

Talmud in Aramaic

Spring 2012
Hebrew and Semitic Studies 371
Jewish Studies 371
Religious Studies 400

Instructor:

Professor Jordan D. Rosenblum
Office: Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies, 1340 Van Hise Hall
Office Hours: TuTh 9:00-10:00 am and by appointment
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Course Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Prerequisite(s):

Hebrew 202 or 324 or consent of instructor

Course Description and Course Goals:

An introduction to the language and terminology of the Babylonian Talmud. Students will learn how to read and interpret Talmud through a close examination of the Hebrew and Aramaic text of Chapter Eight of the Babylonian Talmud tractate Hullin.

Requirements:

- (1) Class participation and preparation: 20%
- (2) Midterm (**March 15**, in class): 30%
- (3) Final (**May 15**, 10:05 am – 12:05 pm): 50%

Honor Code:

Students are expected to follow the University of Wisconsin-Madison Academic Honor Code. If students have any questions about this policy, please speak with the instructor. More information on plagiarism can be found at:
http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html

Absence Policy:

Participation is twenty percent of the course grade and you cannot participate if you are not in class. More than three absences will result in a lowering of your participation grade by one full letter per absence. In case of medical or personal emergency requiring absence, please contact me as soon as possible.

Class Preparation and Participation:

Because language training is a key component of this course, regular preparation and participation are expected. Adequate preparation entails the following: (1) bringing the relevant texts to class (including the Hebrew Bible and Jastrow dictionary); (2) the ability to parse and translate every word; (3) consulting the original context for each biblical

citation and being prepared to discuss it; and (4) investigating the relevant technical terminology for that day's text. Graduate students may not consult translations or notes during class. Undergraduates may use notes, but may not consult translations during class. I recommend that you prepare these texts in groups. Finally, students who regularly arrive late or disrupt class (e.g., by using their cell phone or talking during class) can expect a significant reduction in their participation grade.

Midterm:

There will be an in-class midterm on **March 15**. Further instructions and explanations will be provided at least two weeks prior to the exam.

Final Exam:

Course final will take place on **May 15** from **10:05 am – 12:05 pm**. The final will be an oral exam. Further instructions and explanations will be provided at least two weeks prior to the exam.

Extension Policy:

Extensions will **not** be granted. Students **must** take exams at their scheduled times.

Required Books:

- (1) A Hebrew Bible (preferably the *BHS* [*Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*; Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1997])
- (2) Marcus Jastrow, *Dictionary of the Targumim, Talmud Babli, Yerushalmi, and Midrashic Literature* [Hendrickson, 2006]
- (3) David Marcus, *A Manual of Babylonian Jewish Aramaic* [University Press of America, 1981] (*MBJA*)
- (4) Electronic Reserve: Learn@UW (*R*)

****All books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore****

Class Schedule:

January 24	<u>Introduction</u>
January 26	<u>Jewish Babylonian Aramaic 101: The Basics</u> Steinsaltz, <i>The Talmud: The Steinsaltz Edition: A Reference Guide</i> , 61-77 (<i>R</i>); Bring <i>MBJA</i> to class
January 31	<u>Mishnah Hullin</u> : Mishnah Hullin in English - read entire tractate: focus on chapter 8 (<i>R</i>); Mishnah Hullin 8:1- in Hebrew (<i>R</i>)
February 2	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
February 7	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
February 9	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
February 14	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>

February 16	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
February 21	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
February 23	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
February 28	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
March 1	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u> <i>Discuss Midterm</i>
March 6	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
March 8	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
March 13	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
March 15	MIDTERM (in class)
March 20	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
March 22	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
March 27	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
March 29	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
March 31-April 8	SPRING BREAK
April 10	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
April 12	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
April 17	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
April 19	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
April 24	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
April 26	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>
May 1	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u> <i>Discuss Final</i>
May 3	<u>b. Hullin Chapter 8</u>

May 8 b. Hullin Chapter 8

May 10 Conclusions

May 15 **FINAL EXAM**
10:05 am – 12:05 pm