

SUMMER UNIVERSITY IN ORIENTAL LANGUAGES

4–13 July 2024 in Venice (Italy), San Servolo Island, Venice International University Campus

Organised by David Hamidovic (University of Lausanne)
in collaboration with Matteo Silvestrini (University of Lausanne)

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COURSES

ATTENTION: The content of the advanced courses is renewed every year.

NB. The teaching language is supposed to be French, but the teachers are allowed to change the teaching language according to the group's composition and the students' wish.

Major course (to choose): 40 hours

Akkadian 1: Ilya Arkhipov (Moscow University)

The main aims of the course are to teach the basics of Akkadian and to introduce students to the reading of cuneiform texts. The sessions present the main aspects of Akkadian grammar using famous texts such as the Code of Hammurabi.

Akkadian 2: Laurent Colonna d'Istria (University of Liège)

The Akkadian 2 course is aimed at non-beginners. Based on a reading of the Palaeo-Babylonian version of the myth of Atra-hasis, considered to be the Mesopotamian Noah, the course aims to revisit and deepen the basics of Akkadian grammar, with an emphasis on learning cuneiform signs. The second part of the course will look at the older Akkadian language through the study and translation of inscriptions by the rulers of Akkad. Study material: Black J., George A., Postgate N., 2000, A Concise Dictionary of Akkadian, Harrasowitz.

Arabic 1 (beginner level): Salem Khchoum (University of Lyon 2)

This course is aimed at absolute beginners. It begins with literacy and learning to read and write. After these stages, the first grammatical notions and the first communicative functions are introduced through conversation exercises and the comprehension of audio and written texts.

Arabic 2 (intermediate level): Arminé Boranian (University of Lyon 2)

Oral interaction and writing in modern standard Arabic. The subject of study is modern standard Arabic, a language of communication, based on audio and written documents dealing with current affairs or social issues. This course offers students at intermediate level (A1.b/A2 levels) the opportunity to acquire a certain familiarity with oral communication in interaction, as well as to express themselves in writing. Work materials will be provided during the course, as well as a summary bibliography and sitography.

Arabic 3 (advanced level): Mustafa Aloosh (University of Lyon 2)

This course will enable students to acquire new knowledge of grammar, style and rhetoric, which are essential for understanding ancient and modern literary texts. In addition, students will be regularly called upon to use literary texts both orally and in writing. The aims of the course are to identify figures of speech, understand and analyse a literary text, present a literary text and simulate a literary debate.

Empire Aramaic: Jürg Hutzli (University of Lausanne)

Aramaic, like Hebrew, is a north-west Semitic language attested since the 9th century BC in and around present-day Syria. From the 7th century BC, Aramaic became an international language in the Neo-Assyrian, Neo-Babylonian and Persian empires; it is known as "empire Aramaic". In the Persian and Hellenistic periods, the language was increasingly used by the Jews of the diaspora and Palestine; this fact is illustrated, among other things, by the documents of the Jewish colony of Elephantine and by the Aramaic parts of the biblical books Daniel and Ezra. The course is an introduction to the grammar and syntax of Imperial Aramaic, based on the reading of biblical passages (the Aramaic parts of the books of Daniel and Ezra). Aramaic texts from the Jewish community of Elephantine and Samaritan inscriptions will also be read. Knowledge of square Hebrew script is a prerequisite.

Ancient Armenian 1 (beginner level): Paolo Lucca (Ca'Foscari University, Venice)

This course in classical (or ancient) Armenian is aimed at absolute beginners and false beginners. It focuses on the study of the language of the golden age of Armenian literature, i.e., the language of the translations of the Bible and the Church Fathers, as well as the original Armenian literature of the 5th century. The course includes learning the Armenian alphabet, how to write and read it, and a gradual introduction to the main notions of Armenian morphology and syntax, with the gradual acquisition of vocabulary and a meticulous explanation of grammatical facts through exercises in reading original texts. Teaching materials will be distributed by the teacher at the first session.

Ancient Armenian 2 (advanced level): Emilio Bonfiglio (University of Hamburg)

By reading texts in Old Armenian (sometimes called classical) taken from the Bible (New Testament) and classical Armenian authors of the 5th century, we work on the grammar of Old Armenian (nominal and verbal morphology, syntax). The course can be taken by students who have already done some Ancient Armenian and even by false beginners. The texts read are given in class; the dictionaries are freely available online; the grammar handbooks are distributed in electronic format (pdf).

Coptic: Eric Crégheur (Laval University, Québec)

This course is an introduction to Coptic, the indigenous language of ancient Christian Egypt, which was in use between the 3rd and 11th centuries CE. The aim of this introduction is to familiarise students with the spelling, lexicon, morphology, and syntax of standard Sahidic, one of the southern dialects of Coptic. The course includes translation exercises and the use of the main working tools.

Hieroglyphic Egyptian 1 (beginner level): Laurence Neven (University of Liège)

This course is aimed at beginners who wish to familiarise themselves with hieroglyphic writing and the language of the Middle Kingdom (2045-1700 BC). There are no prerequisites for this course. After a detailed explanation of the hieroglyphic system and learning how to read, various points of grammar will be covered to enable students to read short texts or extracts from texts such as autobiographies, tales, hymns, and writings of wisdom.

Hieroglyphic Egyptian 2 (advanced level): Aurore Motte (University of Liège)

This course is aimed at non-beginners: mastery of the hieroglyphic script and the main graphic, morphological and syntactic features of Middle Egyptian are prerequisites. Knowledge of hieratic, the cursive counterpart of hieroglyphic writing, is not necessary. This year's course will be devoted to the discursive legends ('Reden und Rufe') that accompany the so-called scenes of daily life in the tombs of the Egyptian elite. The focus will be on monuments from the first and second millennia BC. After an introduction to this particular corpus and a presentation of philological tools, we will plunge into reading, analysing, translating and commenting on these texts, while exploring the themes of 'daily life' encountered and the interrelationship between image and text. This year's theme will also provide an opportunity to explore notions of page layout in Egyptian epigraphy.

Elamite: François Desset (University of Liège – University of Tehran)

The course is aimed at beginners and false beginners. It focuses on the study of the Iranian plateau before the arrival of Iranian populations, between the end of the 4th and the 1st millennium BC. Basic notions of Iranian archaeology and civilisation will be presented before diving into learning about the different writing systems attested (proto-Elamite, linear Elamite and cuneiform) in this region at this time and the study of the Elamite language (Hatamite). In particular, we will be deciphering texts in linear Elamite script (late 3rd/early 2nd millennium BC) that have only just been deciphered, or in cuneiform script (mainly late 3rd to 2nd millennium BC), all written in the Elamite (Hatamite) language, before proposing a translation based on the few tools currently available. The teaching material will be distributed by the teacher during the course.

Ancient Ethiopian (ge'ez) : Matteo Silvestrini (University of Lausanne)

The course is aimed at absolute beginners. Students will learn to recognise, read and write the alphasyllabic ge'ez and will be introduced to the grammar and lexicon of this ancient dialect of Ethiopia (spoken until the 14th century) and current liturgical language of the Monophysite Church in that country. Students will be able to try their hand at translating some texts from the Book of Enoch and at comparative reading of ancient manuscripts. Teaching materials will be distributed by the teacher at the first session.

Classical Greek: Nadia Belkheir (University of Paris 10-Nanterre)

This course is aimed at beginners and false beginners. It offers a general introduction to the Greek language, the acquisition of the fundamental mechanisms of the language, translation work on simple texts, and an introduction to Hellenistic culture and history.

Modern Greek: Hervé Georgelin (National and Capodistrian University of Athens)

This course is aimed at beginners (who may have studied Ancient Greek before). You will learn the alphabet with contemporary pronunciation so that you can read according to current rules. Attention is paid to the existence of a tonic accent for each word, and a mobile accent for nouns, depending on the grammatical case. Grammar is learnt at roughly the same rate as Italian for a French speaker. It needs to be learned systematically. Morphology has simplified, but nouns can still be of three genders – with many regularities. The verbal system, with aspectual opposition, is approached step by step, according to the needs for expression in everyday life. Everyday vocabulary is the one that requires particular effort, as it is generally not transparent, even for a literate speaker of French. Our preference is for everyday Greek. We try to raise awareness of the influences of Turkish, Italian and French on common vocabulary. The more abstract vocabulary is generally derived from ancient Greek and is

more quickly familiar to French speakers who know their language well. We also try to venture into fictional prose texts, the press or songs, short videos and film extracts to boost the level of oral expression and audio comprehension, but above all to sustain the interest in learning this language, which has been spoken without interruption since Antiquity.

Hebrew 1 (beginner level): Dorit Shilo (Tel Aviv University)

The course combines the learning of Modern Hebrew and Biblical Hebrew, highlighting the differences and similarities between these two states of language so close and so far apart, separated by more than 3000 years. The course is aimed at absolute beginners and its objectives are to learn to read and write, then to speak and finally to study texts in Biblical and modern Hebrew. A few grammar points will also be studied, in particular the strong verb and the flexion of the noun.

Hebrew 2 (advanced level): David Hamidovic (University of Lausanne)

Based on the study of texts from classical Hebrew literature (biblical texts, Dead Sea Scrolls, etc.), basic grammar will be activated or reactivated, particularly weak verbs. Manuscript studies will provide an introduction to Hebrew palaeography, and a number of philological and historical problems will be studied.

Tools to be obtained before the course: Hebrew and English Lexicon, F. Brown, S.R. Driver, C.A. Briggs.

Italic languages: Claudia Zudini (University of Rennes)

Spoken before the arrival of the Romans in the Italic peninsula, the Italic languages represent a branch of the Indo-European language family (Sabellian and Latin-Faliscan languages), but they also include languages of other linguistic affiliations. Using a methodological approach alternating between interactive lessons and practical work, this course looks at the dialects spoken in pre-Roman Italy, with particular attention paid to the dialects of the Osco-Ombrian family (basics of grammar, reading of a selection of inscriptions); it then focuses on the specific features of archaic Latin (influences of neighbouring Italic languages, reading of inscriptions and fragments, study of literary extracts in pre-classical Latin).

Latin: Nadia Belkheir (University of Paris 10-Nanterre)

This introductory course in Latin is aimed at beginners and false beginners. It aims to provide a detailed presentation of the fundamental elements of Latin grammar (the case system, the five declensions of the noun, the adjective, the verbal groups, the indicative mode) based on the reading of original documents at elementary level. There is also a historical introduction illustrating the origins of the Latin language.

Hieroglyphic Luwian: Annick Payne (University Ca'Foscari, Venice)

This course offers an introduction to the Luwian language and the hieroglyphic script, aimed at complete beginners. We will study the basic grammar of the Luwian language and learn to read hieroglyphs with the help of original texts. Both historical and linguistic background will be addressed to consider the larger context.

Ugaritic: Andrew Burlingame (Wheaton College, Chicago)

The course begins with a historical introduction to the cuneiform alphabet, an overview of Ugaritic grammar and an overview of the corpus found in the modern cities of Ras Shamra and Ras Ibn Hani. Students will then work on a selection of easy texts drawn from the main attested literary genres, using reference works necessary for the study of Ugaritic language and literature.

Persian 1 (beginner level): Nazanin Ghadani

The aim of the course is to acquire a basic knowledge of the grammar, spoken language and writing of contemporary standard Persian.

Persian 2 (intermediate level): Saeed Shafiei (University of Lyon 2)

The course offers an immersion into the Persian world through videos, texts in a variety of formats, short film extracts, music, and traditional videos. Students will be able to work on all skills (oral and written comprehension, oral and written expression, grammar and vocabulary). Students will feel more at ease with native speakers in conversation, reading texts such as Persian poetry, historical or political texts, and writing simple texts in Persian.

Middle-Persian: Andrea Piras (University of Bologna)

This course is aimed at students interested in the philology and culture of pre-Islamic Iran during the Sassanid period (3rd-7th centuries). P.O. Skjærvø's textbook Introduction to Pahlavi (downloadable) provides an introduction to the Pahlavi alphabet and its grammar (morphology and syntax). The aim of the course is to guide the student in reading Zoroastrian and Manichaean texts, and to grasp the terminology specific to these two religious systems (beliefs, doctrine, mythology, soteriology and eschatology).

Sanskrit 1 (beginner level): Philippe Swennen (University of Liège)

Sanskrit is the classical language of ancient India, in which the precepts of Brahmanic civilisation are set out. The course is designed for beginners, with no pre-requisites. The introduction provides a general overview of the successive states of the language, with a few words on the main texts illustrating them. The alphabet is described and transliteration exercises are suggested. The grammatical description of the language places particular emphasis on contact phonetics (sandhi) and morphology. These notions are examined through the reading of original texts, taken from epic and classical literature, with an attempt at the end of the course to make contact with the archaic stratum, the Vedic (for example using an extract from the Upanishads). Students will be provided with course materials.

Sumerian: Laurent Colonna d'Istria (Université de Liège)

The Sumerian course is intended as an introduction to the study of this language spoken in southern Mesopotamia during Antiquity and to its textual corpus written in cuneiform. In order to gain a better understanding of the grammatical aspects associated with an orthographic tradition, the course will focus on the language of the 'Neo-Sumerian' period (2200-2000 BC), when Sumerian was still a living language. This period also produced a vast and diverse corpus of documents. Several sessions are devoted to grammar and the study of the language, while introducing the concepts of the cuneiform graphic system. After these sessions, the course focuses on reading texts of various literary genres: royal inscriptions, administrative documents, and letters. Working tools will be provided during the course.

Syriac 1 (beginner level): Simon Brelaud (University of California, Berkeley)

Introduction to East Syriac: learning to write, read, acquire basic vocabulary, and use the tools available for studying Syriac; synthesis of the main grammatical notions; translation of simple texts from the various genres of Syriac literature in order to appreciate its diversity.

Syriac 2 (advanced level): Georges Bohas (Ecole normale supérieure de Lyon)

Training in reading without vowels; introduction to the large dot system; mastery of cliticized pronouns with verbs.

Tigrigna (beginner level): Helen Weldu (University of Lausanne)

Tigrigna, also written Tigrīña or Tigrinya, is an ‘Afro-Asiatic/Chamito-Semitic’ language belonging to the Semitic family and spoken mainly in Eritrea and northern Ethiopia (in the Tigray region). The course provides an introduction to this language and is aimed at beginners wishing to approach the Tigrigna language from a grammatical and lexical point of view, which is sufficient to be able to read and write the alphasyllabic ge‘ez. The course therefore includes the following teaching: vocabulary, oral and written expression, grammar, reading and translation of extracts from sources in Tigrigna.

Bibliography:

John Mason, *Tigrigna Grammar*, The Red Sea Press, Inc, Asmara, 1996

Amanuel Sahle, *Sewasiw Tigrigna B'sefihu*, The Red Sea Press, Inc, Asmara, 1998

Abraham Teklu, *Tigrigna as a second language*, Amazon Italia Longistica, Piemont, 2022

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Old Slavonic (beginner level): Susana Torres Prieto (University of Madrid, Instituto de Empresa in Segovia)

This course is aimed at absolute beginners. Students will first learn the Cyrillic alphabet, and there will also be an introduction to Glagolitic. The course will cover the essentials of morphology and syntax, as well as the aspects of diachronic linguistics needed to situate Old Slavic in relation to other Indo-European languages, Common Slavonic and Slavonic. Once the grammatical bases have been acquired, we will concentrate on reading the Gospels and the Treatise against the Bogomils by Cosmas the priest.

Minor course (to choose): 12 hours

Ancient Egyptian scripts

Laurence Neven (U. Liège)

Introduction to the Eblaite

Ilya Arkhipov (U. Moscow)

New Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek inscriptions

David Hamidovic (U. Lausanne)

Introduction to Ancient Greek

Nadia Belkheir (U. Paris 10-Nanterre)

Classical and Modern Arabic Metrics

Georges Bohas (ENS de Lyon)

Introduction to Hittite

Annick Payne (U. Ca'Foscari, Venice)

Discovering Arabic Music and Song

Salem Khchoum (U. Lyon 2)

Introduction to Phoenician

Andrew Burlingame (Wheaton College, Chicago)

Logical Basements in Arabic Grammar

Mustafa Aloosh (U. Lyon 2)

Discovering Persian Poetry

Saeed Shafiei (U. Lyon 2)

Indo-Iranian Comparatism in Liturgy

Philippe Swennen (U. Liège)

Research seminar: Wednesday morning, 10 July (9 a.m.–noon)

Presentation by student volunteers of their current research in the presence of Summer University lecturers.

Interested students can register by email (matteo.silvestrini@unil.ch) or come along to the kick-off meeting. The final seminar programme will be decided at the end of this meeting.

FAQs: Level 1 courses do not require any prior training.

At the end of the first course, it is possible to change level or language with the agreement of the course leader.

To register, go to

<https://unil.ch/summerschools/langues-orient>

Registration and payment deadline: 30 May 2024

Enrolment will be taken into account once the enrolment fee has been paid.

Please register as soon as possible, as the course will be cancelled if too few people register.

Registration fees:

Full fee: CHF 460

Student rate: 280 CHF

Validation:

Each participant receives a certificate of attendance at the end of the course.

The University of Lausanne grants an official certificate of equivalence of 6 University credits (ECTS) for the completion of a major course and a minor course, after successful completion of the tests and examinations.

Documentation:

Documents designed for the programme are given to each participant by the teacher.

Practical arrangements for the session:

Kick-off meeting (follow the signs for the room) then start of classes: 4 July at 2.00 p.m.

End of course: 13 July at 12.30 p.m.

Affordable **meals** are available at the university restaurant on the island of San Servolo.

Accommodation in single or multi-bedded rooms is offered on the island of San Servolo by San Servolo Servizi (Municipality of Venice) at a negotiated price of €58 per night. Please contact reception@servizimetropolitani.ve.it directly for bookings, mentioning "UNIL" in the subject line.

There are also numerous possibilities for accommodation, such as Airbnb, on the large island of Venice.

The Summer University of Oriental Languages can advise you, but does not manage student accommodation.

NB. You must check that you meet the entry requirements for Italy and Veneto for the duration of your stay in Venice.