

Course Syllabus**Academic year: 2025/2026****I. General Information**

Course name	Introduction to Biblical Coptic Language
Programme	general university courses
Level of studies (BA, BSc, MA, MSc, long-cycle MA)	MA
Form of studies (full-time, part-time)	full-time
Discipline	Biblical Sciences
Language of instruction	English

Course coordinator	Fr. Dr Tomasz Bąk
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Type of class (<i>use only the types mentioned below</i>)	Number of teaching hours	Semester	ECTS Points
tutorial	30	II	2

Course pre-requisites	knowledge of English at the B2 level
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II. Course Objectives

<p>C1- perfecting communicative skills in a foreign language at an academic level, relating to the field of study</p> <p>C2- To provide the student with knowledge concerning the most important grammatical phenomena of the Sahidic dialect of the Coptic language and a basic Coptic vocabulary.</p> <p>C3- To make the student interested in Coptic as the last phase of the development of the Egyptian language in the context of Christianity being born in Egypt in the 2nd and 3rd cc. AD.</p> <p>C4- To teach the student to translate the simplest biblical texts in Coptic using available dictionaries.</p>
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III. Course learning outcomes with reference to The Polish Qualifications Framework

Symbol	Description of course learning outcome	Reference to The Polish Qualifications Framework
KNOWLEDGE		
Un_ZJO_W_01	understands foreign language utterances, including specialist terminology related to the field of study	P7S_WG1
SKILLS		
Un_ZJO_U_01	is capable of fluent oral and written communication in a foreign language, including the use of specialist terminology related to the field of study	P7S_UW3
Un_ZJO_U_02	actively participates in discussions in a foreign language	P7S_UK1

	on general topics and those related to the field of study, understands complex utterances and refers to presented arguments	
Un_ZJO_U_03	uses a wide range of literature in a foreign language, including specialist literature relevant to the field of study	P7S_UW1
SOCIAL COMPETENCIES		
Un_ZJO_K_01	recognises the importance of knowledge and skills in a foreign language and the culture of the country whose language they are learning for their professional development and functioning in society	P7S_KK2

IV. Course Content

The Coptic language constitutes the last phase of the development of the Egyptian language. In order to write the text of Holy Scripture, the Egyptian Christians living in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD most likely synthesised the Greek alphabet and the characters borrowed from the Egyptian demotic script, thus creating a new language – Coptic. They developed various dialects of Coptic, the most important of which was Sahidic spoken mainly in Upper Egypt. It is in this dialect that most of the original Coptic works and the original version of the Bible translated from the Greek Septuagint were written.

Studying Coptic gives you the opportunity to learn one of the oldest translations of Holy Scripture as well as early Christian monastic literature. This also paves the way for studying Gnostic and Manichean literature.

The programme content of the seminar:

1. The alphabet of the Coptic language and its reading rules.
2. Gender, number, articles.
3. Basic information about the noun.
4. Basic information about the adjective.
5. Basic information about the verb.
6. Relative sentences and various ways of negation.
7. Possessive pronoun.
8. Nominal clauses.
9. Personal and interrogative pronouns.
10. The forms and uses of the infinitive.
11. The rules for creating and using the direct and indirect object.
12. Present tense – construction and use.
13. Past tense – construction and use.
14. Future tense – construction and use.

All these issues will be discussed theoretically and presented on specific examples from Holy Scripture. Students will do exercises during each seminar and as part of their homework.

V. Didactic methods used and forms of assessment of learning outcomes

Symbol	Didactic methods <i>(choose from the list)</i>	Forms of assessment <i>(choose from the list)</i>	Documentation type <i>(choose from the list)</i>
KNOWLEDGE			
Un_ZJO_W_01	Work with text	Test	Evaluated test
SKILLS			
Un_ZJO_U_01	Textual analysis	Test	Evaluated test

Un_ZJO_U_02	Group work	Observation	Observation report
Un_ZJO_U_03	Practical exercises	Short tasks	Record in the gradebook
SOCIAL COMPETENCIES			
Un_ZJO_K_01	Discussion	Observation	Observation report

VI. Grading criteria, weighting factors.....

The final grade will be given based on the results of the tests (60%) and the degree of the correctness of the philological exercises (20%). Also, students' involvement and activities during the classes will be taken into account (20%).

VII. Student workload

Form of activity	Number of hours
Number of contact hours (with the teacher)	30
Number of hours of individual student work	30

VIII. Literature

Basic literature
Crum, W.E., <i>A Coptic Dictionary</i> (Eugene, Oregon 2005).
Lambdin, T.O., <i>Introduction to Sahidic Coptic</i> (Macon, Georgia 1998).
Layton, B., <i>A Coptic Grammar</i> (Wiesbaden 2004).
Additional literature
Brankaer, J., <i>Coptic. A Learning Grammar (Sahidic)</i> (Wiesbaden 2010).
Buzi, P., Soldati, A. <i>La lingua copta</i> (Milano 2021).
Dembska, A. – Myszor, W., <i>Podręczny słownik koptyjsko-polski</i> (Warszawa 1996).
Layton, B., <i>Coptic in 20 Lessons</i> (Leuven-Paris-Dudley 2007).
Myszor, W., <i>Język koptyjski</i> (Warszawa 1998).
Shisha-Halevy, A., <i>Coptic Grammatical Chrestomathy</i> (Leuven 1988).
Stern, L., <i>Koptische Grammatik</i> (Osnabrück 1971).