ID

VP42_DIP_STUDIUM

Visiting Professor Program
Academic year 2021/2022

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

TEACHING COMMITMENT: 36 hours

COURSE TITLE

An Introduction to the Amharic Language

TEACHING PERIOD

2nd term

SCIENTIFIC AREA

African Linguistics

LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH

English

COURSE SUMMARY

It will be a crash course in Amharic, the most widely spoken and federal working language of Ethiopia.

The course will provide an introduction on the language and its classification. The topics covered will be:

- script (Ethiopic syllabary)
- phonology: ejectives
- morphology: the verbal system
- syntax: word order; simple sentences; an introduction to subordination.

The course will - if possible - make use of recordings from native speakers.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To give students in African languages and linguistics in Turin a preliminary but sound knowledge of a major African language and of an African script.
- To give students of Semitic languages taught in Turin (Arabic, Hebrew, and Syriac) a preliminary but sound knowledge of Ethiosemitic and its peculiarities in phonology (the "emphatics"), morphosyntax (changes in the verbal system and in word order) and lexicon (the role of sub- and adstratum).
- To give students in Linguistics a preliminary but sound knowledge of a consistently verb-final language and, among others, of its syntax at the phrase and clause level.
- Students from other departments (e.g. MA students in Cultural Anthropology) are also likely to profit from the course.

TUTORSHIP ACTIVITIES

N/A

LAB ACTIVITIES

N/A

OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDES THE COURSE

N/A

VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE

The visiting professor is expected to enjoy international visibility in the field of African linguistics and/or of Ethiopian studies, to have a solid knowledge of Amharic and to have published a sizable number of scholarly works in international journals and venues. He/She must further have a rich experience in teaching at university (both graduate and undergraduate) level.

CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT

Prof. Mauro Tosco
mauro.tosco@unito.it