



Queensland  
Theological College



# OT302/502 Old Testament Prophets and Writings Brisbane Day Class Unit Outline

## About this Unit Outline

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

**SEMESTER 2 2019**

## 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 [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's **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

*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 Outcomes

### OT302 Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, students will:

#### Know and understand:

- 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)
- The Writings
  - a) Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah
  - b) The Book of Psalms
  - c) Wisdom Literature

#### Be able to:

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

#### Be in a position to:

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

## OT502 Learning Outcomes

### Know and Understand:

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

### Be able to:

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

### Be in a position to:

- Integrate perspectives from 'Old Testament Prophets and Writings' with their other theological studies
- 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.

This unit caters for students studying either of the following accredited units:

- OT302 Old Testament Prophets and Writings– a core module of the BTh/BMin/AssocDegTh/ DipTh/DipMin.
- OT502 Old Testament Prophets and Writings – a core module of the MDiv/ GradDipDiv/ GradCertDiv.

Each of these units is a 4-credit point unit in its respective award.

## 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

LECTURER & UNIT CO-ORDINATOR

**Rev Dr Gary Millar**

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

Phone: 07 3062 6939

Please feel free to contact Gary 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 3062 6939, extension 2

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.

P 07 3062 6939, extension 2

E [registrar@qtc.edu.au](mailto: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, & for how to renew a book for longer or place a hold on a book currently out to another person.

P 07 3062 6939, extension 3

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

## Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

Subject to adjustment

| College Week       | Lecture Topics                         | Reading*                          |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Week 1             | Psalms 1                               | 237-264                           |
| Week 2             | Psalms 2                               | 237-264                           |
| Week 3             | Proverbs                               | 265-277                           |
| Week 4             | Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs         | 278-288 (Eccl)<br>289-300 (Song)  |
| Week 5             | Job                                    | 224-236                           |
| Week 6             | Introducing the Prophets               |                                   |
| Week 7             | Isaiah                                 | 300-320                           |
| Week 8             | Jeremiah and Lamentations              | 321-341 (Jer)<br>342-353 (Lam)    |
| Week 9             | Ezekiel                                | 354-370                           |
| Mid-Semester Break |  |                                   |
| Week 10            | Book of the Twelve<br>(Minor Prophets) | 397-502                           |
| Week 11            | Daniel and Esther                      | 371-396 (Dan)<br>213-223 (Esther) |
| Week 12            | Ezra-Nehemiah                          | 202-212                           |
| Week 13            | Chronicles                             | 190-201                           |
| Assessment Weeks   |  |                                   |

\* Pages from the textbook: Tremper Longman and Raymond Dillard, *Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006.

## 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 Policy found in the QTC Handbook, where a student submits an assessment past its due date, in accordance with the ACT **Late Penalties** Policy, 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, after which point the mark awarded shall be zero. Where the assessment is a **Take-Home Exam**, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of **6%** of the total possible marks for the assessment item **per calendar day**, up to 7 days late, after which point the mark awarded shall be zero.

Your submitted assessment items must also be within 10% of the required **word limit**. For example, for the 2000-word Essay below, your answer should be between 1800 and 2200 words. If your assessment is more than 10% over the word limit, then a penalty of **10%** of the total possible marks will be deducted. **Please see the QTC Handbook for full details on what is included within your total word count.** 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><br/> <b>2000 words</b><br/> <b>40% of final grade</b></p> | <p>Write a 2000 word essay on <b>ONE</b> of the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the message of the book of Isaiah?</li> <li>2. Is the book of Jeremiah depressing? Discuss the relationship in the book between judgment on the one hand and prophetic hope on the other.</li> <li>3. How does the book of Ezekiel offer God's people hope for the future?</li> <li>4. Compare and contrast a pre-exilic 'Minor Prophet' with a post-exilic 'Minor Prophet', commenting on tone, themes and final message of each book.</li> </ol> |
| <p><b>90 Minute Exam</b><br/> <b>60% of final grade</b></p>               | <p>A 90-Minute Exam covering the entire unit:</p> <p>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 (40% of the unit marks). The longer essay question is worth one-third of the exam marks (20% of the unit marks). The exam covers lectures and readings from the <i>entire unit</i>.</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 Policy found in the QTC Handbook, where a student submits an assessment past its due date, in accordance with the ACT **Late Penalties** Policy, 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, after which point the mark awarded shall be zero. Where the assessment is a **Take-Home Exam**, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of **6%** of the total possible marks for the assessment item **per calendar day**, up to 7 days late, after which point the mark awarded shall be zero.

Your submitted assessment items must also be within 10% of the required **word limit**. For example, for the 2500-word Essay below, your answer should be between 2250 and 2750 words. If your assessment is more than 10% over the word limit, then a penalty of **10%** of the total possible marks will be deducted. **Please see the QTC Handbook for full details on what is included within your total word count.** 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  |
|--|--|
| <b>Essay</b><br><b>2500 words</b><br><b>40% of final grade</b> | Write a 2500 word essay on <b>ONE</b> of the following topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How does the message of Isaiah 1-39 relate to that of Isaiah 40-66?</li> <li>2. How important is Jeremiah, the individual, to the book which bears his name?</li> <li>3. To what extent does Ezekiel's priestly background shape the book which bears his name?</li> <li>4. How convincing is the argument that the 'Book of the Twelve' is a carefully edited collection with a coherent message?</li> </ol> |
| <b>2 Hour Exam</b><br><b>60% of final grade</b>                | A Two-Hour Exam covering the entire unit:<br><br>Students must answer three from seven short questions and two from five longer essay questions.<br><br>The three short questions are of equal value and together are worth one-third of the exam marks (20% of the unit marks). The two longer essay questions are of equal value and together are worth two-thirds of the exam marks (40% of the unit marks). The exam covers lectures and readings from the <i>entire unit</i> .                                    |

## 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 **Essay** question 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!

Your primary task is answering the question from the scripture. Please ensure the essay answers the question.

The essay must be in formal essay format. i.e. no dot points, good grammar, good paragraph and essay structure.

For full information on what is included in the total word count, see the QTC Handbook section headed *Length of Assignments*.

Your essay should include an abstract and bibliography in the usual SBL format. The bibliography will include 10-20 entries and will include a variety of viewpoints and recent scholarship where possible.

The essay must use the provided QTC coversheet as its first page and be submitted via Moodle in word doc format, using the file name convention specified.

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 ed. Grand Rapids, MI: 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   |