Historical Hebrew and Ugaritic Grammar
(HBRJD-GA 1115: Ugaritic I)

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Office Hours by appointment

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Hebrew Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class Teaching</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ugaritic Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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**REQUIRED TEXTS**


COURSE SCHEDULE

Historical Hebrew Grammar Unit

Wed., Sep. 5  
Introduction to course; Comparative Semitics and historical Hebrew
Assignment Due:  

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
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed., Nov. 28</td>
<td><strong>Verbs [</strong>*]**</td>
<td>(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.</td>
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<td>Mon., Dec. 3</td>
<td><strong>Prepositions; Prepositional Phrases; Adverbs; Particles [</strong>*]**</td>
<td>(1) Finish KTU 2.11 (BP 22); if we have time after the presentation of grammar, we will work through this text together.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., Dec. 5</td>
<td><strong>Ugaritic Syntax and Style; Ugaritic Letters</strong></td>
<td>(1) KTU 2.11 (BP 23)</td>
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<td>Mon., Dec. 10</td>
<td><strong>Ritual Texts</strong></td>
<td>(1) KTU 1.115 (BP 10)</td>
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<td>Wed., Dec. 12</td>
<td><strong>Day for unfinished texts, or to do an additional short text TBD.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TBD (Finals Week)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ugaritic Exam</strong></td>
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USEFUL REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY

HISTORICAL HEBREW GRAMMAR


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:


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.
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:


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


**Introductory Grammars**


**Reference Grammars**


Other Resources


Historical and Archaeological Context


Translations of Ugaritic Literature


