

UGARITIC

SPRING 2022

563:405 (Jewish Studies) / 013:405 (AMESALL)

Mon / Wed, 2:00 – 3:20 p.m. (EST)

12 College Avenue, room 206

(and online for BTAA consortium students)

Prof. Gary A. Rendsburg

Department of Jewish Studies

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Catalogue Description: An introduction to Ugaritic, the ancient Semitic language most closely related to Biblical Hebrew.

Course Description: This course is intended for the advanced student of Hebrew or Arabic, who wishes to learn Ugaritic, a Semitic language from ancient Canaan, whose literature includes epics about human heroes and myths about the Canaanite gods and goddesses (El, Ba'al, Anat, etc.).

Students will learn the phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexicon of Ugaritic via the inductive method, as we begin to read the epic literature during the very first week of the semester.

TEXTBOOKS

Prices listed are those provided at www.bn.com:

Simon B. Parker, ed., *Ugaritic Narrative Poetry*

- Scholars Press / Society of Biblical Literature
- paperback – B&N price: \$19.80
- ISBN: 9780788503375

William M. Schniedewind and Joel M. Hunt, *A Primer of Ugaritic*

- Cambridge University Press
- Hardcover – B&N price: \$56.99
- ISBN: 9780521704939

Learning Goals Specific to this Course:

- Students will learn to analyze the grammar of Ugaritic, especially in comparison to Hebrew and/or Arabic.
- Students will gain familiarity with the myths and epics of ancient Ugarit, including their relationship to biblical literature.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to prepare the Ugaritic text in advance of each class session, and they should come to class ready to translate and analyze the grammar.

Attendance is mandatory, full stop.

Assessments and Grading

In addition to the above requirement, student progress towards fulfilling the course learning goals will be assessed through four vocabulary quizzes, two grammar exams, and one final exam.

Preparation and Class Participation (see above) – 20%

Vocabulary Quizzes – 20%

Grammar Exams – 30%

Final Exam – 30%

Vocabulary Quizzes:

During the course of the semester, the instructor will administer four brief unannounced quizzes to assess vocabulary acquisition.

The first two quizzes will consist of five Ugaritic words each for which students must supply the English equivalent.

The second two quizzes will consist of five English words each for which students must supply the Ugaritic equivalent.

Each quiz will be worth 5% of the final grade, for a total of 20%.

Grammar Exams:

In the fourth and eighth week of the semester, the instructor will administer a short exam to assess student acquisition of grammar.

Each exam will be worth 15 of the final grade, for a total of 30%.

Final Exam:

The final exam will be worth 30%. It will assess student reading proficiency in Ugaritic.

Final exam dates and times are assigned by the Registrar and must conform with the University schedule. They will be announced at <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>.

ATTENDANCE:

As indicated above, attendance is mandatory: there is no other way to learn a language (ancient or modern).

If you expect to miss a class session, kindly use the University self-reporting system for absences: <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> An email is automatically sent to me to apprise me of your absence.

Or you may wish to inform me ahead of time if you know that you will miss class. Overall responsibility for the course material, however, remains yours at all times.

If you do miss class, please make sure to get the notes from someone. If there is something in the notes that you do not understand, feel free to come see me during office hours for further clarification.

Finally, please make every effort to arrive in time for the start of class. Late arrival is disruptive to the class discussion and in general disrespectful to me and your classmates.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Please note the University's academic integrity policy:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers>

I personally endorse the policy and enforce its guidelines. In short, no cheating of any sort will be tolerated in my course; and such actions are grounds for probation and potential dismissal from the University.

DISABILITY POLICY:

- Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.
- Full disability policies and procedures are at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

COURSE SCHEDULE

This course will proceed with a combination of both the deductive method (working through the grammar) and the inductive method (reading the texts).

In what follows, S-H = Schniedewind and Hunt (see above).

Week 1:

Ugaritic basics: alphabet, orthography, phonology

S-H, pp. 31-39, 149-154

Week 2:

Pronouns (S-H, pp. 154-158)

Inductive Method: Kirta, Tablet 1, Column 1 (Parker, pp. 12-13)

(S-H, pp. 123-131)

Week 3:

Nouns and Adjectives (S-H, pp. 158-163)

Inductive Method: Kirta, Tablet 1, Column 2 (Parker, pp. 13-15)

Week 4:

Numerals (S-H, pp. 164-165)

Inductive Method: Kirta, Tablet 1, Column 3 (Parker, pp. 15-18)

Weeks 5-6:

Verbs (S-H, pp. 165-177)

Inductive Method: Kirta, Tablet 1, Columns 4-6 (Parker, pp. 18-23)

Week 7:

Particles: negation, prepositions, conjunctions, etc. (S-H, pp. 177-179)

Inductive Method: Kirta, Tablet 2, Columns 1-6 (Parker, pp. 23-30)

Week 8:

Inductive Method: Kirta, Tablet 3, Columns 1-3 (Parker, pp. 30-36)

Week 9:

Inductive Method: Kirta, Tablet 3, Columns 4-6 (Parker, pp. 36-42)

Weeks 10-12

Inductive Method: Aqhat, Tablets 1-3 (Parker, pp. 51-78)

(S-H, pp. 138-145)

Weeks 13-15:

Inductive Method: Ba'al Myth, selected readings (Parker, pp. 87-164)

(S-H, pp. 121-123, 137-138)

In sum, by the end of the course, students will have read major portions (in whole or in part) of the three main Ugaritic literary compositions:

- Epic of Kirta
- Epic of Aqhat
- The Ba'al Myth