Elementary Ugaritic:
The Language of Biblical Parallelism
OL941-HA (OL502 pre-requisite)
Wed, 2:00pm-5:00pm
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Hamilton Campus

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WELCOME

Dear Students,

I very much look forward to our journey together as we take an introductory look at the rich language and literature of texts from Ugarit (mod. Ras Shamra). As a long-term student of Semitic languages, I hope to be able to share with you the personal insights that I have gained over the years from my own reading and study of the grammar and texts, and I plan for us also to engage in scholarly reflection from others in this field. But at the same time, I hope to be able to learn new things from your fresh consideration of this material, as you take responsibility in fighting through the coursework. I take your learning and success very seriously, as I do my own.
COURSE OBJECTIVES / LEARNING GOALS

I. The overarching purpose of this course is for students to become actively conversant with the essentials of Ugaritic grammar and gain an introductory acquaintance with the scholarly resources, so that they may be able to research, discover, and read the transliterated texts with use of a lexicon.

II. By the end of the course, students should be at least equipped with the following:

A. To have a working knowledge of the basic content of Ugaritic grammar:

   1. Students should be able to identify and recognize the fundamental nominal (noun, adjective, etc.) inflections and verbal (tense, voice, etc.) conjugations of Ugaritic grammar. In order to accomplish this, students will be required to acquire and work through the grammar of John Huehnergard's, An Introduction to Ugaritic.

B. To be able to recognize and access the tools for the study of Ugaritic:

   1. Students should be able to identify and make use of the standard textual databases and collections of Ugaritic texts. This will be accomplished by holding a tools class session in the Goddard Library and by referencing them throughout the course.

   2. Students should be able to identify and utilize the lexicon: Gregorio del Olmo-Lete, Dictionary of the Ugaritic Language in the Alphabetic Tradition (2. rev. ed.) (DULAT).

   3. Students should be able to reference the more advanced Ugaritic grammars for future study and advancement in the language.

   4. Students should be able to know how to research and access scholarly articles on the Ugaritic language, context, and history.

C. To become acquainted with the scholarly reconstructions for vocalizing the consonantal texts:

   1. Students should be able to reconstruct the vowel patterns of Ugaritic primarily by comparative study in Hebrew grammar and lexicon. In doing so, students will be challenged to take their Hebrew grammatical retention and sharpness to new heights. This will be primarily accomplished through usage of the Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (HALOT), through the standard Hebrew grammars, and through a brief introduction to tools for the comparative study of Semitic languages.

D. To be able to recognize and access specific Ugaritic texts as potential parallels to the Hebrew Bible:

   1. Students should be able to identify Biblical Hebrew cognates to the Ugaritic vocabulary in Huehnergard's grammar and to access the Biblical texts for further research in evaluating the potential parallels between the corpora.

   2. Students should be able to become acquainted with the standard scholarly tools for determining potential parallels between Ugaritic and Biblical texts.
I. Students' final grades will be determined through the following:
   A. 20% – Class attendance and participation (0% for 2+ un-notified absences)
   B. 40% – Periodic oral and written vocabulary and grammar quizzes. Students who receive 100% on ALL quizzes will be exempt from the final exam and receive full 25% credit for it. Such students may still elect to take the final exam for up to 5-points of extra credit toward their final grade.
   C. 15% – Midterm Exam
   D. 25% – Final Exam
   E. Extra Credit (EC)
      1. Students will receive 1/2 point of extra credit on their final grade for every additional 200 pages read beyond the assigned readings. Works read in French and German will count 2:1; primary source texts read in English will count 1.5:1. See the "Bibliography" section for resources from which to select readings. Any other resources must be approved beforehand. Students must write a 500-word summary for every 200 pages read in order to receive credit.

All work must be turned in to my physical mailbox or my email no later than Tuesday, December 20th, by midnight.

COURSE MATERIALS (Required; see also "Bibliography" for additional resources)

I. Grammar

II. General Studies on Ugaritic

III. Lexicons

IV. Text Edition

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STUDY TOOLS

I. Flash Cards
   A. Iflipr.com
      1. http://iflipr.com/deck/search?query=ugaritic (existing noun and verb paradigms, or make your own!).

II. Bible Software
   A. Accordance Bible Software (searchable tools) (http://www.accordancebible.com/)
   B. Logos Bible Software

COURSE SCHEDULE1

1. September 14th
   A. Getting to know one another
   B. Introductory issues concerning Ugarit and the Ugaritic Language
      i. Why study Ugaritic at all?
         a. https://www.logos.com/ugaritic
      ii. Ugaritic within the family of Semitic languages
      iii. Ancient Ugarit
      iv. Ugaritic and the Hebrew Bible
   C. READINGS
      i. Huehnergard, IU, 1-22; Watson and Wyatt, 76-80.

2. September 21st

1 Students should purchase Huehnergard and Watson and Wyatt and start reading before the 1st week of class. Watson and Wyatt is also available in the Goddard library reference section.

2 The topics that we will discuss will be listed beside each date. Assignments listed for these dates are due for the specified class period.
A. Introduction to Ugaritic Research
   i. **Class will meet in the Goddard Library**
   ii. Tools and resources for the study of Ugaritic

B. **Readings**
   i. Familiarize yourself with the abbreviations, glossary and bibliography in Huehnergard, *IU*, xv-xvii, 139-177, and the abbreviations and bibliography in Watson and Wyatt, 755-823.

3. September 28th
   A. Script and Phonology
      i. The consonants and "vowels" of Ugaritic
      ii. Ugaritic consonants and their cognate counterparts
      iii. Ugaritic Script
   B. **Readings**

4. October 5th
   A. Quiz #1: Ugaritic Script
   B. Morphology: Pronouns
   C. **Readings**

5. October 12th (1st READING WEEK - NO CLASS)

6. October 19th
   A. Quiz #2: Phonological Correspondences of Ugaritic w/ Hebrew
   B. Morphology: Nouns, Adjectives, and Numerals
   C. **Readings**
      i. Huehnergard, *IU*, 37-47; 48-51; Watson and Wyatt, 100-103; 103-104.

7. October 26th
   A. Quiz #3: Nouns, Adjectives, and Numerals
   B. Morphology: Strong Verbs
   C. **Readings**

8. November 2nd
   A. **Midterm EXAM: Through Strong Verbs**
   B. Morphology: Weak Verbs
   C. **Readings**

9. November 9th (2nd READING WEEK - NO CLASS)

10. November 16th
A. Quiz #4: Weak Verbs
B. Morphology: Prepositions, Adverbs, and Other Particles
C. Syntax and Poetic Features
D. Readings
   i. Huehnergard, *IU*, 75-87; Watson and Wyatt, 118-121.

11. November 23rd
   A. Happy Thanksgiving: NO CLASS
   B. Begin preparing the Kirta and Baal texts from Huehnergard below.

12. November 30th
   A. The Legend of Kirta and the Baal Cycle
   B. Readings

13. December 7th
   A. The Baal Cycle Continued
   B. Readings
      i. Smith and Pitard, v. 55, 114

14. December 14th
   A. FINAL EXAM
   B. The Baal Cycle Continued
   C. Readings
      i. Smith and Pitard, v. 55, 114

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BIBLIOGRAPHY


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3 Students may select from any of these resources for their extra credit readings. In addition to these resources, students may select readings from articles in scholarly journals or from additional resources in library, but these must be submitted for approval beforehand. Readings in history or archaeology should either be about Ugarit or Syro-Palestine in the Late Bronze and Early Iron ages (1550-1000 B.C.).


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**MISCELLANEOUS**

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Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please e-mail or speak to me immediately. Students are expected to know and follow the seminary's policies as applicable.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to be familiar with and to follow the seminary's policies on academic integrity. Faculty may refer any suspected instances of alleged dishonesty to the academic dean of GCTS. Instances of academic dishonesty may result in sanctions, including, but not limited to, failing grades being issued, educational programs, and other consequences.

END OF SYLLABUS