Introduction to Sahidic Coptic  
(THE781)

Fall 2013  
Grand Rapids Theological Seminary  
Instructor: Dr. Byard Bennett  
Email: byard.bennett@cornerstone.edu  
Phone: 222-1568

I. Course Description:  
At the completion of this course, the student will be able to

(a) Read, with a dictionary, through the Sahidic Coptic New Testament and non-canonical gospels;  
(b) Understand the contributions of the Sahidic Coptic text to New Testament textual criticism;  
(c) Be familiar with the principal resources relating to the Sahidic dialect (dictionaries, grammars, etc.) used in Coptic studies.

II. Required Text:  

A key to the exercises in Lambdin is available online at  
http://www.uregina.ca/arts/religious-studies/assets/Lambdin.key.htm

III. Coptic Fonts:  
If you wish to type in Coptic, you will also need to download a Unicode-compliant Coptic font.  

Free Unicode-compliant Coptic fonts that can be downloaded over the Internet include

- IFAO N Copte (for Mac OS X), which is available at  
  http://www.ifao.egnet.net/publications/outils/polices/
- Antinoou (for Mac or Windows), which is available at  
  http://www.evertype.com/fonts/coptic/

If you need further information on how to install the keyboard for these fonts, see  
http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~pinax/coptic.html

I personally prefer Linguist’s Software’s Laser Coptic in Unicode package, which includes two superb, well-integrated proprietary fonts (CopticLSU and NagHammadiLSU) (for Mac or Windows) for $99.95.  
For information, see http://www.linguistsoftware.com/lcopu.htm
IV. Bibliography of Further Resources for Study of Sahidic Coptic

Dictionaries
--Joaquim Azevedo, *A Simplified Coptic Dictionary (Sahidic Dialect)*, Cachoeira, BA, Brazil: Centro de Pesquisa de Literatura Bíblica, Seminário Adventista Latino-Americano de Teologia, Campus IAENE, 2001

Grammars
--J. Martin Plumley, *An Introductory Coptic grammar (Sahidic dialect)*, London: Home & Van Thal, 1948
--Christoph Hanns Reintges, *Coptic Egyptian (Sahidic Dialect): A Learner’s Grammar*, Köln: Köppe, 2004
--Orval S. Wintemute, *Coptic Grammar* (unpublished ms. from a graduate seminar given at Duke Univ. in 1987)

Syntax and Morphology
V. Evaluations

The student’s progress in Coptic will be evaluated by 4 quizzes and two translation exams. The dates by which these evaluations must be completed will be confirmed by email.

Quizzes (each 10% of course grade):
These short evaluations will each take about 20 minutes to complete. They will test knowledge of the vocabulary and grammar for the unit by the translation of previously unseen phrases and sentences.

- Quiz #1 will cover Lambdin, chapters 1-10
- Quiz# 2 will cover Lambdin, chapters 11-14
- Quiz #3 will cover Lambdin, chapters 15-22
- Quiz #4 will cover Lambdin, chapters 23-30

Translation Exams:
The first exam (20% of course grade) will take up to an hour to complete (dictionary can be used) and will involve translation of a long passage selected from the Sahidic version of Mk. 1-3 (Hans Quecke, ed., Das Markus-evangelium saïdisch, Barcelona: Papyrologia Castroctaviana, 1972; reproduced in a normalized form with vocabulary notes in Bentley Layton, Coptic in 20 Lessons, Leuven: Peeters, 2007, 177-186).

- You must complete Quiz #3 before you write the first exam.

The final exam (40% of course grade) will take up to two hours to complete (dictionary can be used) and will consist of the translation of extended passages from the Sahidic version of Mark 16:1-8 and 4:2-8, 13-20 (ed. Quecke reproduced in Bentley Layton, A Coptic Grammar, 2000, 443,448, this time without vocabulary notes), plus a long selection from the Gospel according to Mary (=pp. 15-18 of the Papyrus Berolinensis 8502 codex; edition of Anne Pasquier, L’Évangile selon Marie, rev. ed., Québec: Presses de l’Université Laval, 2007)

- You must complete Quiz #4 before you write the final exam.