



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO

ID

VP111\_DIP\_STUDIUM

## Visiting Professor Program Academic year 2022/2023

**TEACHING COMMITMENT:** 36 hours

### COURSE TITLE

**Semitic Linguistics: Classical Ethiopic language and literature and their Middle-Eastern background**

### TEACHING PERIOD

1st term

### SCIENTIFIC AREA

Linguistics, Semitic Philology, African Christianity

### LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH

English

### COURSE SUMMARY

The course is a general introduction to Classical Ethiopic (Ge'ez) and will address topics at all levels of linguistic and literary analysis (script, phonology, morpho-syntax, syntax, style, socio-cultural importance of the corpus transmitted in Ge'ez) relevant for typological and historical-comparative linguistics, as well as for a first encounter with a native, original form of African Christianity, linguistically and culturally bound with the Middle East from Late Antiquity throughout the Middle Ages and with Europe from the medieval and especially early modern epochs.

Special attention will be given to the comparison with Classical and Modern Standard Arabic, modern South-Arabian and Afro-Semitic languages, and to the Jewish, East-Christian (most notably Coptic) and early Islamic Biblical and para-Biblical (Midrash-like) literature and motifs, that have been transmitted in Classical Ethiopic, sometimes exclusively and with telling parallels in Qumran literature.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the course are to learn the basis grammar and vocabulary of Ge'ez and be able to use Ge'ez examples and texts in linguistic and philological research. Sample texts will be read

and analyzed by teacher and students in a workshop setting so as to enable the learners to read the Classical Ethiopic script and analyze, translate and comment upon a Classical Ethiopic text, using updated bibliographic resources: grammars, vocabularies, histories of literature and encyclopedic reference tools.

#### **TUTORSHIP ACTIVITIES**

N/A

#### **LAB ACTIVITIES**

N/A

#### **OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDES THE COURSE**

The Visiting Professor will present the results of her/his research in a seminar organized with and for Turin colleagues specialised in African and Middle-Eastern studies.

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#### **VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE**

The visiting professor is a university lecturer, specialised in the study and teaching of Semitic languages in a broad comparative perspective. He/she has special experience and provable expertise in teaching Semitic languages, with attention to the historical contexts in which texts have been produced and transmitted. Within the field of Comparative Semitics, preference will be given to a scholar with publications and teaching experiences on historical linguistics and language history, syntax, language teaching, Biblical and post-Biblical literature, Qumran and Rabbinic literature, Midrash.

#### **CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT**

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