

Unit Outline



OT302/502 Old Testament Prophets and Writings Brisbane

QUEENSLAND THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

About this Unit Outline

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

UNIT OUTLINE **SEMESTER 2 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.acttheology.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

Old Testament Prophets and Writings (OT302/502) and *Old Testament Foundations* (OT301/501) form the foundation upon which all further study of the Old Testament builds. They are 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.

Old Testament Prophets and Writings (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 objectives

OT302 Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, students will:

Know and understand:

1. The Prophetic Books/Latter Prophets
 - a) The Book of Isaiah
 - b) The Book of Jeremiah
 - c) The Book of Ezekiel
 - d) The Book of Daniel
 - e) The Twelve (at least four in detail)
2. The Writings
 - a) Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah
 - b) The Book of Psalms
 - c) Wisdom Literature

Be able to:

1. Discuss the content and character of the writings of the Prophetic Books/Latter Prophets and the Writings
2. Explain the influence of the Ancient Near Eastern background on the Prophetic Books/Latter Prophets and the Writings
3. Analyse the themes and theology of the Prophetic Books/Latter Prophets and the Writings

Be in a position to:

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

OT502 Learning Outcomes

Know and Understand:

1. The Prophetic Books/Latter Prophets
 - a) The Book of Isaiah
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 - c) The Book of Ezekiel
 - d) The Book of Daniel
 - e) The Twelve (at least four in detail)
2. The Writings
 - a) Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah
 - b) The Book of Psalms
 - c) Wisdom Literature
3. Selected approaches to the Prophetic Books/Latter Prophets and the Writings

Be able to:

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

Be in a position to:

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

How this Unit Contributes to the Course

This unit aims to give students the confidence to use the Old Testament in future ministry. Moreover, it endeavours to introduce students to the issues of biblical theology and Old Testament ethics.

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

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 4 credit-point unit is considered to require a total time commitment of 6–8 hours per week, and 7–9 hours at Master of Divinity 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

Doug Green

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Please feel free to contact Doug Green, Douglas O'Donnell or Gary Millar if you have any problems or concerns about the course.

Other Key Contacts

Registrar's office

Contact the Registrar's office for any queries about which unit to enrol in next, if you wish to change your enrolment, defer due to illness, family circumstances etc., or request an extension for your assessment (criteria apply).

P 07 3871 9348

E registrar@qtc.edu.au

Moodle functions and queries

Contact the Registrar or the Assistant Registrar for help if something on Moodle is not working, if you need help using Moodle etc.

P 07 3871 9348

E registrar@qtc.edu.au

Library/Resources

Contact the Librarian for help with finding full-text articles, to request a chapter of a book or article emailed to you, to request a book posted to you, for help with logging into the library databases and catalogue, for help with how to renew a book for longer

P 07 3871 9346

E library@qtc.edu.au

Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

College Week	Lecture Topics	Reading*
Week 1 (O'Donnell)	Psalms	237-264
Week 2 (O'Donnell)	Job	224-236
Week 3 (O'Donnell)	Proverbs	265-277
Week 4 (O'Donnell)	Ecclesiastes	278-288
Week 5 (O'Donnell)	Song of Songs	289-300
Week 6 (Millar)	Book of the Twelve (Minor Prophets)	397-502
Week 7 (Green)	Isaiah	300-320
Week 8 (Millar)	Jeremiah and Lamentations	321-341 (Jer) 342-353 (Lam)
Week 9 (Green)	Ezekiel	354-370
Holidays/Mission		
Week 10 (Green)	Daniel	371-396
Week 11 (Green)	Chronicles	190-201
Week 12 (Green)	Ezra-Nehemiah	202-212
Week 13 (Green)	Esther and Ruth	213-223 (Esther) 144-150 (Ruth)
Assessment Weeks		

* Pages from Longman and Dillard, *Introduction to the Old Testament*

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.

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

Your essay 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>Essay 2000 words 50% of final grade</p>	<p>Write a 2000 word essay on ONE of the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are some of the key themes in Ecclesiastes and how do they work together to present a unified message? 2. Based solely on the text of Proverbs itself, argue for the book's intended reader/s. (Your answer should show that you have consulted secondary sources.) 3. In what ways is the book of Job more than a book about suffering? 4. Explain why Psalms 1 and 2 are often called the "doorway to the Psalms"? 5. What are the two refrains in the Song of Songs? Explain how they highlight key themes of the book.
<p>90 Minute Exam 50% of final grade</p>	<p>A 90-Minute Exam covering the entire unit: Students must answer six from ten short questions and one from three longer essay questions.</p> <p>The six short questions are of equal value and together are worth two-thirds of the exam marks (33% of the unit marks). The longer essay question is worth one-third of the exam marks (17% of the unit marks). The exam covers lectures and readings from the whole unit.</p>

OT502 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 essay 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>Essay 2500 words 50% of final grade</p>	<p>Write a 2500 word essay on ONE of the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make a case for or against an allegorical reading of the Song of Songs. 2. Define "the fear of God/the Lord" using all the Old Testament wisdom books. 3. Offer a solution for the possible tension between the theologies of the book of Proverbs and Job. 4. Select a poem from the wisdom literature and (1) explain your selection (why you deem it a poetic unit) and then (2) explain all of its poetic/literary features, including all the imagery. 5. Select a Psalm that is not quoted or alluded to in the New Testament and walk through the way you would teach it through a Christocentric lens.
<p>2 Hour Exam 50% of final grade</p>	<p>A Two-Hour Exam covering the entire unit:</p> <p>Students must answer three from seven short questions and two from five longer essay questions.</p> <p>The three short questions are of equal value and together are worth one-third of the exam marks (17% of the unit marks). The two longer essay questions are of equal value and together are worth two-thirds of the exam marks (33% of the unit marks). The exam covers lectures and readings from the whole unit.</p>

Guide to Assessments

What are we looking for?

As in OT301/501, the crucial element in the OT302/502 essay and 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 and 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.

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!

In preparing for exams, please do remember that the exam is structured to test all the material covered in the unit.

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.

Learning Resources

Essential References - Textbook

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

Other References

Alexander, T.D, and B.S. Rosner B.S. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Leicester: IVP, 2000.

Boda, Mark J., and J. G. McConville. *Dictionary of the Old Testament Prophets*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2012.

Davis, Dale Ralph. *The Word Became Fresh*. Fearn: Christian Focus, 2006. Goldsworthy, G. *Gospel and Wisdom*. Flemington Markets: Lancer, 1987.

Hamilton, James. *God's Glory in Salvation through Judgment*. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2010. Kidner, D., *Wisdom of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes*. Leicester: IVP, 1985.

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

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

McConville, J. G. *Exploring the Old Testament vol. 4: Prophets*. London: SPCK, 2002. O'Donnell, D. 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: IVP, 2007.

VanGemeren, Willem. *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis: Volume 4 - Topical Dictionary*. Grand Rapids, MI: 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*. Leicester: IVP, 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