



Queensland  
Theological College



# OT302/502

# Old Testament Prophets and Writings

## Cairns Campus

## Unit Outline

### **About this Unit Outline**

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

**SEMESTER 1 2017**

## 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

*Old Testament Prophets and Writings* (OT302/502) covers the Prophetic Books or Latter Prophets and the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament, together with writings such as Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah.

*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. These units 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.

## Learning Outcomes

### 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
  - 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
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 OT 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 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 skype sessions.

**The Intensive blocks of lectures will be held as follows:**

**Thursday 23 March (from 6pm) to Saturday 25 March 2017 (4pm)**

**Thursday 25 May (from 6pm) to Saturday 27 May 2017 (4pm)**

**It is expected that the biblical texts to be covered will be read at least once in advance of the first 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 23-25 March Intensive, there will be a skype tutorial held to cover questions from the reading, questions from the previous intensive teaching time, and preparation for the Essay.

Following the 25-27 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 towards your qualification. At undergraduate 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 postgraduate level outside of lecture and skype times.

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

## Teaching staff

LECTURER and UNIT COORDINATOR

Douglas O'Donnell

P 0490 501 379

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

LECTURER

Doug Green

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

Please feel free to contact Douglas O'Donnell or Doug Green 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).

E [registrar@qtc.edu.au](mailto: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.

E [registrar@qtc.edu.au](mailto: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

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

## Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

Subject to adjustment

### Required pre-reading for the August weekend:

Longman III, T., and R. B. Dillard, *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006, chapters 15-19 (Job to Song of Songs) and 25-36 (the Minor Prophets).

### Required pre-reading for the October weekend:

Longman and Dillard, *Introduction to the Old Testament*, chapters 20-24 (Isaiah to Daniel), 12-14 (Chronicles to Esther) and 9 (Ruth).

Weekend	Lecture Topic
<b>Weekend 1: 23-25 March 2017</b>	
Thurs 6-9 pm (DO)	Psalms
Fri 9 am- 12 noon (DO)	Job
Fri 1-3:30 pm (DO)	Proverbs
Fri 4-6 pm (DO)	Ecclesiastes
Sat 9 am- 12 noon (DO)	Song of Songs
Sat 1-4 pm (DO)	Book of the Twelve (Minor Prophets)
Date To be advised	2 hour skype tutorial. Finish lectures (if necessary). Questions. Preparation for essays
<b>Weekend 2: 25-27 May 2017</b>	
Thurs 6-9 pm (DG)	Isaiah
Fri 9 am- 12 noon (DG)	Jeremiah and Lamentations
Fri 1-3:30 pm (DG)	Ezekiel
Fri 4-6 pm (DG)	Daniel
Sat 9 am- 12 noon (DG)	Chronicles
Sat 1-4 pm (DG)	Ezra-Nehemiah
Date To be advised	2 hour skype session: Esther and Ruth + exam preparation

DO = Douglas O'Donnell

DG – Doug Green

## 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. For example, for the 2000 word Essay below, your answer should total between 1800 and 2200 words. 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><b>Essay</b></p> <p><b>2000 words</b></p> <p><b>50% of final grade</b></p> <p><b>DUE: Friday 12 May 2017</b></p>	<p>Write a 2000 word essay on ONE of the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are some of the key themes in Ecclesiastes and how do they work together to present a unified message?</li> <li>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.)</li> <li>3. In what ways is the book of Job more than a book about suffering?</li> <li>4. Explain why Psalms 1 and 2 are often called the "doorway to the Psalms"?</li> <li>5. What are the two refrains in the Song of Songs? Explain how they highlight key themes of the book.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Take-Home Exam</b></p> <p><b>2400 words total</b></p> <p><b>50% of final grade</b></p> <p><b>DUE:</b> <b>Tuesday 20 June 2017</b></p>	<p>The Take-Home Exam will consist of four compulsory questions relating to the Old Testament books covered in the second Intensive weekend. Each of the four answers will be approximately 600 words in length, i.e. 2400 words in total.</p> <p>Students will be issued with the examination paper via Moodle one week before the due date.</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.**

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. For example, for the 3000 word Take-Home Exam below, your answers should total between 2700 and 3300 words. 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><b>Essay</b></p> <p><b>2500 words</b></p> <p><b>50% of final grade</b></p> <p><b>DUE: Friday 12 May 2017</b></p>	<p>Write a 2500 word essay on ONE of the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make a case for or against an allegorical reading of the Song of Songs.</li> <li>2. Define "the fear of God/the Lord" using all the Old Testament wisdom books.</li> <li>3. Offer a solution for the possible tension between the theologies of the book of Proverbs and Job.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Take-Home Exam</b></p> <p><b>3000 words total</b></p> <p><b>50% of final grade</b></p> <p><b>DUE:</b> <b>Tuesday 20 June 2017</b></p>	<p>The Take-Home Exam will consist of five compulsory questions relating to the Old Testament books covered in the second Intensive weekend. Each of the five answers will be approximately 600 words in length, i.e. 3000 words in total.</p> <p>Students will be issued with the examination paper via Moodle one week before the due date.</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. Where appropriate within your answers, you should seek to briefly make connections to your other theological studies, and also briefly indicate implications for Christian life and thought today.

## 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, Douglas Sean. *The Beginning and End of Wisdom: Preaching Christ from the First and Last Chapters of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job*. 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.

### Commentaries

See O'Donnell on Ecclesiastes (REC) and Song of Solomon (PTW). For a list of other good commentaries see Longman, *OT Commentary Survey*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013).

## 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