

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Comparative Semitic Linguistics: Phonology and Morphology - 10840

Last update 11-08-2022

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: School of Language Sciences

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Steven Fassberg

Coordinator Email: steven.fassberg@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: by appointment

Teaching Staff:

Prof Steven Fassberg

Course/Module description:

introduction to the classification, phonology, and morphology of the Semitic languages. Emphasis will be placed on the historical and diachronic description of the language family and its development from Proto-Semitic

Course/Module aims:

to familiarize students with the evolution and development of the Semitic languages in the light of historical linguistic methods and to acquaint them with the genealogical relationship between the different Semitic families.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

student will understand the history of the Semitic languages and their interrelationships as well as recognize the achievements and difficulties in historical and comparative linguistics

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: lectures and exercises

Course/Module Content:

1. schemes of classification
2. phonology
 - a. consonantal inventory
 - b. vocalic inventory
 - c. diphthongs
3. Verbal system
4. Nominal system

Required Reading:

י' בלאו, "הרהורים על מעמדן הלשוני של שתי שפות שמיות קדומות בעלות זיקה תרבותית למקרא", לשוננו סט (תשס"ז), עמ' 215-220.

ח"א גינזברג, ההיסטוריה של עם ישראל, סדרה ראשונה, כרך שני: האבות, עמ' 62-75. העורך ב' מזר,

תל-אביב תשכ"ז.

(H.L. Ginsberg, "The Northwest Semitic Languages," pp. 102-124 in ed. B. Mazar, *The World History of the Jewish People*, 1.2: Patriarchs. Tel Aviv 1970.

ד' סיון, "מעמד האוגריתית בקרב הלשונות השמיות הצפוניות-מערביות בעקבות מחקר חדש", תשורה לשמואל: מחקרים בעולם המקרא, עמ' 287-297. עורכים צ' טלשיר ואחרים. ירושלים שס"א.

ח"י פולוצקי, "הלשונות השמיות", ההיסטוריה של עם ישראל, סדרה ראשונה, כרך ראשון: בשחר הציביליזציה, עמ' 67-70. העורך א"א ספייזר. תל-אביב תשכ"ז (J.H. Polotsky, "Semitics", pp. 99-111 in ed. E.A. Speiser, *The World History of the Jewish People*, 1.1: At the Dawn of Civilization. Tel-Aviv 1964.

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———, "Languages (Introductory)," *Anchor Bible Dictionary* 4:155-170. New York 1992.

*——, "Semitic Languages," 4:2117-2134 in ed. J.M. Sasson, *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*. New York 1995.

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——, "Afro-Asiatic," pp. 138-139 in ed. R.D. Woodard, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the World's Ancient Languages*. Cambridge 2003.

——, "Features of Central Semitic," pp. 155-203 in ed. A. Giano, *Biblical and Oriental Essays in Memory of William L. Moran* (= *Biblica et Orientalia* 48). Rome 2005.

—— and N. Pat-El, *The Semitic Languages* 2. London 2019.

S. Izre'el, ed., *Semitic Linguistics: The State of the Art at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century* (= *Israel Oriental Studies* 20). Tel Aviv 2002.

—— and S. Raz, *Studies in Modern Semitic Languages* (= *Israel Oriental Studies* 16). Tel Aviv 1996.

S.A. Kaufman, "Semitics: Directions and Re-Directions," pp. 273-282 in eds. J.S. Cooper and G.M. Schwartz, *The Study of the Ancient Near East in the 21st Century: The William Foxwell Albright Centennial Conference*. Winona Lake, Indiana 1996.

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——, ed., *Morphologies of Asia and Africa, Vol. 1: Afroasiatic Languages*. Winona Lake, Indiana 2007.

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N.J.C. Kouwenberg, *The Akkadian Verb and Its Semitic Background*. Winona Lake, Indiana 2010.

M. Krebernik, "The Linguistic Classification of Eblaite: Methods, Problems, and Results," pp. 233-249 in eds. J.S. Cooper and G.M. Schwartz, *The Study of the Ancient Near East in the 21st Century: The William Foxwell Albright Centennial Conference*. Winona Lake, Indiana 1996.

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S. Moscati et al., *An Introduction to the Comparative Grammar of the Semitic Languages*. Wiesbaden 1964.

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S. Weninger et al., eds., *The Semitic Languages: An International Handbook*. Mouton 2011.

W. Wright, *Lectures on the Comparative Grammar of the Semitic Languages*. Cambridge 1890.

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Additional Reading Material:

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Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 100 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

