



OT002-512/812 Old Testament Prophets and Writings (Evening 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**. It provides a structure for your learning, giving details of lecture topics, assessment requirements, and key resources.

SEMESTER 2 2022

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 (OT002-512/812) and *Old Testament Foundations* (OT001-512/812) 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 (OT002-512/812) covers the Prophetic books or Latter Prophets, the wisdom literature of the Old Testament and writings such as Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah.

ACT Census date

19 August 2022

Students must confirm their enrolment in this unit with the QTC Registrar by Friday 19 August 2022. 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

OT002-812 Learning Outcomes

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

Know and understand

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

Be able to:

1. Critically analyse the content and character of the writings of the Prophetic Books/Latter Prophets and the Writings
2. Assess the influence of the Ancient Near Eastern background on the Prophetic Books/Latter Prophets and the Writings
3. Evaluate the themes and theology of the Prophetic Books/Latter Prophets and the Writings

Be in a position to:

1. Apply knowledge and critical thinking skills and perspectives from 'Old Testament Prophets and Writings' to current issues in Christian life, thought and ministry

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 unit of the BTh / BMin / AssocDegTh / DipTh / DipMin
- OT002-812 Old Testament Prophets and Writings – a core unit 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 organised & 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. Classes will be held on Monday evenings from 6-9pm, commencing on Monday 11 July 2022. Please take careful note of Unit Timetable below, which gives information on which dates classes will be held. As there is a Monday public holiday this semester, **Semester Weeks for the evening unit are different to those marked on the**

QTC calendar. (The calendar numbers Semester Weeks according to when daytime classes are held.)

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 unit textbook (Longman & Dillard) *after each class*. Lectures will be supported where appropriate with lecture outlines.

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 12 credit points towards your degree. A 12 credit-point 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 and post lecture 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 Douglas Green

Doug will be teaching on Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, Daniel, Esther, Ruth, Ezra-Nehemiah, and Chronicles.

P 07 3062 6939

E dgreen@qtc.edu.au

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

LECTURER

Dr Gary Millar

Gary will be teaching on Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the Book of the Twelve.

P 07 3062 6939

E gmillar@qtc.edu.au

LECTURER

Dr Kamina Wust

Kamina will be teaching on Song of Songs.

E kwust@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).

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/video 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 11 Jul	Introduction to the Writings, Proverbs	pp. 265-277
Week 2 18 Jul	Proverbs (cont.), Ecclesiastes	pp. 278-288
Week 3 25 Jul	Job	pp. 224-236
Week 4 1 Aug	Song of Songs	pp. 289-300
ESSAY WRITING WEEK: 8 August – 12 August		
Week 5 13 Aug	Daniel	pp. 371-396
Week 6 22 Aug	Esther, Ruth	pp. 213-223 (Esther) pp. 144-150 (Ruth)
Week 7 29 Aug	Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles	pp. 202-212 (Ez-Neh) pp. 190-201 (Chron)
Week 8 5 Sep	Psalms 1	pp. 237-264
Week 9 12 Sep	Psalms 2	pp. 237-264 pp. 354-370
MID-SEMESTER BREAK: 17 September – 9 October		
Week 10 10 Oct	Isaiah	pp. 301-320
Week 11 17 Oct	Jeremiah and Lamentations	pp. 321-341 (Jer) pp. 342-353 (Lam)
Week 12 24 Oct	Ezekiel	pp. 354-370
Week 13 31 Oct	Book of the Twelve (Minor Prophets)	pp. 397-501
ASSESSMENT WEEKS: 31 October – 18 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 **5%** of the total possible marks for the assessment item **per calendar day**, up to 10 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 **12%** of the total possible marks for the assessment item **per calendar day**, up to 3 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. **See the QTC Handbook for full details on what is included within your total word count.** Please also note that **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 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 50% of final grade DUE Friday 9 September	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. What answer does the <i>book</i> of Job give to question: why did Job suffer? 5. Does the Song of Songs have a coherent message? If so, what is it?

See over for next assessment item.

<p>Take Home Exam 2250 words 50% of final grade DUE Friday 11 November (released Friday 4 Nov)</p>	<p>Students will answer three compulsory set questions, with each answer to be approximately 750 words in length i.e., 2250 words in total. See the Guide to Assessments in this unit outline for more details.</p> <p>Questions will be asked from the section of the unit covering Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the Book of the Twelve.</p> <p>The questions will be made available via QTC Moodle one week before the due date.</p>
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OT002-812 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.

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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. **See the QTC Handbook for full details on what is included within your total word count.** Please also note that **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 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 3000 words 50% of final grade DUE Friday 9 September	<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. How would you use the Wisdom books (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Job) to respond to the 'Prosperity Gospel'? 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. How does the epilogue (Eccl 12:9–14) contribute to the message of the book of Ecclesiastes? 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.

Take Home Exam

3000 words

60% of final grade

DUE Friday 11 November

(released Friday 4 Nov)

Students will answer **four compulsory set questions**, with each answer to be **approximately 750 words** in length i.e., 3000 words in total. See the Guide to Assessments in this unit outline for more details.

Questions will be asked from the section of the unit covering Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the Book of the Twelve.

The questions will be made available via QTC Moodle one week before the due date.

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 OT002-812. 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,
- 'Works Cited,' 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 list of 'Works Cited.' 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. For more information on how to use the SBL Style, see section 3 below.

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.

All direct quotations in your answers from books and articles etc. should be footnoted, however, in Take-Home exams, as is the case with formal on-site exams, lecture notes and audio recordings of lectures should not ordinarily be footnoted or included in the list of 'Works Cited.'

An essay should be formatted as continuous prose. 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.

OT002-512/812 Essay

1. As in OT001-512/812, the crucial element in the **OT002-512/812 essay** 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.
2. 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 answer if you are engaged!
3. 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 list of 'Works Cited' in the usual SBL format. The 'Works Cited' will include *at least* five entries and will include a variety of viewpoints and recent scholarship where possible. You may also choose to include a list of 'Works Consulted' – those resources you read but didn't footnote.
4. Your primary task is answering questions from the scripture. In both essays and take-home exams, 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.

For OT001-512/812 Take-Home Exam

1. The take-home exam is about breadth of knowledge and understanding, rather than depth. You have only a small number of words with which to answer each question, and

so you should not waste words going into highly specific details, or into any matters which are only indirectly related to the question.

2. Your main aim in each of your take-home exam answers should be to summarise briefly the major important points in relation to the question set, in a way that directly answers the question. The take-home exam is not seen primarily as a research exercise, and so you are not expected to do as much reading for it as you would for a research essay. You should answer the questions from what you have learnt in lectures, from the textbook, and from a small number of additional resources relevant to the set topics, preferably relevant specialist academic journal articles, book chapters, or monographs. It is important at graduate level (Level 8) particularly that you do use a small number of additional resources beyond the lectures for your take-home exam answers. Use of resources beyond the lectures and the textbook will contribute to your mark – but the main thing you will be marked on will be your ability to clearly and accurately give a short answer to the question. You should demonstrate some reasonable sophistication in synthesising lecture, textbook, and additional resources. Higher grades will be allocated to those students who can demonstrate higher level skills, including analysis, evaluation and possibly some creative application. Your answers should argue a case rather than merely listing or describing relevant facts and details.
3. Take-home exams should show a similar format to essays, but condensed to match the reduced word count i.e., no dot points, good grammar, and good paragraph structure. The take-home exam submission must use the provided QTC Assessment Cover Page. It should include and a list of 'Works Cited' in the usual SBL format. You may also choose to include a list of 'Works Consulted' – those resources you read but didn't footnote. There should be one list of 'Works Cited' (and one list of 'Works Consulted') for the entire take-home exam, not one for each question.
4. In a take-home exam, all direct quotations in your answers from books and articles should be footnoted, but notes and audio recordings of lectures should not ordinarily be footnoted or included in the list of 'Works Cited.'
5. You are generally expected to spend 6-10 hours on a take-home exam.

Learning Resources

Essential References - Textbook

Longman, Tremper III and Raymond B. Dillard. *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 Catalogue link

<https://qtc.softlinkhosting.com.au/liberty/libraryHome.do>

and login with the usernames and passwords provided on Moodle under the QTC Library unit.

ACT Standards: Grades

Grades in assessment instruments are awarded in the following categories-

Grade	Mark	Descriptor
Fail (F)	0-49%	Does not satisfy learning outcomes
Pass (P)	50-57%	Satisfies learning outcomes at a minimal level
Pass+ (P+)	58-64%	Satisfies learning outcomes at an adequate level
Credit (C)	65-74%	Satisfies learning outcomes at a high level
Distinction (D)	75-84%	Satisfies learning outcomes at a very high level
High Distinction (HD)	85+%	Satisfies learning outcomes at an exceptional level