahn, Fredrick E. *An Introduction to Aramaic*, 2nd Edition. SBL. 2003. ISBN: 978-1589830598

Hardy, H. *Biblical Aramaic: An Outline*. Course Notes. Unpublished.

Johns, Alger F. *A Short Grammar of Biblical Aramaic*. Rev. Ed. Andrews University Press, 1972. ISBN: 0-943872-74-X

Genesis Apocryphon Resources (in PDF):

Beyer, K. *Die aramäischen Texte vom Toten Meer*. Göttingen, 1984. Pp. 172-177.

Cook, E. M. "The Aramaic of the Dead Sea Scrolls," in P. W. Flint and J. C. Vanderkam (eds.), *The Dead Sea Scrolls after Fifty Years. A Comprehensive Assessment*. Leiden, 1998. Pp. 1.359378.

Fassberg, S.E. "Qumran Aramaic," *MAARAV* 9 (2002): 19-31.

Fitzmyer, J. A. *The Genesis Apocryphon of Qumran Cave 1* (1Q20) (3rd ed.). Rome, 2004. Pp. 98-103, 189-215.

Machiela, D. A. *The Dead Sea Genesis Apocryphon*. Leiden, 2009. Pp. 70-77.

Rodrigues Pereira, A. S. *Studies in Aramaic Poetry* (c. 100 B.C.E.-c. 600 C.E.).

Rosenthal, F. *A Grammar of Biblical Aramaic*, 7th Edition. Harrassowitz Verlag. ISBN: 978-3447052511

*Selected Jewish, Christian and Samaritan Poems*. Assen, 1997. Pp. 11-26.

Schattner-Rieser, U. *Textes araméens de la mer morte*. Édition bilingue, vocalisée et commentée. Brusells, 2005. Pp. 72-77

## Assignments:

### 1. Mastery of Vocabulary (25% of final grade)

To receive full credit, students must reach the required level of vocabulary, which will be assessed via quizzes. These quizzes may be taken more than once.

### 2. In Class Participation (25% of final grade)

Students must attend and be prepared to read and discuss texts.

### 3. Reading (25% of final grade)

Students must read all assigned texts. *In addition to reading the Biblical Aramaic Texts found in Daniel and Ezra, ThM students will also read the Targum of Malachi.*

### 4. Final Exam (25% of final grade)

The exam will include parsing and translation assessments.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

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Course Schedule will be provided at a later date.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES RELATED TO MDIV\* STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

**Course:** Biblical Aramaic (OT7015)

**Professor:** Dr. J. Nicholas Reid

**Campus:** Orlando

**Date:** Spring 2026

<b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b> <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b> Strong Moderate Minimal None	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Class time devoted to promote oral articulation of the language.
<b>Scripture</b>	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	Provides the student access to the 269 verses of Scripture written in Aramaic.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	None	N/A
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	None	N/A
<b>Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	The student will read the Bible in the original language; the Bible is applicable to all of life.

<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	None	N/A
<b>Pastoral Ministry</b>	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Strong	Sharpens exegetical skills and gives students the ability to read 269 Aramaic verses of Scripture in the original language.