Polis – The Jerusalem Institute of Languages and Humanities

COURSE	
Classical Syriac	
ACADEMIC YEAR	**SEMESTER**
2020-2021	Fall
ECTS	**TEACHING HOURS**
5	50 Academic Hours [1 Acad. Hour = 45 min.]
INSTRUCTOR	
Nikolaus WILDNER	

OBJECTIVE

- Western Syriac script (Serto) in reading and writing
- Orthographic/diacritic distinctions (vowels, rukokho/qushoyo, syame)
- Pronounciation according to Western Syriac tradition
- Nominal categories: Gender and number: Nouns, adjectives, demonstratives; Pronouns; Personal suffixes: Possession and inflection of frequent prepositions
- Nominal syntax: relative order of nouns, adjectives, demonstratives
- Basic (and frequent) verbless sentence patterns:
    - (pro)nominal sentences (equational sentences);
    - existential sentences;
    - possessive sentences
- Basic verbal forms: Imperative, past, present, future, participles
- Being able to derive verbal forms from given basis
- Identifying (regular) roots of verbs and their conjugational patterns within the verbal system
- Active core vocabulary: Self-introduction (name, certain occupations); family relations; verbs of motion/frequent activities; body parts; food items; animals; basic prepositions; some emotional states (happy, tired, hungry, thirsty); some qualities (good, bad, big, small, etc.); some adverbs (quickly, slowly, etc.)
- Basic complex syntax:
    - relative clauses;
    - temporal clauses;
    - causal clauses
- Understanding spoken and written commands and responding to them in spoken and written Syriac
- Having a basic conversation in Syriac
- Constructing basic narratives in Syriac

METHODOLOGY

Polis Method: http://www.polisjerusalem.org/polis-method

Total Physical Response (TPR)

Dictation
Storytelling
MODE OF ASSESMENT
Dictation exercises
Oral tests (commands and dialogues)
Final written exam
PROGRAM

- Responding to commands
- Basic dialogues: Greetings; introducing oneself: Name, age, origin
    o Interrogatives: who?, where?, when?, why?
    o Family relations
- Naming objects (in response to visual input)
- Describing objects, people, situations (in response to visual input)
- Simple narratives: Reading them, retelling them; writing simple narratives (in response to visual input)
- Chain-/Transformation exercises for verbal forms (in speech and writing)
- Transforming singular to plural (and vice versa)
- Dictation (transform spoken to written)

BIBLIOGRAPHY
George Kiraz: The New Syriac Primer: An Introduction to the Syriac Language. (Gorgias Handbooks). 2007. Christophe Rico: One, two, three: Practice Book in Classical Syriac