

HEBREW AND PALESTINIAN INSCRIPTIONS

Old Testament 82400

Fall 2005

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I. Texts:

S. Ahituv, *Handbook of Ancient Hebrew Inscriptions* [limited availability]

S. L. Gogel, *A Grammar of Epigraphic Hebrew*

Drinkard, *Handbook for Hebrew Inscriptions Seminar* [available from the professor]

II. Course Description:

A study of Hebrew and Palestinian inscriptions, especially pre-exilic, to compare the orthography, epigraphy, grammar and syntax with Masoretic Hebrew.

III. Course Objectives:

1. To gain knowledge of the basic epigraphy, orthography, grammar and syntax of Hebrew and Palestinian inscriptions.
2. To be able to read the inscriptions studied in their script from photographs or drawings, and explain their basic grammar.
3. To compare the orthography, grammar and syntax of the inscriptions with that of Masoretic Hebrew.
4. To apply the results of inscriptional study to textual criticism of the Old Testament, and to the interpretation of relevant passages.
5. To become acquainted with and use the basic literature of Hebrew and Palestinian inscriptions.

6. To demonstrate the capacity to do basic research in primary and secondary sources using the the methods and resources introduced in the seminar.
7. To gain an appreciation of the relevance of Hebrew and Palestinian inscriptions for the study of Hebrew and the practice of ministry.

IV. Course Requirements:

1. Regular attendance and leadership in class discussion.
2. By the **second** week of the class, students should know the script of the Proto-Sinaitic/Proto-Canaanite inscriptions and that of Phoenician/Old Hebrew (which is basically the same as Old Aramaic, Moabite and Edomite.
3. Preparation of a bibliography for the study of inscriptions. This bibliography should include the primary publication of major inscriptions, works that provide collections of inscriptions, and articles about inscriptions. Each student should bring a thorough bibliography of their topics to the **fourth** meeting of class to distribute to all students.
4. Research papers on the topics listed below. Each student will prepare 2 major papers during the course of the semester detailing a study of the epigraphy (form and style of the characters), orthography (spelling characteristics, use of final and medial vowel letters), and grammar and syntax of a group of inscriptions. These papers will guide our classroom discussions. Each paper should be ca. 25-30 pages in length, and following the form of the Seminary Style Manual. Papers are due in boxes or on desks by 10:00 A.M. Thursday morning before class presentation the following Monday.

V. Special Needs.

“In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.”

VI. Tentative Course Sessions and Topics:

Week 1. Introduction to the Seminar. Methods and Interests, Paper Assignments. Procedure for study and presentation of reports. Reading passages of unpointed Hebrew. Canaanite/Phoenician/Pre-exilic Hebrew script. **(August 15)**

Week 2. Practice with Canaanite/Phoenician Script, Ductus. “What’s Wrong with Unprovenanced Inscriptions?” **Dr. Drinkard leads discussion. (August 22)**

Weeks 3-14 Dates and topics:

Topic 1. Proto-Sinaitic, Proto-Canaanite, Canaanite Inscriptions (1 presentation)
[Serabit el-Khadem, Beth Shemesh, Isbet Sartah, Incised Arrows, Lachish, etc]
Dr. Drinkard leads discussion. (August 29)

September 5 **Labor Day—No Class**

Topic 2. Early Phoenician Inscriptions (3 presentations)
[Azarbaal, Ahiram, Elibaal, Nora, Yehimilk, Shipitbaal] **Drinkard (September 12)**
[Cyprus, Malta, Seville, **Kilamuwa**] **Dong Gun Lee (September 12)**
BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE

[**Azitawada**, Arslan Tash, Pyrgia, Eshmunazer] **Liz Robar (September 19)**

Topic 3. Early Aramaic Inscriptions (3 presentations)
[Melqart, Zakir, Tel Dan] **Seth Rodriguez (September 19)**

First Reading Days September 26

[**Panamuwa**, Barrakab] **Josh Wilson (October 3)**

[**Sefire**, Nerab] **John Flanagan (October 3)**

[**Tell Fakhariyeh**] **Nancy Woods (October 10)**

Topic 4. Israelite & Samaritan Inscriptions (1 presentation)
[**Samaria**, **Gezer**, Nimrud Ivory, Tell Qasile, Hazor,
Beth Shean] **Liz Robar (October 10)**

Topic 5. Moabite Inscriptions (1 presentation) **Dong Gun Lee (October 17)**

Topic 6. Ammonite (1 presentation)

[Amman Citadel, Amminidab, Deir Alla] **Matt Simpson (October 17)**

Topic 7. Judahite Inscriptions ca 700 B.C.E. (2 presentations)

[**Siloam**, Silwan, Jerusalem, Ketef Hinnom, Ivory Pomegranate
Widow's Plea] **Josh Wilson (October 24)**

[**El Qom, Khirbet Beit Lei**, 3 Shekels, Beer-Sheba, Judean Wilderness Cave,
Kuntillet Ajrud , Wadi Murabbat] **Nancy Woods (October 24)**

Topic 8. Judahite Inscriptions ca 630 B.C.E. (1 presentation)

[Mesad Hashavyahu (**October 31**) **John Flanagan**

Topic 9. Judahite Inscriptions 6th Cent B.C. : **Arad** (1 presentation) (**November 7**) **Seth
Rodriquez**

Topic 10. Judahite Inscriptions 6th cent. B.C.: **Lachish** **Matt Simpson (November 14)**

Wrap-Up, Discussion. At the scheduled Final Exam time.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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In addition, any major research will involve consultation of the appropriate excavation reports on sites such as Samaria, Lachish, Megiddo, Hazor, Ai, Arad, Beer-Sheba, Gezer, Jerusalem, Jericho, Beth-Shan, Hesban, Shechem, Tell Beit Mirsim, just to mention a few. (These excavation reports often contain the publication of provenanced inscriptions). Major archaeological journals/annuals include, *Biblical Archaeologist* (BA, now *Near Eastern Archaeology*), *Biblical Archaeology Review* (BAR), *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* (BASOR) [also very helpful is the AASOR, *Annual of the Am. Sch. Or. Res.*], *Israel Exploration Journal* (IEJ), *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* (PEQ), *Levant*, *Tel Aviv*, *Revue Biblique*, *Syria*, *Iraq*, *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* (ADAJ), *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (JNES), *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan* (SHAJ). In addition, journals dealing with inscriptions include: *MAARAV*, *Semitica*, *Ugarit Forschungen*, *JANES*. [This is only a preliminary list—one expectation for the student is to prepare his/her own fuller bibliography]