

# Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies

Benjamin Hary, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Hebrew, Arabic and Linguistics

### READINGS IN JUDEO-ARABIC TEXTS

MESAS 570 – JS 730 Fall 2006 Tuesday 4–7, Candler 212

#### **Instructor:**

Professor Benjamin Hary
Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian
Studies, The Institute for Jewish Studies Program
and The Program in Linguistics
S309 Callaway Center

Tel.: 404-727-7942; Fax: 404-727-2133 *E-mail*: benjamin.hary@emory.edu

Office Hours: Tue. 3:00-4:00 and by appointment

**General**: Emory University boasts the largest concentration of Judeo-Arabic scholars outside of Israel. To this end, we started in 2005 an interdisciplinary seminar in Judeo-Arabic studies. Each semester the emphasis is on a different discipline. Thus far we have conducted two seminars: in the Fall of 2005 Dr. David Blumenthal conducted the seminar and concentrated on Medieval philosophy and in the Spring of 2006 Dr. Marina Rustow led the seminar and concentrated on paleography and history. This semester I will concentrate on philology and linguistics as well as Judeo-Arabic translations of sacred texts.

**Description**: This course is designed to introduce students to Judeo-Arabic, which has been written and spoken in various forms by Jews throughout the Arabic-speaking world, which was the vast majority of the world's Jews during the Middle Ages. Judeo-Arabic can be examined through different disciplines such as philology, linguistics, history, philosophy, law, literature and more. In this course we will concentrate on philology and linguistics as well as on Judeo-Arabic translations of sacred texts, called the *šarh*.

We will practice reading Judeo-Arabic we will learn the principles of working with original manuscript material – including the branch of manuscript study called paleography, the study of old handwriting We will also examine the various issues connected to Judeo-Arabic orthographies. Furthermore, we will study sociolinguistic issues of Judeo-Arabic, including terminology, periodization, and the sociolinguistic setting of the 'religiolect' within Arabic in general. We will mostly read šarḥ texts and typically from Egypt. The šarḥ – literal translation of sacred texts from Hebrew into Judeo-Arabic is one of the most important genres of the language. The texts of the šarḥ are a rare window on the history of Arabic and its spoken dialects, since they preserve distinctive dialectal features of usage and pronunciation not found in classical Arabic

texts. They are also a major source for understanding translation issues and issues of religious identity among Egyptian Jews.

**Goals**: By the end of this course you will understand the intricacies of Judeo-Arabic and its place in the history of Arabic, on the one hand and its standing among other Jewish languages, on the other hand. You will be able to read a Judeo-Arabic text (most probably a *šarḥ* text) in manuscript form, and analyze it linguistically, identifying major deviations form Classical Arabic and identifying dialectal issues.

#### Books:

Blau, Joshua. 1981. *The Emergence and Linguistic Background of Judaeo-Arabic*. Jerusalem: Ben-Zvi Institute.

Blau, Joshua. 1980. *A Grammar of Mediaeval Judaeo-Arabic*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Jerusalem: The Magnes Press.

Blau, Joshua. 2006. A Dictionary of Mediaeval Judaeo-Arabic Texts. Jerusalem: Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

Hary, Benjamin. 1992. Multiglossia in Judeo-Arabic. Leiden: Brill.

Below is an important bibliography of books and papers in the field.

# Requirements:

Students will need to prepare Judeo-Arabic texts, including manuscripts, to be analyzed in class (see **Reading**). They will also read secondary materials for each session (see **Secondary**). At times students will read additional secondary materials and report to class (see **Reports**). Students will be tested twice during the semester on the progression of their skills in manuscript reading. Furthermore, students will write a research paper, which will include analysis of an unpublished manuscript of a *šarḥ* text.

#### **Honor Code:**

The Emory College Honor Code is in force at all times in this class.

See http://www.emory.edu/COLLEGE/students/honor.html (esp. Article 4)

### **Tentative Schedule:**

(Updates on reading and assignments may be provided throughout the semester in class)

Tuesday, September 5 Introduction to Judeo-Arabic orthography:

Hebrew alphabet; Judeo-Arabic orthography **Reading**: Saadia's Tafsir, Genesis, Chapter 40

Tuesday, September 12 Definitions and terminology in of Judeo-Arabic

Reading: Saadia's Tafsir, Genesis, Chapter 40; Egyptian

*šarh*, Genesis, Chapter 40

**Secondary**: *Encyclopaedia of Islam*<sup>2</sup>, s.v. Judaeo-Arabic: Medieval Judaeo-Arabic (Blau 1978); Judaeo-Arabic Literature (Vajda 1978); Dryefus 1997; Hary 1989; Hary

1992: 71-75

Reports: Blau 1974; Halkin 1960; Khan 2002; Polliack

1998; Steinschneider 1897-1901

Tuesday, September 19 The genre of the šarḥ I

Reading: Egyptian šarh, Genesis, ms work I

**Secondary**: Hary 1994b: 375-377 and 382-387; Hary

2000a

Tuesday, September 26 The genre of the šarḥ II

**Reading**: Egyptian *šarh*, Genesis, ms work II

Secondary: Hary 1991b; Hary 1994a

Tuesday, October 3 Review and quiz

**Reading**: Egyptian *šarh*, Genesis, ms work III

Tuesday, October 10 Fall Break – **No class** 

Tuesday, October 17 Continuuglossia in Arabic and in Judeo-Arabic I

**Reading**: Egyptian *šarḥ*, The Book of Esther, ms work I **Secondary**: Ferguson 1959a; Ferguson 1959b; Hary 1996a;

Hary 2003

Reports: Badawi 1973; Blanc 1960; Blau 1977; Harv

1992: 29-47; Ferguson 1996

Tuesday, October 24 Continuuglossia in Arabic and in Judeo-Arabic II

**Pseudo-Corrections** 

**Reading**: Egyptian *šarḥ*, The Book of Esther, ms work II

Secondary: Hary 2006

Reports: Blau 1963; Blau 1970; El-Hassan 1977; Kaye

1972; Newby 1971

Tuesday, October 31 Middle Arabic; The periods of Judeo-Arabic

**Reading**: Egyptian *šarh*, The Book of Esther, ms work III

**Secondary**: Hary 1989; Hary 1997b; Khan 1992 **Reports**: Hary 1992: 49-69; 71-82; 103-114

Tuesday, November 7 Early and Classical Judeo-Arabic; The Geniza

**Reading**: T-S 10.187, I

Secondary: Hary 1997a; Goitein 1999

Tuesday, November 14 Judeo-Arabic Dialects

**Reading**: T-S 10.187, II

**Secondary**: Judaeo-Arabic Dialects (Cohen 1978); Hary

1994b; Hary 1996b; Hary 2000b

Reports: Blau 1961

Tuesday, November 21 Orthographic traditions in Judeo-Arabic

**Reading**: Egyptian *šarḥ*, Passover *Haggadah*, ms work I **Secondary**: Blau and Hopkins 1984; Hary 1990; Hary

1996c

Reports: Khan 1993

Tuesday, November 28 Judeo-Arabic in its sociolinguistic setting

**Reading**: Egyptian *šarḥ*, Passover *Haggadah*, ms work II

Secondary: Hary 1995; Hary 2003; Stillman 1991

Tuesday, December 5 Hebrew and Aramaic elements in Judeo-Arabic

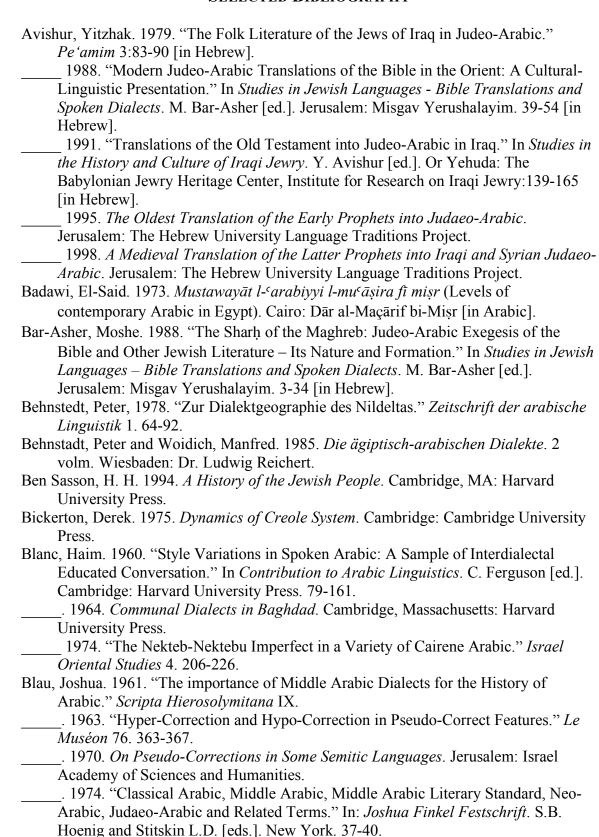
**Reading**: Egyptian *šarh*, Passover *Haggadah*, ms work III

Secondary: Hary 1999

Tuesday, December 12 Review and summary; Presentations of papers

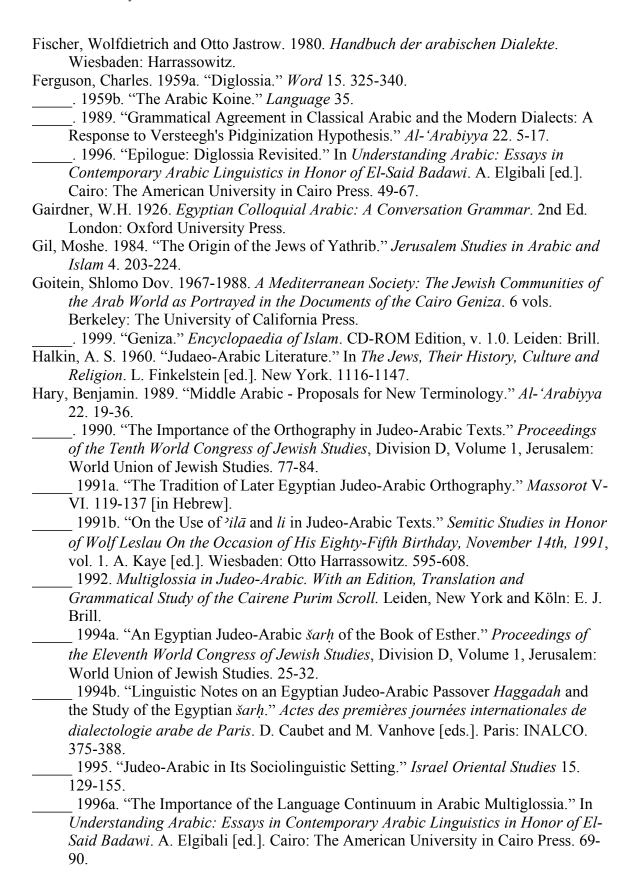
HAVE A PRODUCTIVE SEMESTER AND GOOD LUCK!

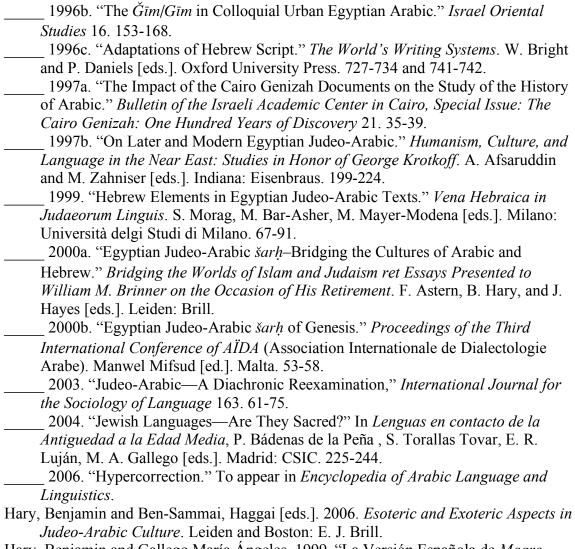
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