

Historical Hebrew and Ugaritic Grammar

(HBRJD-GA 1115: Ugaritic I)

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Office Hours by appointment

Monday/Wednesday 2:00–3:15pm
KJCC 107

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is designed as a two-part class. The first half of the class will introduce the major concepts of historical Hebrew grammar, with a particular focus on phonology and morphology. The second half of the course will introduce students to the Ugaritic language. Building on their understanding of historical Hebrew grammar and exposure to other Semitic languages, students will begin reading Ugaritic texts almost immediately. A broad overview of Ugaritic grammar and style will be provided, but the focus of the second half of this course is on learning by doing, and exposure to different genres of Ugaritic texts.

A secondary objective of this course is to provide opportunities for students to develop skills essential to their professional development, including lesson-planning, teaching, and preparing and delivering a conference-style talk.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

As with any introductory language class, attendance in class is essential for your acquisition of the material. Two unexcused absences are allowed over the course of the semester. Additional unexcused absences will result in a lowering of your final grade.

MIDTERM EXAM

The midterm exam will cover all of the material in the historical Hebrew grammar unit of this course. It will have two parts; the first part will be completed without resources, and for the second part, it will be completely open book/open note.

IN-CLASS TEACHING

Each student will be required to research, plan, and teach one class meeting during the Ugaritic unit of the course. Students should lead a 45-minute session covering the topic assigned for that day, and include at least one in-class exercise. The final 30 minutes of that class will be reserved for questions, clarifications, and reading Ugaritic texts. Available dates for student-led teaching are marked with [***] on the syllabus. Students should **submit a one-page lesson plan no later than 24 hours before your scheduled class**. I will be available to help plan and answer any

content questions. The purpose of this assignment is threefold: (1) it will provide graduate students with an opportunity to practice lesson-planning and teaching in a low-risk environment; (2) it will introduce the process of learning (or re-learning) a language outside of coursework, which may prove necessary in the course of your career; and (3) teaching a language often ensures deeper comprehension of that language.

UGARITIC EXAM

The final exam will cover the Ugaritic material in this course. You will be allowed to bring a dictionary. There will be a text for you to transliterate and translate, along with parsing and syntax questions. Additionally there will be some questions about the history of Ugarit, drawn from the articles/essays I will provide you at the beginning of the Ugaritic unit.

EVALUATION

<i>Attendance and Participation</i>	35%
<i>Historical Hebrew Exam</i>	25%
<i>In-class Teaching</i>	15%
<i>Ugaritic Exam</i>	25%

REQUIRED TEXTS

Bordreuil, Pierre, and Dennis Pardee. *A Manual of Ugaritic*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2010.

Reymond, Eric. *Intermediate Biblical Hebrew Grammar: A Student's Guide to Phonology and Morphology*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2018.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Historical Hebrew Grammar Unit

Wed., Sep. 5	Introduction to course; Comparative Semitics and historical Hebrew Assignment Due: (1) Huehnergard, "Semitic Languages," in <i>CANE IV</i> , 2117–2134. (2) Reymond, "Introduction," in <i>Intermediate Biblical Hebrew Grammar</i> , 9–16.
Mon., Sep. 10	No class; Rosh Hashanah
Wed., Sep. 12	Phonology Basics — Consonants and Vowels Assignment Due: (1) Reymond ch. 2 (17–60)
Mon., Sep. 17	Noun Patterns I (Overview of Noun Patterns; Strong Triradical Roots, Singular) Assignment Due: (1) Worksheet of Consonants (2) Reymond pp. 61–90
Wed., Sep. 19	No class; Yom Kippur
Mon., Sep. 24	No class; Sukkot
Wed., Sep. 26	Noun Patterns II (Biradical Roots; II-w/y roots; Plurals) Assignment Due: (1) Triradical Noun Worksheet (2) Reymond pp. 90–114
Mon., Oct. 1	No class; Sukkot
Wed., Oct. 3	Noun Patterns III (Other Weak Roots; Plurals Continued) Assignment Due: (1) Biradical Noun Worksheet (2) Reymond pp. 115–139
Mon., Oct. 8	No class; Columbus Day
Wed., Oct. 10	Noun Patterns IV (Prefixes and Suffixes; Review) Assignment Due: (1) Weak Noun Worksheet (2) Reymond pp. 139–162
Mon., Oct. 15	Verb Forms I (Overview; G-Stem Strong Verb) Assignment Due: (1) Identify the bases of nouns in biblical passage TBD (2) Reymond 163–178
Wed., Oct. 17	Verb Forms II (Derived Stems, Strong Verbs)

- Assignment Due: (1) Verb Worksheet 1
(2) Reymond pp. 178–194
- Mon., Oct. 22** **Verb Forms II Continued (Derived Stems, Strong Verbs)**
Assignment Due: (1) Verb Worksheet 2
(2) Reymond pp. 194–215
- Wed., Oct. 24** **Verb Forms III (G-Stem Weak Verbs)**
Assignment Due: (1) Verb Worksheet 3
(2) Reymond pp. 178–194
- Mon., Oct. 29** **Verb Forms IV (Derived Stems, Weak Verbs)**
Assignment Due: (1) Verb Worksheet 4
(2) Reymond pp. 178–194
- Wed., Oct. 31** **Verb Forms IV Continued (Derived Stems, Weak Verbs)**
Assignment Due: (1) Verb Worksheet 5
(2) Reymond pp. 178–194
- Mon., Nov. 5** **Historical Hebrew Review and Synthesis**
Assignment Due: (1) Identify the historical Hebrew form of each
word in biblical passage TBD
- Wed., Nov. 7** **Historical Hebrew Review and Synthesis**
Assignment Due: (1) Identify the historical Hebrew form of each
word in biblical passage TBD
- Mon., Nov. 12** **Midterm Exam: Historical Hebrew Grammar**
- Ugaritic Unit
- Wed., Nov. 14** **Introduction to Ugarit; Ugaritic Reference Resources; Alphabet**
No assignment due
- Mon., Nov. 19** **No class; SBL Annual Meeting**
Use this time to read up on Ugaritic grammar and to plan your lessons for
next week!
- Wed., Nov. 21** **No class; Thanksgiving**
Use this time to read up on Ugaritic grammar and to plan your lessons for
next week!
- Mon., Nov. 26** **Pronouns and Nouns [***]**
Assignment Due: (1) Mystery Text

- Wed., Nov. 28** **Verbs [***]**
Assignment Due: (1) Work on KTU 2.11 (BP 22); if we have time
after the presentation of grammar, we will start
to work through this text together.
- Mon., Dec. 3** **Prepositions; Prepositional Phrases; Adverbs; Particles [***]**
Assignment Due: (1) Finish KTU 2.11 (BP 22); if we have time
after the presentation of grammar, we will
work through this text together.
- Wed., Dec. 5** **Ugaritic Syntax and Style; Ugaritic Letters**
Assignment Due: (1) KTU 2.11 (BP 23)
- Mon., Dec. 10** **Ritual Texts**
Assignment Due: (1) KTU 1.115 (BP 10)
- Wed., Dec. 12** **Day for unfinished texts, or to do an additional short text TBD.**
- TBD (Finals Week)** **Ugaritic Exam**

USEFUL REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY

HISTORICAL HEBREW GRAMMAR

- Bauer, Hans and Pontus Leander. *Historische Grammatik der Hebräischen Sprache des alten Testaments*. Halle: Max Niemeyer, 1922.
- Blau, Joshua. *Phonology and Morphology of Biblical Hebrew*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2010.
- Fox, Joshua. *Semitic Noun Patterns*. Harvard Semitic Studies 52. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2003.
- Kahn, Geoffrey, ed. *Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics*. Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2013. [Online access](#) with NYU login.

UGARITIC

*With thanks to Madadh Richey for her help in compiling and organizing this bibliography.

Text Sources and Editions

KTU: There are three editions, usually referred to as **KTU¹**, **KTU²**, and **KTU³**:

- Dietrich, Manfred, Oswald Loretz, and Joaquín Sanmartín, eds. *Die keilalphabetischen Texte aus Ugarit: Einschließlich der keilalphabetischen Texte außerhalb Ugarits*. AOAT 24. Neukirchen-Vlyun: Neukirchener-Verlag, 1976.
- Dietrich, Manfred, Oswald Loretz, and Joaquín Sanmartín, eds. *The Cuneiform Alphabetic Texts from Ugarit, Ras Ibn Hani, and Other Places (Second, Enlarged Edition)*. ALASP 8. Münster: Ugarit-Verlag, 1995.
- Dietrich, Manfred, Oswald Loretz, and Joaquín Sanmartín, eds. *The Cuneiform Alphabetic Texts from Ugarit, Ras Ibn Hani, and Other Places (Third, Enlarged Edition)*. AOAT 360. Münster: Ugarit-Verlag, 2013.

Mission de Ras Shamra (MRS): These are primarily first editions of texts (Ugaritic, Akkadian, Hurrian, etc.) from pre-1960 expeditions along with archaeological contexts and other relevant essays in collected volumes. Not all volumes are listed here. Especially important volumes for Ugaritic studies are [numbers correspond to volume numbers in MRS series]:

- MRS 1, 2, and 4: these contain the early, foundational editions of the mythological texts; they usually have the only publicly available hand copies of these texts.
 1. Virolleaud, Charles. *La Légende phénicienne de Daniel*. Paris: Geunther, 1936. [First edition of the 'Aqhatu epic (KTU 1.17–29) and the first of the Rapa 'ūma texts (KTU 1.20)]
 2. Virolleaud, Charles. *La Légende de Keret roi des Sidoniens*. Paris: Geunther, 1936. [First edition of the Kirta epic (KTU 1.14–16)]
 4. Virolleaud, Charles. *La déesse 'Anat. Poème de Ras Shamra*. Paris: Geunther, 1938. [Summary edition of most of the Ba 'lu tablets (KTU 1.1–6+)]
 10. Herdner, Andrée. *Découvertes à Ras Shamra-Ugarit de 1929 à 1939*. Paris: Imprimerie nationale/Geunther, 1963. [Summary and significant re-edition of 200+ epigraphic finds from the first ten years of expeditions, including

photographs and hand copies of the major mythological texts.]

Ras Shamra—Ougarit (RSO): These are studies produced by members and associates of the Mission de Ras Shamra in the 1960s and beyond. They include first editions or significant re-editions of texts, studies of architecture and material culture, and volumes of collected studies.

Dictionaries

DUL: There are three editions, the first of which is in Spanish:

- Del Olmo Lete, Gregorio and Joaquín Sanmartín. *Diccionario de la Lengua Ugarítica*. Barcelona: Sabadell, 1996–2000.
- Del Olmo Lete, Gregorio and Joaquín Sanmartín. *A Dictionary of the Ugaritic Language in the Alphabetic Tradition*. Handbuch der Orientalistik I/67.1–2. Boston; Leiden: Brill, 2003.
- Del Olmo Lete, Gregorio and Joaquín Sanmartín. *A Dictionary of the Ugaritic Language in the Alphabetic Tradition, Third Revised Edition*. Handbuch der Orientalistik I/112.1–2. Boston; Leiden: Brill, 2015.

Aistleitner, Joseph. *Wörterbuch der Ugaritischen Sprache*. Berlin: Akademie-Verlag, 1963.
[Until the 1990's, most scholars primarily used this dictionary.]

Watson, Wilfred G.E. *Lexical Studies in Ugaritic*. AuOrSupp 19. Barcelona: Sabadell, 2007.

Introductory Grammars

- Bordreuil, Pierre, and Dennis Pardee. *A Manual of Ugaritic*. Linguistic Studies in Ancient West Semitic 3. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2010.
- Huehnergard, John. *An Introduction to Ugaritic*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2012.

Reference Grammars

- Gordon, Cyrus H. *Ugaritic Grammar: The Present Status of the Linguistic Study of the Semitic Alphabetic Texts from Ras Shamra*. Analecta Orientalia 20. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1940.
- Gordon, Cyrus H. *Ugaritic Handbook: Revised Grammar, Paradigms, Texts in Transliteration, Comprehensive Glossary*. Analecta Orientalia 25. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1947.
- Gordon, Cyrus H. *Ugaritic Manual: Newly Revised Grammar, Texts in Transliteration, Cuneiform Selections, Paradigms, Glossary, Indices*. Analecta Orientalia 35. Rome; Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1955.
- Gordon, Cyrus H. *Ugaritic Textbook: Grammar, Texts in Transliteration, Cuneiform Selections, Glossary, Indices*. Analecta Orientalia 38. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1965 (revised reprint 1998).
- Tropper, Josef. *Ugaritische Grammatik*. AOAT 273. Münster: Ugarit-Verlag, 2000.
- Pardee, Dennis. Review of *Ugaritische Grammatik*, by Josef Tropper. *Archiv für Orientforschung* 50 (2004): online edition 1–404.
- Tropper, Josef. *Ugaritische Grammatik, 2nd ed.*, AOAT 273. Münster: Ugarit-Verlag, 2012.

Other Resources

- Gröndahl, Frauke. *Die Personennamen der Texte aus Ugarit*. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1967.
- Huehnergard, John. *Ugaritic Vocabulary in Syllabic Translation* (Revised Edition). Harvard Semitic Studies 32. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2008.

Historical and Archaeological Context

- Freu, Jacques. *Histoire politique du royaume d'Ugarit*. Paris: Harmattan, 2006.
- Pardee, Dennis. *The Ugaritic Texts and the Origins of West-Semitic Literary Composition*. Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Singer, Itamar. "Ugarit." Pages 19–196 in *The Calm before the Storm: Selected Writings of Itamar Singer on the End of the Late Bronze Age in Anatolia and the Levant*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2011.
- Smith, Mark S. *Untold Stories: The Bible and Ugaritic Studies in the Twentieth Century*. Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson, 2001.
- Watson, W.G.E. and N. Wyatt, eds. *Handbook of Ugaritic Studies*. Handbuch der Orientalistik I/39. Leiden/Boston: Brill, 1999.
- Yon, Marguerite. *The City of Ugarit at Tell Ras Shamra*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2006.

Translations of Ugaritic Literature

- Del Olmo Lete, G. *Mitos y leyendas de Canaan según la tradición de Ugarit*. Intitución San Jerónimo para la investigación bíblica: Fuentes de la ciencia bíblica, 1. Madrid: Ediciones Cristiandad, 1981.
- de Moor, J.C. *An Anthology of Religious Texts from Ugarit*. Nisaba Religious Texts Translation Series 16. Leiden: Brill, 1987.
- Dietrich, M. and O. Loretz. *Texte aus der Umwelt des Alten Testaments*. Band III. Weisheitstexte, Mythen und Epen. Mythen und Epen IV. Gütersloh: Mohn, 1994.
- Smith, Mark S. and Wayne T. Pitard. *The Ugaritic Baal Cycle* (2 vols). Leiden/New York: Brill, 1994–2009.
- Smith, Mark S. *The Rituals and Myths of the Feast of the Goodly Gods of KTU/CAT 1.23: Royal Constructions of Opposition, Intersection, Integration, and Domination*. Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2006.
- Pardee, Dennis. *Les Textes Hippiatriques*. Paris: Éditions Recherche sur les Civilisations, 1985.
- Pardee, Dennis and Jacques-Claude Courtois. *Les Textes Para-Mythologiques de la 24e Campagne*. Paris: Éditions Recherche sur les Civilisations, 1988.
- Pardee, Dennis. Contributions in *The Context of Scripture. Volume I. Canonical Compositions from the Biblical World*, ed W. W. Hallo. Leiden: Brill, 1997.
- Pardee, Dennis. *Les Textes Rituels* (2 vols). RSO 12. Paris: Éditions Recherche sur les Civilisations, 2000.
- Pardee, Dennis. *Ritual and Cult at Ugarit*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2002.
- Parker, Simon B., ed. *Ugaritic Narrative Poetry*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 1997.
- Wyatt, N. *Religious Texts from Ugarit: The Words of Ilmilku and His Colleagues*. The Biblical Seminar 53. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic (2nd ed. 2002, less the subtitle), 1998.