TITLE: BS400 READING BIBLICAL ARAMAIC

WORKLOAD:
Duration: 4 Terms
Teaching (1 hr p.w.): 26 hrs
Language exercises and set reading: 30 hrs
Text preparation: 40 hrs
Examination preparation and writing: 24 hrs
Total commitment: 120 hrs

STATUS: Elective

CO/PREREQUISITE(S): At least 60% in BS300 Hebrew 3, or at least 70% in BS200 Hebrew 2 if Hebrew 3 is taken concurrently.

GENERAL AIM: This unit aims to build on students' knowledge of Biblical Hebrew by imparting a working knowledge of biblical Aramaic, enabling them to read all the passages in the Old Testament where Aramaic is employed. The unit focuses on building a comprehensive vocabulary of biblical Aramaic, understanding its grammar and syntax, and applying this knowledge to the translation of the relevant texts in Daniel and Ezra.

The purpose of this unit is not only to enable students to work from the original language in all parts of the Old Testament, but also to lay a linguistic foundation for any subsequent study involving Aramaic texts.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: At the end of this course students should be able to:
• Recognise and distinguish biblical Aramaic from biblical Hebrew;
• Translate all biblical Aramaic texts into good, accurate English;
• Parse and reproduce regular forms of the biblical Aramaic verbal system;
• Analyse and explain most grammatical and phrase-level syntactical constructions.

CONTENT: Part 1: Biblical Aramaic Grammar
• Introduction to biblical Aramaic: occurrences; name; relationship to Hebrew; vocalization and phonology
• Aramaic Nouns, pronouns, and adjectives
• Prepositions and conjunctions
• The Aramaic verbal system & conjugations
• Strong verbs
• Weak verbs
• Syntax
• Numerals

Part 2: Reading of set texts
• Reading of Daniel 2 – 7
• Reading of Ezra 4 – 7

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS: Classroom teaching and tutorials;
Private preparation of homework assignments, reviewed in class;
Class tests and oral participation;
Strong emphasis on peer learning and collaborative group work.

QUALIFICATIONS TO TEACH: A first degree in theology with honours, or equivalent (including Hebrew to level III and Aramaic)

ASSESSMENT METHODS:
• One 1-hour Aramaic grammar examination (35%)
• One 2-hour reading and comprehension examination (65%)
SET READING:
(that required in order to achieve unit learning outcomes.)

Greenspahn, Frederick E.

Williamson, H. G. M.

Goldingay, John E.

REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY
(Describes the scope of the unit: not required reading.)

Arnold, B.T.

Emerton, J.

Johns, Alger F.

Muraoka, T., and M. Rogland,

Rosén, H.B.

Rosenthal, F.

Sasson, V.

Shepherd, M. B.

Stefanovic, Z.

Steinmann, A.

Wessellius, J.W.

_____.