

Introduction to Sahidic Coptic (THE781)

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Grand Rapids Theological Seminary
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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:

--Thomas O. Lambdin, *Introduction to Sahidic Coptic*, Macon, GA: Mercer Univ. Press, 1983

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://www.brill.com/files/brill.nl/0006_handling_coptic.pdf
<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 Biblica, Seminário Adventista Latino-Americano de Teologia, Campus IAENE, 2001
- W.E. Crum, *A Coptic Dictionary*, Oxford: Clarendon, 1939
- Bruce M. Metzger, *List of Words Occurring Frequently in the Coptic New Testament (Sahidic Dialect). Coptic-English*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1962
- Richard Smith, *A Concise Coptic-English Lexicon*, 2 ed., Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1999

Grammars

- Johanna Brankaer, *Coptic: A Learning Grammar (Sahidic)*, Wiesbaden: Harrasowitz, 2010
- Andrea Eberle and Regine Schulz, *Koptisch: ein Leitfadens durch das Sāidische*, München: Lincom, 2004
- Bentley Layton, *A Coptic Grammar: Sahidic Dialect; with Chrestomathy and Glossary*, rev. 3 ed., Wiesbaden: Harrasowitz, 2011
- idem, *Coptic in 20 Lessons: Introduction to Sahidic Coptic with Exercises and Vocabularies*, Leuven: Peeters, 2007
- Margaret Alice Murray, *Elementary Coptic (Sahidic) Grammar*, 2 ed., London: Bernard Quaritch, 1927
- Tito Orlandi, *Elementi di grammatica copto-saidica*, Rome: C.I.M., 1983
- Uwe-Karsten Plisch, *Einführung in die koptische Sprache: sahidischer Dialekt*, Wiesbaden: Reichert, 1999
- 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
- Georg Steindorff, *Koptische Grammatik mit Chrestomathie, Wörterverzeichnis und Literatur*, Berlin: Verlag von Reuther & Reichard, 1930 (repr. Hildesheim: Gerstenberg Verlag, 1979)
- Walter Curt Till, *Koptische Grammatik (saidischer Dialekt) : mit Bibliographie, Lesestücken und Wörterverzeichnissen*, 6 ed., Leipzig: Verl. Enzyklopädie, 1986
- Sofía Torallas Tovar, *Gramática de Copto Sahídico*, Madrid: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, 2001
- C.C. Walters, *An Elementary Coptic Grammar of the Sahidic Dialect*, Oxford: Aris & Phillips, 2007 (repr. of 1983 rev. edition)
- Orval S. Wintermute, *Coptic Grammar* (unpublished ms. from a graduate seminar given at Duke Univ. in 1987)

Syntax and Morphology

- Joseph N Kickasola, "Sahidic Coptic (N) ... AN Negation Patterns: A Morpho-syntactic Description of Sentences and Adjuncts," Ph.D. thesis, Brandeis Univ., 1975
- Georg Barth Magnus, "Autographemes and Vowel Phonemes in Saidic Coptic," *Orientalia Suecana* 18 (1969): 3-44
- Ariel Shisha-Halevy, *Coptic Grammatical Categories: Structural Studies in the Syntax of Shenoutean Sahidic*, Rome: Pontificium Institutum Biblicum, 1986

--Gregory E. Sterling, *Coptic Paradigms: A Summary of Sahidic Coptic Morphology*, Leuven: Peeters, 2008

--Marvin R Wilson, *Coptic Future Tenses: Syntactical Studies in Sahidic*, The Hague: Mouton, 1970

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 sahidisch*, 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.