OBJECTIVE:
The course introduces students to targumic (Palestinian Jewish) Aramaic inductively through a reading of the Targum text (starting with Genesis 22) along with (mainly) Stevenson’s grammar. The course also explores the nature of the different Targumim and the midrashic additions made to the texts. The middle part of the course studies the Genesis Apocryphon, a midrashic rewriting of Genesis discovered among the Dead Sea Scrolls at Qumran. The last three weeks of the course covers the basics of Syriac, a form of Aramaic used by early Christians in Syria-Iraq and the language of a translation of the Bible comparable to the Targumim.

LEARNING GOALS:
• Knowledge of the grammars of the Aramaic dialects of the Targumim, Genesis Apocryphon from Qumran, and basic Syriac
• The main issues surrounding the study of the Targumim, translation of the Bible into Aramaic, and the early midrashic interpretations of the biblical text
• Formatting and presenting texts in Aramaic and Syriac in word-processing documents and in an academic manuscript
• Writing a critical review of secondary literature

PREREQUISITE:
Two semesters of either modern or biblical Hebrew or the equivalent.

BASIC BOOKS TO ACQUIRE FOR THE COURSE:
Stevenson, W. B. Grammar of Palestinian Jewish Aramaic. (An inexpensive reprint is by Wipf and Stock Publishers. Accordance has Stevenson as a reference module for about $40. The Oxford edition is about $60.)


Jastrow, Marcus. Dictionary of the Targumim. (This is a good basic dictionary for Rabbinic Hebrew and Aramaic. It has been issued by various publishers and is relatively inexpensive. A link to an online version is provided on Latte.)


WORK FOR THE COURSE:
1. Preparation and participation: The course has three units, on the Targumim, the Genesis Apocryphon from Qumran, and Syriac. Work for the course will proceed as described below in the “Schedule and Readings.” Students are responsible for contributing to Google Docs for the first two units, as described in class. Students will also be responsible for contributing to the discussion in class, including critique of the the Google Docs. In unit three (on Syriac) students will be responsible for reading, translating, and discussing the text.
2. **Grammatical sketches:** Students are to read the equivalent of eight chapters of Aramaic on their own and produce grammatical sketches for each. (A chapter is defined as a passage consisting of 400 Aramaic words, about 25 Targum Onkelos [TO] verses.) Six of these chapters are to be from the Targumim, of which one must be from Targum Pseudo-Jonathan (TPsJ) or Targum Neofiti (TN). As for the remaining two, one is to come from the Genesis Apocryphon and the other from Syriac passage (this can be from the Peshitta). Examples of grammatical sketches are provided on Latte (the chief example is that for Genesis 12). The main elements of a sketch include charting of all verb forms, inclusion of the original text, a translation (your own) which marks significant variations and midrashic expansions, and a section of longer grammatical, linguistic, and contextual notes. Unvocalized text from TPsJ/TN and the GA should be vocalized. The due dates for the chapters are (all Mondays): Jan 29; Feb 12, 26, Mar 12, 26, Apr 9 (for the Targumim) and Apr 23, 30 (for GA and Syriac, respectively). Turn your sketches in as pdf files, to preserve formatting of original scripts.

3. **Weekly grammar quizzes:** once a week, usually Friday, there will be a 10 minute quiz on a grammatical issue, usually the reproduction of a particular language paradigm from Stevenson’s or Muraoka’s grammars. Some questions may also come from the text reading in class from the past week. The topic of the quiz will normally be announced a week in advance. Reading assignments from the grammars (Stevenson and Lambdin-Huehnergard) will be given weekly.

4. **Common readings and notes:** Each unit of the course has a few essays for students to read, listed under the rubric “common readings.” Students should write up notes demonstrating that they have read these. How these will be turned in will be determined as the semester progresses. The notes for a unit are due just after its end.

5. **Individual reading and project:** Students are to read a 250+ page book (this can be a group of essays) and will write a substantial review project (e.g., c. 3000-word for grads). The book may be on a single topic, a collection of essays, a number of journal articles on a particular topic, a text edition, or a language grammar (including a grammar of another corpus of Aramaic). The nature of the written review will depend on the type of work selected. This will be worked out with the instructor. If, for example, you choose to work through a grammar (e.g., Thackston’s *Introduction to Syriac*), doing the exercises for advanced chapters or working through part of the chrestomathy could suffice. In any case, as opposed to the common readings, the review project for the individual reading is not to be a project that shows analysis and learning (not simply notes). This is due the second day of test week.

**Weight of work:**
- Participation & preparation: 10%
- Grammatical sketches: 35%
- Weekly grammar quizzes: 20%
- Common readings notes: 15%
- Individual reading review: 20%

**SCHEDULE AND READINGS:**
Class meetings: Jan 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30, Feb 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, (break 19–23), 27, Mar 2, 6, 9,
UNIT 1: TARGUMIC ARAMAIC
(first third of the semester)

We will start with Genesis 22, first Targum Onkelos, then Neofiti, then Pseudo-Jonathan. As a class we will produce a grammatical sketch on a Google Doc for each text, including a score of the three versions.

Main Resources:
See the basic books for the course, above.

Common readings for (on Latte):
On the Targumim (history, phenomenology):
On Aramaic (grammatical, dialect summaries):

UNIT 2: THE GENESIS APOCRYPHON
(middle third of the semester)

Readings in 1QapGen/1Q20 (these are the technical sigla for the text). We will work on columns 19 and the following. We will work in common on a Google Doc for a grammatical sketch with notes.

Main Resources for GA:

Common readings (on Latte):

UNIT 3: SYRIAC
(last third of semester)

Introduction to Syriac and beginning readings in the Peshitta translation of the Hebrew Bible. This unit will use Takamitsu Muraoka, Classical Syriac for Hebraists, which students should acquire. We will learn the alphabet, study parts of Muraoka’s grammar, and begin working through the texts in the chrestomathy at the end of his book. Students will be responsible for preparing texts 1–5. (We will not do a Google Doc for these texts.)

Main Resource:
The Muraoka grammar, listed with the books, above.

Common readings for all students (on Latte)

POLICIES:
Preparation time: Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).

Academic Honesty: You must complete all assignments alone, unless instructed otherwise by the instructor. In your writing, you must follow rules of attribution. Examples of penalties for a student found responsible for an infringement of academic honesty are no credit for the work in question, failure in the course, and the traditional range of conduct sanctions from disciplinary warning through permanent dismissal from the University.

Students with documented disabilities: Students with disabilities certified by the Coordinator of Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities in the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs and First Year Services will be given reasonable accommodations to complete required assignments. Disabilities that are not documented and approved by the Office of Academic Affairs will not be given accommodations.
Late Work: Assignments will be docked 1% per day late. Incompletes will not be given this semester except for reason of personal emergency.

Attendance: This is included in your participation grade. Let the instructor or TA know if you will not be attending class. While one or two absences will be forgiven, for brief illnesses or occasional conflicting events, three or more absences without reasonable justification will lower the final grade.