Introduction to Ugaritic (NEJS 106b)

Brandeis University

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PURPOSE:

The course inductively introduces students to the grammar of Ugaritic and its texts. We will immediately start reading texts in Huehnergard’s chrestomathy (Selection of Texts). This will be accompanied by study of grammatical and other features of the language and texts from Huehnergard, Bordreuil and Pardee, and other resources.

WORK FOR THE COURSE:

(1) Preparation with the readings and assigned grammatical material each class session. (15%)

(2) Weekly 10 minute quizzes on assigned paradigms and sample sentences. (35%)

(2) Mid-term and final (during exam week) on readings in class to each of those points. (15% each)

(4) A "text edition" of 500 words of a Ugaritic text. (This can be one text, several texts, or a combination of genres.) This is to have historical and cultural introduction to the text, the text in hand copy and transliteration, vocalization of the text, translation, and grammatical and contextual notes. (35%)

BOOKS FOR THE COURSE:

Please obtain the following book as soon as possible (we'll work through it and its readings):

John Huehnergard, Introduction to Ugaritic

e.g., http://www.hendrickson.com/html/product/568202.trade.html?category=all

We'll use Huehnergard as our "Bible" (standard for learning and analysis).

Also recommended (for contrast and supplementation; but not required) is:

Pierre Bordreuil and Dennis Pardee, A Manual of Ugaritic

e.g., http://www.eisenbrauns.com/item/BORMANUAL

FIRST ASSIGNMENT:

Memorize all the verb forms in Huehnergard's grammar on pp. 211–213 in sections §§1–5 (through derived stems). Have the forms down cold. Be able to recite them fluently when I shake you awake from a deep sleep. (The file is on this page under the section "Basic Resources").