

Unit Outline



QTC



# OT301/501 Old Testament Foundations Townsville Campus

QUEENSLAND THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

## About this Unit Outline

This unit outline contains information essential to finding your way around the unit **Old Testament Foundations – Townsville**. It provides a structure for your learning, giving details of lecture topics, assessment requirements, and key resources.

UNIT OUTLINE **SEMESTER 1 2016**

## 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](http://www.actheology.edu.au)

It is very important that students plan their time carefully to ensure that reading and especially assignments receive adequate attention and so as to prevent a bottleneck of work at the end of the semester.

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

This unit will introduce students to key features of the contents and background of the Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) and the Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, 1–2 Samuel, and 1–2 Kings).

## Learning objectives

### **OT301 Learning Outcomes**

#### Know and understand

1. The Pentateuch/Torah
  - a) Genesis 1-11
  - b) Genesis 12-50
  - c) Exodus
  - d) Leviticus/Numbers
  - e) Deuteronomy
2. The Historical Books/Formers Prophets
  - a) Joshua and Judges
  - b) 1 and 2 Samuel
  - c) 1 and 2 Kings

#### Be able to

1. Discuss the content and character of the writings of the Pentateuch/Torah and the Historical Books/Formers Prophets
2. Explain the influence of the Ancient Near Eastern background on the Pentateuch/Torah and the Historical Books/Formers Prophets
3. Analyse the themes and theology of the Pentateuch/Torah and the Historical Books/Formers Prophets

#### Be in a position to

1. Integrate perspectives from 'Old Testament Foundations' with their other theological studies
2. Apply perspectives from 'Old Testament Foundations' to current issues in Christian life and thought

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1. The Pentateuch/Torah
  - a) Genesis 1-11
  - b) Genesis 12-50
  - c) Exodus
  - d) Leviticus/Numbers
  - e) Deuteronomy
2. The Historical Books/Former Prophets
  - a) Joshua and Judges
  - b) 1 and 2 Samuel
  - c) 1 and 2 Kings
3. Selected approaches to the Pentateuch/Torah and the Historical Books/Former Prophets

#### Be able to:

1. Discuss the content and character of the writings of the Pentateuch/Torah and the Historical Books/Former Prophets
2. Explain the influence of the Ancient Near Eastern background on the Pentateuch/Torah and the Historical Books/Former Prophets
3. Analyse the themes and theology of the Pentateuch/Torah and the Historical Books/Former Prophets
4. Evaluate selected approaches to the Pentateuch/Torah and the Historical Books/Former Prophets

#### Be in a position to

1. Integrate perspectives from 'Old Testament Foundations' with their other theological studies
2. Apply perspectives from 'Old Testament Foundations' to current issues in Christian life and thought

## **How this Unit Contributes to the Course**

At QTC, all students studying towards the MDiv, GradDipDiv, BTh, BMin, DipTh, DipMin or Wordworks usually include this unit within their course. This unit provides a foundation for further advanced Old Testament study.

This unit is designed as a PRIMARY DOCUMENT unit; therefore the main objective is to ensure that students have a deep familiarity with the text of Genesis-2 Kings as a foundation for further study of the Old Testament.

## **Pre-requisites and Co-requisites**

This is a core unit and as such there are no pre-requisites or co-requisites associated with it.

## How this unit is organized & what we expect of you

This unit will be taught over two intensive blocks of 3 days each, plus two internet sessions. The first intensive block will run from Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February to Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February. **It is expected that the biblical texts to be covered are read at least once in advance of class.** You will also be expected to read the relevant section of the course textbook (Dillard & Longman) *before each intensive block*. Lectures will be supported where appropriate with lecture outlines. **Please note that all students are expected to read the books covered in their entirety at least three times during the semester.**

Following the February intensive, there will be a skype tutorial held to cover questions from the reading, questions from the intensive teaching time and preparation for the essays.

The second intensive block will run from Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May. Following the May intensive, there will be a skype tutorial which will cover questions from the reading, questions from the previous weekend and preparation for the take-home exam.

This unit is 4 credit points in value. At degree level a 4 cp unit is considered to require 3-5 hours of time commitment per week outside of lecture and skype times.

Students are required to attend all lectures, complete the set pre reading and complete all assessment tasks by the due date.

## Teaching staff

LECTURER & UNIT CO-ORDINATOR

**Rev Dr Gary Millar**

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E [gmillar@qtc.edu.au](mailto:gmillar@qtc.edu.au)

LECTURER

**Dr Douglas Green**

P 07 3149 3651

E [dgreen@qtc.edu.au](mailto:dgreen@qtc.edu.au)

Please feel free to contact Gary or Doug if you have any problems or concerns about the course.

## Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

Subject to adjustment

### Required pre-reading for the February Weekend:

Dillard, R.B. and T. Longman. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006. Chapters 1-6

### Required pre-reading for the May Weekend:

Dillard, R.B. and T. Longman. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006. Chapters 7-11

WEEK	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS*
<i>Weekend 1: 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2016</i>		
Thurs 6-9pm - GM	The importance of Reading Introducing Genesis – Genesis 1-11 Teaching Genesis 1-11 in the modern world	Gen 1-11
Fri 9am–12 noon – GM	Reading Biblical Narratives - Genesis 12-50 A very brief introduction to academic study of the Pentateuch	Gen 12-50
Fri 1-3.30pm – GM	Exodus The Bible, Archaeology and Ancient History	Exodus
Fri 4-6pm – GM	Leviticus Preaching Christ from the Old Testament	Leviticus
Sat 9am-12 noon - GM	Numbers	Numbers
Sat 1-4pm – GM	Deuteronomy	Deuteronomy
Date TBA	2 hour skype tutorial – The message of the Pentateuch - questions from reading/previous weekend / preparing for essays	
<i>Weekend 2: 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016</i>		
Thurs 6-9pm - DG	Joshua The problem of an angry God	Joshua
Fri 9am-12 noon – DG	Judges On learning to read Old Testament Narrative	Judges
Fri 1-3.00pm – DG	1 Samuel Is there any history in the historical books?	1 Samuel
Fri 3.30-6pm – DG	2 Samuel The King and the Messiah	2 Samuel
Sat 9am –12 noon – DG	1 Kings Why prophecy matters	1 Kings
Sat 1-4pm- DG	2 Kings Is the end really the end?	2 Kings
Date TBA	2 hour skype tutorial – exam prep/essay writing Questions from reading/previous weekend	

## OT301 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.**

Late submission of assessment, without prior permission, will be taken into account in determining your mark.

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 & within an acceptable length are essential skills.

ASSESSMENT TASK	DESCRIPTION
<p><b>Take-Home Exam</b></p> <p><b>2000 words total</b></p> <p><b>45% of final grade</b></p> <p><b>DUE: 22 April 2016</b></p>	<p>The Take-Home Exam will consist of four compulsory questions relating to Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. These topics will be covered during the first intensive teaching weekend.</p> <p>Each of the four answers will be approximately 500 words in length, 2000 words in total.</p> <p>Students will be issued with the examination paper via Moodle on week before the due date.</p>
<p><b>Essay</b></p> <p><b>2500 words total</b></p> <p><b>55% of final grade</b></p> <p><b>DUE: 10 June 2016</b></p>	<p>Write a 2500 word essay on ONE of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How can the book of Joshua be applied responsibly today?</li> <li>2. It has been suggested that Judges is the darkest book in the Bible – do you agree?</li> <li>3. How is David portrayed in the books of Samuel and why does this matter for Christian Theology?</li> <li>4. What are the major themes of the books of Kings and how are they relevant for Christians?</li> </ol>

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Late submission of assessment, without prior permission, will be taken into account in determining your mark.

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 & within an acceptable length are essential skills.

ASSESSMENT TASK	DESCRIPTION
<p><b>Take-Home Exam</b></p> <p><b>2500 words total</b></p> <p><b>45% of final grade</b></p> <p><b>DUE: 22 April 2016</b></p>	<p>The Take-Home Exam will consist of five compulsory questions relating to Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. These topics will be covered during the first intensive teaching weekend.</p> <p>Each of the five answers will be approximately 500 words in length, 2500 words in total.</p> <p>Students will be issued with the examination paper via Moodle on week before the due date.</p>
<p><b>Essay</b></p> <p><b>3000 words total</b></p> <p><b>55% of final grade</b></p> <p><b>DUE: 10 June 2016</b></p>	<p>Write a 3000 word essay on ONE of the following, paying attention to the Ancient Near East context, and showing an awareness of the range of views on these books/issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the book of Joshua optimistic?</li> <li>2. In the book of Judges, what does it mean to be a 'judge'?</li> <li>3. Compare and contrast David and Saul in the books of Samuel.</li> <li>4. Is it meaningful to speak of the 'message' of the books of Kings? If not, justify your conclusion. If it is, how would you articulate this message?</li> </ol>



## Guide to Assessments

1. It is important to remember that these assessments are designed *to test if you have grasped the basic shape and message of the part of the Bible you are considering* (looking at the historical context, appreciating the kind of literature we are reading and how that works, and then how this part of the Bible fits into the whole flow of Scripture). We are not asking you to master the secondary literature on that particular book (or part of a book). Whilst in essays, some interaction with secondary literature (primarily commentaries, especially the introductory discussions) and longer dictionary articles is expected, the assessment will be marked first and foremost on the extent to which you display familiarity with and understanding of the biblical text.
2. Which questions should I choose to answer? Choose a part of the Bible that you are interested in or intrigued by! You will complete a better assessment/ exam answer if you are engaged!
3. In both exams and essays, make sure that you ANSWER THE QUESTION! Before you start to write, you may find it helpful to make sure that you can answer the question asked in a couple of sentences, and then take some time to make sure that your essay is structured appropriately.
4. Your main aim in each of your take-home exam answers should be to briefly summarize the major important points in relation to the question set, in a way that directly answers the question. The take-home exam is not seen as a research exercise, and so you are not expected to do a large amount of reading for it. You should answer the questions from what you have learnt in lectures, from the Bible, from the textbook (Dillard and Longman), and if you wish a small number of other resources (which do not need to be specialist scholarly works: reference-level and textbook-level works are fine. If you do use resources beyond the lectures and the textbook very well, this will contribute to your mark – but the main thing you will be marked on will be your ability to clearly and accurately give a short answer to the question. This should be an answer which argues a case rather than just lists off or describes relevant facts and details. All direct quotations in your answers from books and articles should be footnoted, but there is no need to footnote the lectures.

## Learning Resources

**Required Text – you will be expected to read the relevant sections of this textbook after each class:**

Dillard, R.B. and T. Longman. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006.

### OTHER RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

#### ***Old Testament History, Background, Interpretation and Theology***

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

Kitchen, Kenneth A., *On the reliability of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2006.

La Sor, William Sanford, David Allan Hubbard, Frederic William Bush, and Leslie C. Allen. *Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form, and Background of the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996.

Pratt, Richard L. *He Gave us Stories: The Bible Student's Guide to Interpreting Old Testament Narratives*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1993.

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

VanGemeren, Willem, ed. *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology & Exegesis*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997.

Walton, John H., *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2006.

#### ***On the Pentateuch***

Alexander, T. Desmond, *From Pentateuch to Promised Land*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2012.

Alexander, T. Desmond & David W. Baker eds. *The Dictionary of the Pentateuch*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2003.

Clines David J. A., *The Theme of the Pentateuch*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.

Wenham, Gordon J. *Exploring the Old Testament, Volume 1: A Guide to the Pentateuch*. Exploring the Old Testament 1. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2008.

**On Contentious Issues**

Collins, C. John, *Did Adam and Eve really exist?* Leicester: IVP, 2011.

Lennox, J. *Seven days that divide the world*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

**On the Former Prophets**

McConville, J. Gordon, *Grace in the End*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1993.

McConville, J. Gordon, & P. E. Satterthwaite, *Exploring the Old Testament, Volume 2: A Guide to the Historical Books*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2012.

**Commentaries on Genesis**

Waltke, Bruce W. *Genesis : A Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

Walton, John H. *Genesis: the NIV Application Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

Wenham, Gordon J. *Genesis 1-15*. Word Biblical Commentaries 1. Dallas, TX: Word, 1987.

Wenham, Gordon J. *Genesis 16-50*. Word Biblical Commentaries 2. Dallas, TX: Word, 1994.

**Commentaries on Exodus**

Enns, Peter W. *Exodus: The NIV Application Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000.

Fretheim, Terence. *Exodus*. Louisville, KY: John Knox, 1991.

**Commentaries on Leviticus**

Kiuchi, Nobuyoshi. *Leviticus & Numbers*. Apollos Old Testament Commentary 3. Leicester: IVP, 2007.

Sklar, Jay. *Leviticus*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries 3. Leicester: IVP, 2014

Wenham Gordon J. *The Book of Leviticus*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1979.

**Commentaries on Numbers**

Ashley, Timothy R. *The Book of Numbers*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1993.

Olson, Dennis T. *Numbers*. Interpretation Commentaries. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1996.

Wenham, Gordon J. *Numbers: an introduction and commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Leicester: IVP, 1981.

### **Commentaries on Deuteronomy**

Block, Daniel I. *Deuteronomy: The NIV Application Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012

Craigie, Peter C. *The Book of Deuteronomy*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1976.

McConville, J. Gordon. *Deuteronomy*. Apollos Old Testament Commentary. Leicester: Apollos, 2002.

Wright, Christopher J. H. *Deuteronomy*. New International Biblical Commentary Old Testament Series 4. Peabody: Hendricksen, 1996

### **Commentaries on Joshua**

Hess, R. *Joshua*, Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Leicester: IVP, 2008

Woudstra, M. *Joshua*, New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1981.

### **Commentaries on Judges**

Webb, Barry G., *Judges*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2012.

Block, Daniel I., *Judges*. New American Commentary. Nashville, TN: Holman, 1999.

### **Commentaries on 1,2, Samuel**

Woodhouse, John. *1 Samuel: Looking for a leader*, Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.

Woodhouse, John. *2 Samuel, Your Kingdom Come*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway 2015.

Firth, David, G. *1 & 2 Samuel*. Apollos Old Testament Commentary. Nottingham: Apollos, 2009.

### **Commentaries on 1,2 Kings**

Provan, Iain M, *1 & 2 Kings*, New International Biblical Commentary, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2000

Wray Beal, Lissa M., *1 & 2 Kings*. Apollos Old Testament Commentary. Nottingham: Apollos, 2014.

### **Other Resources**

Clines, D.J. A. 'New Directions on Pooh Studies' available at <http://drms.com/Clines%20New%20Directions%20in%20Pooh%20Studies.pdf>

## 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