

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Semitic Linguistics in a comparative inquiry - 25923

Last update 29-08-2017

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: hebrew language

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Esther Haber

Coordinator Email: sirpad@zahav.net.il

Coordinator Office Hours: by appointment

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Esther Haber

Course/Module description:

Semitic linguistics establishes a methodology for comparing the various Semitic languages and provides foundations for the study of ancient languages. The course is meant to provide theoretical basis of the structure of these languages, description of each language separately and a comparative and historical linguistics in the light of phonology, morphology, and syntax along with modern linguistic theories. During the course we will read selected texts (in transliteration).

Course/Module aims:

to acquaint and familiarize the student with the recent research literature and methods of analysis of the relations between the Semitic languages.

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

acquaintance the methods of comparative historical linguistics, acquaintance with the Semitic language family and its members.

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: lecture, reading of selected texts , presentations by students.

Course/Module Content:

Introduction to historical and comparative linguistics, typology in comparative and historical linguistics, genitive structures in Semitic languages, the unbound and the double genitive construction, copula in nominal sentence, apposition, the dative and the comitative preposition.

Required Reading:

<http://www.semiticbibliography.org/>

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

ח"י פולוצקי, "הלשונות השמיות", ההיסטוריה של עם ישראל, סדרה ראשונה, כרך ראשון: בשחר הציביליזציה, עמ' 67-70. העורך א"א ספייר, תל-אביב תשכ"ז.

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- A. Rainey, "Redefining Hebrew —A Transjordanian Language," *Maarav* 14 (2007) 67-81.
- E. Bar-Asher, *A theory of argument realization and its application to features of the semitic languages*: Harvard University 2009.
- E. Lipiński, *Semitic Languages: Outline of a Comparative Grammar*. Leuven 1997.
- E. Lipiński, *Semitic Linguistics in Historical Perspective*. Leuven 2014.
- G. Buccellati: "An Interpretation of the Akkadian Stative as a Nominal Sentence", *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 27 (1968):1-12 .
- G. del Olmo Lete, *Studies in Common and Comparative Semitics. Selected Papers*. Cordoba 2015.
- G. Goldenberg, *Studies in Semitic Linguistics: Selected Writing* Jerusalem: Magnes Press, Hebrew University 1998.
- G. Khan, *Studies in Semitic syntax*, Oxford 1988.
- I. M Diakonoff, *Semito-Hamitic Languages: An Essay in Classification* Moscow: Nauka 1965.
- J. Barth, *Die Nominalbildung in den semitischen Sprachen*. Leipzig 1894.
- J. Fox, *Semitic Nouns Patterns*. Winona Lake, Indiana 2003.
- J. Hackett and N. Pat-El, "On Canaanite and Historical Linguistics: A Rejoinder to Anson Rainey," *Maarav* 17 (2010) 173-188.
- J. Huehnergard, "Remarks on the Classification of the Northwest Semitic Languages," pp. 282-293 in eds. J. Hoftijzer and G. van der Kooij, *The Balaam Text from Deir Alla Re-evaluated: Proceedings of the International Symposium held at Leiden 21-24 August 1989*. Leiden 1991.
- J. Huehnergard, "Semitic Languages," 4:2117-2134 in ed. J.M. Sasson, *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*. New York 1995.
- J. Huehnergard, "New Directions in the Study of Semitic Languages," pp. 251-272 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.
- J. Owens, *A Linguistic History of Arabic* Oxford: Oxford University Press 2006.
- L. Edzard, *Polygenesis, Convergence, and Entropy: An Alternative Model of Linguistic Evolution Applied to Semitic Linguistics*. Wiesbaden 1998.
- M. Bravmann *Studies in Arabic and general syntax*, Cairo 1953.
- N. Chomsky, *Knowledge of language: Its Nature, Origin, and Use* New York: Praeger Scientific 1986.
- N.J.C. Kouwenberg, *The Akkadian Verb and Its Semitic Background*. Winona Lake, Indiana 2010.
- R.C. Steiner, *Early Northwest Semitic Serpent Spells in the Pyramid Texts*. Winona Lake, Indiana 2011.
- R. Hettrzon, "Two Principles of Genetic Reconstruction," *Lingua* 38 (1976) 89-108.
- S. Izre'el, ed., *Semitic Linguistics: The State of the Art at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century* (&eq; *Israel Oriental Studies* 20). Tel Aviv 2002.
- S. Moscati et al., *An Introduction to the Comparative Grammar of the Semitic Languages*. Wiesbaden 1964.
- W.R. Garr, "The Comparative Method in Semitic Linguistics," *Aula Orientalis* 23

(2005) 17-21.

Additional Reading Material:

A. Dolgopolsky, *From Proto-Semitic to Hebrew. Phonology: Etymological Approach in a Hamito-Semitic Perspective*. Milan 1999

A.D. Rubin, *A Brief Introduction to the Semitic Languages*. Gorgias Handbooks 19. Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press 2010.

A. Faber, "Semitic Sibilants in an Afro-Asiatic Context," *Journal of Semitic Studies* 29 (1984) 189-224.

G. Bergsträsser, *Introduction to the Semitic Languages, Text Specimens and Grammatical Sketches*. Tr. P.T. Daniels. Winona Lake 1983 (&eq; *Einführung in die semitischen Sprachen, Sprachproben und grammatische Skizzen*. München 1928).

G. Goldenberg: "Attribution in Semitic Languages", *Langues Orientales Anciennes: Philologie et Linguistique* 7 (1995) 1-20.

H. Gzella, ed., *Languages from the World of the Bible*. Boston/Berlin 2012.

J.H. Hospers, *A Basic Bibliography for the Study of the Semitic Languages*. 2 vols. Leiden 1973.

L. Edzard, ed., *Semitic and Afroasiatic: Challenges and Opportunities*. Wiesbaden 2012.

M.H. Goshen-Gottstein, *Comparative Semitic Linguistics: A Students' Reader*. Jerusalem 1976.

P.R. Bennett, *Comparative Semitic Linguistics: A Manual*. Winona Lake, Indiana 1998.

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

Z. Harris, *Development of the Canaanite Dialects: An Investigation in Linguistic History*. New Haven 1939.

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:

