



OT002-512/712 Old Testament Prophets and Writings Unit Outline

About this Unit Outline

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

SEMESTER 2 2021

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.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 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.

Students should be aware that the delivery of this unit and results awarded are moderated by the ACT. See the ACT "Moderation Policy" and "Moderation Procedure" at www.actheology.edu.au/documents/ for full details.

Information about this unit

Unit description

Old Testament Prophets and Writings (OT002-512/712) and *Old Testament Foundations* (OT001-512/712) 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 (OT002-512/712) covers the Prophetic books or Latter Prophets and the wisdom literature of the Old Testament and writings such as Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah.

ACT Census Date

20 August 2021

Students must confirm their enrolment in this unit with the QTC Registrar by Friday 20 August 2021. This is the last day on which you may withdraw from the unit without academic penalty (a Fail), or without being liable for the tuition fees. To make a change in your enrolment you must contact the QTC Registrar in writing at: registrar@qtc.edu.au.

Learning Outcomes

OT002-512 Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, the student should have achieved the following learning outcomes:

Know and understand

1. Demonstrate essential knowledge and understanding of the contents, themes and character of the Prophetic books and the Writings

Be able to:

1. Outline the content and character of the Prophetic books and Writings
2. Describe cultural, historical, religious and literary influences on the Prophetic books and Writings
3. Present organised evidence-based perspectives on the themes and theology of the Prophetic books and Writings

Be in a position to:

1. Relate perspectives from 'Old Testament Prophets and Writings' to contemporary Christian living and ministry contexts

OT002-712 Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, the student should have achieved the following learning outcomes:

Know and understand

1. Demonstrate functional knowledge and understanding of the contents, themes and character of the Prophetic books 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

Be in a position to:

1. 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:

- OT002-512 Old Testament Prophets and Writings– a core module of the BTh / BMin / AssocDegTh / DipTh / DipMin
- OT002-712 Old Testament Prophets and Writings – a core module of the MDiv / MTS / GradDipDiv / GradCertDiv

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 is worth 12 credit points towards your degree. A 12cp unit is considered to require an average time commitment of around 10 hours per week across all of the teaching and assessment weeks. Please speak with the lecturer as a matter of urgency if you are finding that you need to consistently spend more time than this on OT002.

Students are expected to attend all lectures, complete any set pre-reading and complete any assessment tasks by the relevant due date. Please do be in touch as soon as you can if you anticipate having any difficulties with your assessments or with meeting the due date, and if you require an extension for one of your assessments, please contact the QTC Registrar as early as possible.

Teaching staff

LECTURER & UNIT CO-ORDINATOR

Dr Gary Millar

P 07 3062 6939

E gmillar@qtc.edu.au

LECTURER

Dr Douglas Green

P 07 3062 6939

E dgreen@qtc.edu.au

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

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

E registrar@qtc.edu.au

Moodle and Turnitin functions and queries

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

P 07 3062 6939

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, and for help with how to renew a book for longer or place a hold on a book currently out to another person. Also contact the library for any queries about audio recordings of your class on Moodle.

P 07 3062 6939

E library@qtc.edu.au

Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

WEEK	LECTURE TOPICS	READING*
Week 1	Introduction to the Writings, Proverbs	pp. 265-277
Week 2	Proverbs (cont.), Ecclesiastes	pp. 278-288
Week 3	Job	pp. 224-236
Week 4	Song of Songs	pp. 289-300
ESSAY WRITING WEEK: 9 August – 13 August		
Week 5	Daniel	pp. 371-396
Week 6	Esther, Ruth	pp. 213-223 (Esther) pp. 144-150 (Ruth)
Week 7	Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles	pp. 202-212 (Ez-Neh) pp. 190-201 (Chron)
Week 8	Psalms 1	pp. 237-264
Week 9	Psalms 2	pp. 237-264 pp. 354-370
MID-SEMESTER BREAK: 18 September – 4 October		
Week 10	Isaiah	pp. 301-320
Week 11	Jeremiah and Lamentations	pp. 321-341 (Jer) pp. 342-353 (Lam)
Week 12	Ezekiel	pp. 354-370
Week 13	Book of the Twelve (Minor Prophets)	pp. 397-501
ASSESSMENT WEEKS: 1 November – 19 November		

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

OT002-512 Assessments

Assessments are submitted online via Moodle by 11.55pm on the due date (with the exception of timed online quizzes and onsite exams). If you experience difficulty submitting due to internet issues close to 11.55pm, please email registrar@qtc.edu.au explaining the issue. Attach a copy of your assessment and a screen shot of the folder in which your document is saved to show that you have not made changes after the due time.

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.

Your submitted assessment items must also be within **10% of the required word limit**, and failure to meet this requirement shall result in a penalty of **10%** of the total possible mark being 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
Essay 2000 words 40% of final grade	Write a 2000-word essay on ONE of the following topics. Make sure that you support your argument by reference to all relevant texts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define 'the fear of God/the LORD' using all the Old Testament wisdom books. 2. Is the book Proverbs naïve? 3. What are some of the key themes in Ecclesiastes and how do they work together to present a unified message? 4. Is Job a gospel-shaped book? 5. Does the Song of Songs have a coherent message? If so, what is it?
90 Minute Exam (approx. 2250 words) 60% of final grade	A 90-Minute Exam covering the entire unit: Students must answer six from ten short questions and one from three longer essay questions. 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> .

OT002-712 Assessments

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Your submitted assessment items must also be within **10% of the required word limit**, and failure to meet this requirement shall result in a penalty of **10%** of the total possible mark being 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>Essay 3000 words 40% of final grade</p>	<p>Write a 3000-word essay on ONE of the following topics. Make sure that you support your argument by reference to all relevant texts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If 'the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom', what is its 'end'? 2. It is often said that the book of Proverbs teaches that righteousness and wise conduct lead to wealth while wickedness and foolishness result in poverty. Do you agree with this statement? If so, why? If not, why not? 3. To what extent is it fair to describe Ecclesiastes as an evangelistic talk? 4. In what ways is the book of Job more than a book about suffering? 5. Make a case for or against an allegorical reading of the Song of Songs.

See over for next assessment item.

2 Hour Exam
(approx. 3000 words)
60% of final grade

A Two-Hour Exam covering the entire unit:

Students must answer three from seven short questions and two from five longer essay questions.

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 *entire unit*.

Guide to Assessments

What are we looking for?

General remarks

All students are expected to avail themselves of the guidelines for written assignments provided in the ACT Handbook (consult the table of contents) and in the QTC Student Handbook section 'Style Requirements for Written Assignments'.

All written work for this unit should conform to the guidelines of the *SBL Handbook of Style* (with the exception of Australian spelling conventions).

Any Hebrew and Greek cited must be typed in a Unicode font; SBL BibLit is commended as one font covering Hebrew, Greek, and Roman Unicode ranges, but is not required. It is freely available from the SBL website: http://sbl-site.org/educational/BiblicalFonts_SBLBibLit.aspx

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

Note carefully the number of words required for each assessment item, depending on whether you are enrolled for OT002-512 or OT002-712. For full information on what is included in the total word count, see the QTC Handbook section headed *Length of Assignments*.

Length of Assignments (Word Count)

The following section is taken from QTC Student Handbook, in the section 'Style Requirements for Written Assignments'. It is included here to answer questions that often arise in the context of written assignments. All such assignments **must** conform to these instructions.

Assessment pieces must be kept within a 10% variation of the prescribed word length as set out in the applicable Unit Outline. For example, a 3,000-word essay must be between 2,700 and 3,300 words. The **total word count excludes the following** should they occur anywhere in the assessment item:

- abstract,
- appendices,
- bibliography, and
- any referencing details such as footnotes

If an essay exceeds the number of required words by more than 10%, a penalty of 10% of the total possible mark will apply. Whether an essay is over the allowed length or not, students should work at not using more words than they need to make their case – this is an important skill to learn for ministry.

Footnotes can take the form of bibliographic references (e.g. the publication details of the book or journal being referenced) or the form of comments which may not fit well within the body of the essay. Neither type of footnotes will be counted towards your final word count, however, your **footnotes in their entirety should not exceed 25% of the prescribed essay length. A 10% penalty of the final grade applies if footnotes are more than 25% of the prescribed essay length.**

QTC uses the SBL note style for referencing which specifies the use of footnotes, and a bibliography. SBL note style excludes the use of endnotes, and specifies that biblical texts, are cited parenthetically in the body of the text, e.g. Not only does God spare Rahab from destruction, but he elects her to play a crucial role in the ancestry of the Messiah (Josh 6:24–25).

You must, therefore, put biblical references in parentheses in the text, not in footnotes.

The ACT has ruled that these parenthetical biblical references *will* count towards your total word count.

All quotations (including quotations from the Bible) included in assignments *will* count towards the permitted word length. A limit of 10% verbatim quotation applies in coursework essays.

An essay should be formatted as continuous prose, therefore headings or titles should not ordinarily be used in essays. If headings or titles are used, they *will* be counted towards the total word count.

Appendices cannot be used to include extra material which does not fit with the body of the essay. When including appendices in essays, the student must assume the lecturer will not read the appendix/appendices or take appendix material into account when marking.

OT002-512/712 Essay and Exam

As in OT001-512/712, the crucial element in the **OT002-512/712 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 unit 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.

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 the Turnitin link on 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.

Gowan, Donald E. *Theology of the Prophetic Books: The Death and Resurrection of Israel*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1998.

Hamilton, James. *God's Glory in Salvation through Judgment*. Wheaton, IL.: Crossway, 2010.

Kidner, D., *Wisdom of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes*. Leicester: IVP, 1985.

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.

Peels, H. G. L. and S. D. Snyman, *The Lion Has Roared: Theological Themes in the Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2012.

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.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

In most of the units you study at QTC, you will be asked to demonstrate your understanding of the subject matter by writing a research paper, essay, take-home exam or the like. Your lecturers and the Moderators of the Australian College of Theology will expect to see that you have consulted current academic research in the form of journal articles.

Q: So how do you find good journal articles?

A: Search the online Journal Databases

QTC makes available the following Journal Databases which will be useful for finding information for your assessments:

- ATLASerials Plus – available via EBSCO

ATLASerials Plus is the full text version of the ATLA Religion Database (ATLA). This database is a collection of major religion and theology journals selected by some of the major religion scholars in the United States. Coverage of this database dates back to 1949.

- Religion and Philosophy Collection

This database provides extensive full-text coverage of such topics as world religions, major denominations, biblical studies, religious history, epistemology, political philosophy, and philosophy of language, moral philosophy and the history of philosophy.

- JSTOR

JSTOR provides full-text access to journal articles as well as eBooks. It includes theological journal titles such as the Harvard Theological Review and other titles not found in ATLASerials Plus or the Religion and Philosophy Collection.

Most journal articles will be available as a PDF which you can read, print or save.

Access the databases via the QTC Library Webpage

<https://www.qtc.edu.au/students/resources/library/databases/>

and login with the username and password provided on Moodle under the QTC Library unit.

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