

# **The Story of Writing: The Origins and Development of Writing Systems**

**Prof. Sasha Nikolaev**

BU, Department of Classical Studies



Wednesday, November 20, 2013

7:00 to 9:00 pm

KCB (565 Commonwealth Ave.) room 101

An overview of the major types of writing systems, their structure, and their historical evolution. This lecture will focus on the history of writing in the Mediterranean region, also briefly discussing several writing systems used in East Asia. We will survey the Egyptian hieroglyphs, the Sumerian-Akkadian cuneiform, the Phoenician consonantal script (abjad), and finally the Greek and Roman alphabets. To complement this historical overview, a typology of writing systems will be presented; we will also discuss the feasibility of a writing system completely devoid of any reference to the phonological structure of a language. All those interested in ancient languages and civilizations, historical linguistics, and phonology are invited. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

Sponsored by the **Linguistics Program, Department of Romance Studies**.  
Co-sponsored by the **BU undergraduate Linguistics Association (BULA)**  
and the **BU undergraduate Classics Association**.

This is also a Facebook event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/544705238943096/>

RSVP's (on Facebook, or via email to [carol@bu.edu](mailto:carol@bu.edu)) would be much appreciated, so that we can be sure to have enough refreshments for everybody :-)