

# **Attention!**

This is a representative syllabus.  
The syllabus for the course you are  
enrolled in will likely be different.

Please refer to your instructor's  
syllabus for more information on  
specific requirements for a given  
semester.

## *Biblical Aramaic (NELC 5120)*

**Course Description:** An introduction to the Aramaic language preserved in biblical texts (Gen 31:47; Jer 10:11; Daniel 2:4-7:28; Ezra 4:8-6:18, 7:12-26).

**Required Texts:** 1) Alger Johns, *A Short Grammar of Biblical Aramaic* (Berrien Springs)  
2) Bible (Massoretic Text). It is advisable that the student use a Bible with a critical apparatus (Biblia Hebraica [Stuttgartensia preferred]). The student is responsible for all handouts distributed in class, as well as all information discussed, even in his or her absence. The absent student must make arrangements with other class members to obtain notes or to be apprised of class developments when absent. Students with disabilities should alert the professor in a timely fashion if special arrangements are to be made.

### **Objectives:**

By the end of the quarter the diligent student will be able to:

- 1) Translate any of the passages read in class and explain (without assistance) grammatical issues that are found in these texts.
- 2) Translate previously unstudied passages with vocabulary assistance.

The first weeks of the course will be devoted to mastering the basic vocabulary, morphology, and grammar of the language. The last part of the course will be devoted to reading texts and refining the students' knowledge of the language. The quantity of texts that will be read will depend upon the speed with which students learn the language. Ideally, there will be opportunity for readings from contemporary papyri or Aramaic inscriptions from outside the Bible.

**Achieving the Objectives:** Class lecture, exercises, and discussion form the core of the course. Expect quizzes every day the class meets. Should I occasionally not give a quiz, do not be disappointed. No late papers or assignments will be accepted and no quizzes may be retaken if missed. Quizzes will be graded on a scale of 0 to 10 where 10 is an A (all correct), 9 is a B (one item wrong), 8 is a C (two items wrong), etc. A student receives a zero if the quiz is not taken. Since absences are often unavoidable, 10% of all quizzes given will be dropped before computing the student's grade (if all quizzes are taken by the student, the lowest 10% will be dropped). Plagiarism is not tolerated, and the student is reminded to read about academic misconduct in the student handbook. Students with disabilities should alert the professor in a timely fashion if special arrangements are to be made.

### **Measuring Achievement of the Objectives:**

Quizzes and assignments	20%
First Midterm	20% (Tuesday, Sept 23)
Second Midterm	20% (Thursday, Oct 30)
Final	40% (2:00-3:45 PM Monday, Dec 15)