



Queensland  
Theological College



# OT301/501

# Old Testament Foundations

## Brisbane Day Class

## Unit Outline

### About this Unit Outline

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

SEMESTER 1 2018

## 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 Handbook**, copies of which may be found in the Library or online at the ACT website: [www.acttheology.edu.au](http://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 ACT **Academic Misconduct Policy**, as well as ACT **Late Penalties Policy** and **Extensions Policy**, all of which are available on the ACT website. Failure to comply with the standards required will incur penalties as outlined in the relevant ACT Policies.

The attention of students is also drawn to the section in the current ACT Handbook, headed **“Guidelines for Essays in Coursework Units”** (see also the QTC Student Handbook). All essays and assignments 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).

The section on the Pentateuch (Weeks 1-7) will be taught by Gary Millar and Doug Green will teach the section on the Former Prophets (Weeks 8-13).

## Learning Outcomes

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

At QTC, all students studying towards the MDiv, GradDipDiv, BTh, BMin, DipTh, or DipMin 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 includes three hours of lectures per week throughout the semester of 13 weeks. **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*. 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.**

This unit is worth 4 credit points. This means that throughout the semester BTh/BMin/AssocDegTh/DipTh/DipMin students (including PCQ Candidate 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 attend all lectures, complete any set pre-reading and complete all assessment tasks by the relevant due date.

## Teaching staff

LECTURER & UNIT CO-ORDINATOR

**Rev Dr Gary Millar**

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

Phone: 07 3062 6939

LECTURER

**Dr Douglas Green**

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

Phone: 07 3062 6939

Please feel free to contact Gary or Doug 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)

P 07 3062 6939, option 2

### 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)

P 07 3062 6939, option 2

### 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, 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](mailto:library@qtc.edu.au)

P 07 3062 6939, option 3

## Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

Subject to adjustment

With the exception of Anzac Day class meets on Wednesdays 9:30-10:20 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.-12:35 pm.

Week	Topic
Week 1	Genesis 1–11
Week 2	Genesis 1–11 (and a word on interpreting controversial passages)
Week 3	Genesis 12–50 (and a word on the history of OT Interpretation)
Week 4	Exodus (and a word on the OT and history)
Week 5	Leviticus
Week 6	Numbers
Week 7	Deuteronomy
Easter Holidays	No classes
Week 8	Joshua
Week 9 ( <b>Friday 27 April because of Anzac Day</b> )	Judges
Week 10	1 Samuel
Week 11	2 Samuel
Week 12	1 Kings
Week 13	2 Kings
Assessment Block 3 weeks	No classes

## 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.**

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><b>Essay</b></p> <p><b>2000 words total</b></p> <p><b>50% of final grade</b></p>	<p>Write a 2000 word essay selected from one of the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the message of Genesis 1-3?</li> <li>2. What are the main theological themes of the Patriarchal narratives (concerning Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) in Genesis 12-50?</li> <li>3. What is the function of the narratives in Exodus 1-12, and why are these events important for the rest of the Bible?</li> <li>4. What issues are raised by Leviticus for Israel's relationship with Yahweh?</li> <li>5. Why is so much space devoted to the journeys of Israel in the book of Numbers?</li> <li>6. What are the major themes in Deuteronomy, and how does this book contribute to Christian theology?</li> </ol>
<p><b>90 Minute Exam</b></p> <p><b>50% of final grade</b></p>	<p>Students must answer six from ten short answer questions and one from three essay questions. The short answer 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> <p>The short answer questions will be drawn from Genesis–2 Kings. <i>However, the long answer questions will be limited to Joshua-2 Kings.</i></p>



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ASSESSMENT TASK	DESCRIPTION
<p><b>Essay</b></p> <p><b>2500 words total</b></p> <p><b>50% of final grade</b></p>	<p>Write a 2500 word essay selected from one of the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To what extent could Genesis 1-11 legitimately be described as 'the Old Testament of the Old Testament'?</li> <li>2. How do the promises made to Abram in Genesis 12:1-7 relate to the rest of chapters 12-50?</li> <li>3. According to the book of Exodus, where can God's people find hope in the future?</li> <li>4. How does the material on sacrifice in Leviticus fit with the unfolding story of the Pentateuch?</li> <li>5. What is the significance of the Balaam narratives in Numbers 22-24, and do they have any implications for biblical theology?</li> <li>6. What is the Deuteronomistic view of the relationship between grace and law?</li> </ol>
<p><b>2 Hour Exam</b></p> <p><b>50% of final grade</b></p>	<p>Students must answer three from seven short answer questions and two from five essay questions. The short answer questions are worth 1/3 of the exam (17% of the unit), and the long questions are worth 2/3 of the exam (33% of the unit).</p> <p>The short answer questions will be drawn from Genesis–2 Kings. <i>However, the long answer questions will be limited to Joshua–2 Kings.</i></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). 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. 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.
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 preparing for the final exam, please remember that it is structured to test all the material covered in the course. The short answer questions will be drawn from Genesis–2 Kings. However, *the long answer questions will be limited to Joshua-2 Kings*.
4. 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

Longman III, Tremper, and Raymond B. Dillard. *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*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996.

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

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 III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2003.

VanGemeren, Willem, ed. *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and 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 Paradise to Promised Land*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2012.

Alexander, T. Desmond, and 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, and 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*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

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

Wenham, Gordon J. *Genesis 16-50*. WBC 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 and 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. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1996.

Wenham, Gordon J. *Numbers*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Leicester: IVP, 1981.

### **Commentaries on Deuteronomy**

Block, Daniel I. *Deuteronomy*. 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, MA: 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