

Unit Outline



OT302/502 Old Testament Prophets and Writings

QUEENSLAND THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

About this Unit Outline

This unit outline contains information you will need to find your way around the unit **Old Testament Prophets and Writings**. It attempts to provide a structure for your learning, giving details of the topics, and how they will be assessed.

UNIT OUTLINE **SEMESTER 2, 2015**

Important notice

While every care has been taken to ensure accuracy in the information given below, it is **the personal responsibility of each student to check the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook**, copies of which may be found in the Library or online at www.actheology.edu.au

It is very important that students plan their time carefully to ensure that reading and especially assignments receive adequate attention.

It is very important that all quoted material in assignments be properly footnoted and acknowledged. The attention of students is drawn to the section in the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook, headed "**Academic Misconduct**". Failure to comply with the standards required will incur penalties as outlined in the ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook.

The attention of students is also drawn to the section in the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook, headed "**Guidelines for Essays.**" (see also the QTC Student Handbook) All essays should comply with these standards.

Information about this unit

Unit description

OT302/502 Old Testament Prophets and Writings forms the foundation upon which all further study of the Old Testament builds. This unit is thus concerned not so much with the critical issues of Old Testament studies, as with the biblical history as it is recorded in the Old Testament. The study is undertaken in the light of the various ancient contexts of the biblical narrative, illustrated by modern archaeological findings. OT302/502 covers the Prophetic books or Latter Prophets and the wisdom literature of the Old Testament and writings such as Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah.

Learning Outcomes

OT302 Learning Outcomes

- To assist candidates acquire an overall acquaintance with the text of the Old Testament, as one of the two primary documents of biblical studies and Christian ministry;
- To provide candidates with an overview of the contents of literature in the Old Testament, taking into account the nature of that literature;
- To give candidates an overall historical framework within which to interpret the books of the Old Testament.;
- To ensure that candidates have an appreciation of the appropriate Ancient Near Eastern background (cultural, religious and archaeological) and its significance for understanding the Old Testament;
- To provide candidates with an understanding of major theological themes of the Old Testament and their significance for Christian theology;
- To enable candidates to begin a more detailed exploration of some aspects of Old Testament studies;
- To consider the implications of the Old Testament for Christian life and thought.

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- To give candidates an overall historical framework within which to interpret the books of the Old Testament;
- To ensure that candidates have an appreciation of the appropriate Ancient Near Eastern background (cultural, religious and archaeological) and its significance for understanding the Old Testament;
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How this unit contributes to the course

This unit should be thought of in the first instance as a *primary documents course* with a focus on reading the Old Testament books well. It aims to give students the confidence to use the OT in future ministry. Moreover, it endeavours to introduce students to the issues of biblical theology and OT ethics.

Pre-requisites and Co-requisites

This unit is a core unit within the courses of the ACT. There are no pre-requisites for this unit.

How this unit is organised and what we expect of you

The unit is taught over a 13 week semester. There are three lectures each week, each of 50 minutes duration.

This unit will involve 3 hours per week of contact time. This unit is worth 4 credit points toward your degree. At Diploma or Bachelor level, a 4cp unit is considered to require a total time commitment of 6–8 hours per week, and 7–9 hours at MDiv level. Students are required to attend all lectures, complete any set pre-reading and complete assessment tasks by the relevant due date.

Teaching staff

LECTURERS

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Unit Timetable: topics & teaching & learning activities

Week	Topic	Lecturer	Readings
Week 1	Isaiah	Tony Pyles	Isaiah; L&D 301–20
	Don Carson Week	No Classes	
Week 2	Jeremiah	Tony Pyles	Jeremiah; L&D 321–41
Week 3	Ezekiel	Tony Pyles	Ezekiel; L&D 354–370
*Week 4 ¹	The Book of the Twelve	Weber Hsu	Hosea–Malachi; L&D 397–496
Week 5	The Book of the Twelve, pt 2	Weber Hsu	Hosea–Malachi; L&D 397–496
Week 6	Psalms	Tony Pyles	Psalms; L&D 237–64
Week 7	Job	Doug O’Donnell	Job; L&D 224–36
Week 8	Proverbs	Doug O’Donnell	Proverbs; L&D 265–77
	Mission/ Holidays	No classes	
Week 9	Ruth, Song of Songs	Doug O’Donnell	Ruth, Song of Songs; L&D 144–50, 289–300
Week 10	Ecclesiastes	Doug O’Donnell	Ecclesiastes; L&D 278–88
Week 11	Lamentations, Esther, Daniel	Tony Pyles	Lamentations, Esther, Daniel; L&D 342–53, 213–23, 371–96
Week 12	Ezra-Nehemiah	Weber Hsu	Ezra-Nehemiah; L&D 202-12
Week 13	Chronicles	Tony Pyles	Chronicles; L&D 190-201

L&D = Longman, Tremper and Raymond B Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*.

¹ Due to the Brisbane Exhibition Public Holiday on Wed. 12 August, Week 4’s Wednesday timetable (including all three hours of our lecture) will run on the makeup day (Aug 14), Friday of Week 4. OT302/502 will commence at 1.25pm.

OT302 Assessments

Assessments are submitted online via Moodle.

In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.

Unless an extension has been applied for and granted in accordance with the Late Penalty Policy found in the QTC Handbook, where a student submits an assessment past its due date, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of 3% of the total possible marks for the assessment item per calendar day, up to 14 days late.

Your essays must also be within 10% of the required word limit and your ability to meet this requirement will also be taken into account in determining your mark. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time and within an acceptable length are essential skills.

ASSESSMENT TASK	DESCRIPTION
<p>2000 word Essay</p> <p>50%</p>	<p>Write a 2000 word essay on one of the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the main themes of the prophecy of Isaiah? 2. Is the message of Jeremiah hopeful or depressing? 3. What are the distinctive themes of Ezekiel? 4. Referring to any two of the 'Minor' Prophets, highlight the similarities and distinctives of the message of each book.
<p>90 minute Exam</p> <p>50%</p>	<p>Students must answer six from ten short questions and one from three essay questions. The short questions are worth 2/3 of the exam (33% of the unit) and the long question is worth 1/3 of the exam (17% of the unit)</p>

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ASSESSMENT TASK	DESCRIPTION
<p>2500 word Essay</p> <p>40%</p>	<p>Write a 2500 word essay on one of the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the final form of the book of Isaiah have a coherent message? 2. To what extent is it appropriate to characterize Jeremiah's ministry as 'incarnational'? 3. Is it fair to characterize Ezekiel as a priestly book? 4. Can the 12 Minor Prophets be understood as one book? Why, or why not?
<p>2 hour Exam</p> <p>60%</p>	<p>Students must answer three from seven short questions and two from five essay questions. The short questions are worth 1/3 of the exam (20% of the unit) and the long questions are worth 2/3 of the exam (40% of the unit).</p>

Guide to Assessments

What are we looking for?

As in OT 301/501, the crucial element in these assessment pieces and in the Exam, is demonstrating that you have an excellent grasp of the primary texts in question. Of course, we do want you to augment your arguments/answers by demonstrating an awareness of the key issues in current and historic interpretation of these texts, but the bedrock of this course is a careful and nuanced reading of the texts themselves. The largest part of your answers then should be based on the text of the biblical book you are discussing and its interpretation, and also articulating the overall concerns and strategies (the 'message' of the book itself).

Learning Resources

Essential References – Textbook

Longman, Tremper, III, and Raymond B Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006. [This is a concise introduction to the critical, literary, and theological issues of each book of the Old Testament and includes bibliography relevant to individual books.]

Other References

Alexander, T. Desmond and Brian S. Rosner, eds. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Leicester/Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2000.

Boda, Mark J. and J. Gordon McConville, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament Prophets*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2012.

Childs, Brevard Springs. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.

Davis, Dale Ralph, *The Word Became Fresh*. Tain: Christian Focus, 2006.

Estes, Daniel J. *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Gospel and Wisdom*. Flemington Markets: Lancer, 1987.

Hamilton, James. *God's Glory in Salvation through Judgment*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.

House, Paul R. *The Unity of the Twelve*. Bible and Literature 27. JSOTSup 97. Sheffield: Almond, 1990.

---. *Old Testament Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1998.

Kidner, Derek. *Wisdom of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes*. Leicester: InterVarsity, 1985.

LaSor, William S., David A. Hubbard, and Frederic W. Bush. *Old Testament Survey*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.

Longman, Tremper, III, and Peter Enns. *Dictionary of Wisdom, Poetry and Writings*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2008.

McConville, J. G., *Exploring the Old Testament, volume 4: Prophets*. London: SPCK, 2002.

O'Donnell, Douglas S. *The Beginning and End of Wisdom*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011.

Provan, Iain, V. Philips Long, and Tremper Longman, III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2003.

Satterthwaite, Philip E., and J. Gordon McConville. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Historical Books*. London: InterVarsity, 2007.

VanGemeren, Willem, ed. *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis: Volume 4 - Topical Dictionary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997. [Helpful essays on the theology of specific books]

Webb, Barry G., *Five Festal Garments: Christian Reflections on the Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes and Esther*. New Studies in Biblical Theology. Leicester: InterVarsity, 2001.

ACT Standards

Grades

Grades in assessment instruments are awarded in the following categories-

Grade	Score	GPA
Fail (F)	0-49%	0
Pass (P)	50-57%	1
Pass+(P+)	58-64%	1.5
Credit (C)	65-74%	2
Distinction (D)	75-84%	3
High Distinction (HD)	85+%	4