



Queensland
Theological College



OT302D/502D

Old Testament Prophets and Writings

Online Learning Mode

Unit Outline

About this Unit Outline

This unit outline contains information essential to finding your way around the unit **Old Testament Prophets and Writings Online**. 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.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) 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. 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.

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

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 there are no pre-requisites or co-requisites associated with it.

How this unit is organized & what we expect of you

This unit is delivered in online mode, and organised in terms of learning activities for you to undertake each week.

Every week we will look at 1-3 topics (see Unit Timetable), with learning each week involving a combination of reading notes provided by the lecturer, listening to audio material from the lecturer, short readings from relevant books and articles, and short non-assessed exercises to get you thinking about and applying the material learnt.

Audio recordings and reading notes will normally be provided to you in brief sections, to help your learning to be more varied and enjoyable.

During most weeks of the course you will also participate briefly in discussion on the online forum for the unit, as indicated in the assessment section of this unit outline: further details on what is expected regarding online forum contributions will be provided in Week 1 of the Semester.

The unit will also involve the completion of three further assessments which are designed not only to assess your learning, but also to help you to deepen your understanding of the text.

It is expected that the biblical text to be covered is read at least once in advance of class. You will also be expected to read the relevant section of the course textbook (Dillard & Longman) *after each class*. **Please note that all students are expected to read the biblical books covered in their entirety at least three times during the semester.**

This unit is worth 4 credit points. This means that throughout the semester BTh/BMin/AssocDegTh/DipTh/DipMin students and PCQ candidates' course students should be spending an average of 6–7 hours per week on this unit, including lectures. MDiv/GradDipDiv students should be spending an average of 7-8 hours per week, including the class time. If you find that you consistently have to spend more time than this on the unit, please speak with the unit coordinator as a matter of urgency.

Students are required to complete any set pre-reading, post-reading, ungraded exercises and all assessment tasks by the relevant due date.

Teaching staff

LECTURER & UNIT CO-ORDINATOR

Rev Dr Gary Millar

Email: gmillar@qtc.edu.au

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

Dr. Doug Green

P 07 3149 3651

E dgreen@qtc.edu.au

Rev. Douglas O'Donnell

P 07 3149 3652

E dodonnell@qtc.edu.au

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

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

Library/Resources

Contact the Librarian for help with finding resources for your assessment, finding full-text database articles, for help with logging into the library databases and catalogue, to request a chapter of a book or article emailed to you, to request a book posted to you, and for help with how to renew a book for longer or place a hold on a book currently out to another person.

E library@qtc.edu.au

Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

Subject to adjustment

College Week	Lecture Topics	Reading*
Week 1 (Millar)	Isaiah	300-320
Week 2 (Millar)	Jeremiah and Lamentations	321-341 (Jer) 342-353 (Lam)
Week 3 (Millar)	Ezekiel	354-370
Week 4 (Millar)	Book of the Twelve (Minor Prophets)	397-502
Week 5 (O'Donnell)	Psalms	237-264
Week 6 (O'Donnell)	Job	224-236
Easter Holiday		
Week 7 (O'Donnell)	Proverbs	265-277
Week 8 (O'Donnell)	Ecclesiastes	278-288
Week 9 (O'Donnell)	Song of Songs	289-300
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*. 2nd Edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

OT302D 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 800-word Primary Document Study 1 below, your answer should be between 720 and 880 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>Forum Participation Approx. 700 words 10% of final grade</p>	<p>On two occasions during the semester, students will be asked to upload a brief 150 word Summary of the message of a specific passage within the book we have been studying that week, with the lecturer allocating students to weeks for this task at the end of Week 1. When not scheduled to provide a summary, each student shall, in other weeks, respond briefly in approximately 50 words to the summaries uploaded by other students to the forum. Students will be assessed on their contribution to the forum over ten weeks of Semester. No forum contributions are required in Week 1 or in the weeks when the two primary document studies (see below) are due. In line with ACT attendance requirements, students must contribute in at least eight out of the ten weeks, otherwise they will receive a mark of zero out of ten.</p>
<p>Primary Document Study 1 800 words 20% of final grade DUE DATE: 31 March</p>	<p>Write an 800 word short response to the following question:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Do you think when taken together, the Prophetic books have a 'message'? Give reasons for your answer.</p>
<p>Primary Document Study 2 800 words 20% of final grade DUE DATE: 12 May</p>	<p>Write an 800 word short response to the following question:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Do you think the Wisdom Literature is best understood as a collection of unique books or a unified collection? Give reasons for your answer.</p>
<p>Take-Home Exam: 2500 words 50% of final grade DUE DATE: 9 June</p>	<p>Students will answer three compulsory set questions, with each answer to be approximately 830 words in length. i.e. 2500 words in total. The questions will be made available via Moodle 7 days before the due date.</p>

OT502D 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 1000-word Primary Document Study 1 below, your answer should be between 900 and 1100 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
Forum Participation Approx. 800 words 10% of final grade	<p>On two occasions during the semester, students will be asked to upload a brief 200 word Summary of the message of a specific passage within the book we have been studying that week, with the lecturer allocating students to weeks for this task at the end of Week 1. When not scheduled to provide a summary, each student shall, in other weeks, respond briefly in approximately 50 words to the summaries uploaded by other students to the forum. Students will be assessed on their contribution to the forum over ten weeks of Semester. No forum contributions are required in Week 1 or in the weeks when the two primary document studies (below) are due. In line with ACT attendance requirements, students must contribute at least eight out of the ten weeks, otherwise they will receive a mark of zero out of ten.</p>
Primary Document Study 1 1000 words 20% of final grade DUE DATE: 31 March	<p>Write a 1000 word short response to the following question:</p> <p>Describe the major characteristics and distinctives of one of the Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah or Ezekiel). What are the challenges in studying this book?</p>
Primary Document Study 2 1000 words 20% of final grade DUE DATE: 12 May	<p>Write a 1000 word short response to the following question:</p> <p>With reference to either Psalms or Proverbs, discuss the extent to which the book in question displays a unified message.</p>
Take-Home Exam: 3200 words 50% of final grade DUE DATE: 9 June	<p>Students will answer four compulsory set questions, with each answer to be approximately 800 words in length. i.e. 3200 words in total. The questions will be made available via Moodle 7 days before the due date.</p>

Guide to Assessments

What are we looking for?

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)

2. In 'primary document' questions, the focus should fall squarely on explaining the part of the Bible in view. Whilst referring to some secondary literature may help you to answer the question (primarily commentaries, especially the introductory discussions and dictionary articles), the assessment will be marked first and foremost on the extent to which you display familiarity with and understanding of the biblical text. 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.

3. You are generally expected to spend 6-10 hours on a 'take home' exam. Again, some use of secondary literature is expected, but answers do not need to be heavily footnoted. Your responses should demonstrate that you grasp the message of the particular part of the Old Testament, understand how it fits into the flow of biblical theology, and have some appreciation of how to apply the Old Testament to Christian life and thought today.

4. Always 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 answer 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.

van Pelt, Miles, *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: The Gospel Promised*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2016.

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