



# OT002-512/812 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 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](http://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/](http://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 and 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](mailto: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 module of the BTh / BMin / AssocDegTh / DipTh / DipMin
- OT002-812 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 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.

**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 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 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 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](mailto:gmillar@qtc.edu.au)

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

LECTURER

**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](mailto:dgreen@qtc.edu.au)

LECTURER

**Dr Kamina Wust**

Kamina will be teaching on Song of Songs.

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

## Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

WEEK	LECTURE TOPICS	READING*
Week 1	Psalms 1	pp. 237-264
Week 2	Psalms 2	pp. 237-264 pp. 354-370
Week 3	Isaiah	pp. 301-320
Week 4	Jeremiah and Lamentations	pp. 321-341 (Jer) pp. 342-353 (Lam)
ESSAY WRITING WEEK: 8 August – 12 August		
Week 5	Ezekiel	pp. 354-370
Week 6	Book of the Twelve (Minor Prophets)	pp. 397-501
Week 7	Introduction to the Writings, Proverbs	pp. 265-277
Week 8	Proverbs (cont.), Ecclesiastes	pp. 278-288
Week 9	Job	pp. 224-236
MID-SEMESTER BREAK: 17 September – 3 October		
Week 10	Song of Songs	pp. 289-300
Week 11	Daniel	pp. 371-396
Week 12	Esther, Ruth	pp. 213-223 (Esther) pp. 144-150 (Ruth)
Week 13	Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles	pp. 202-212 (Ez-Neh) pp. 190-201 (Chron)
ASSESSMENT WEEKS: 31 October – 18 November		

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



## 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](mailto: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.

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
<b>Essay</b> <b>2000 words</b> <b>50% of final grade</b>	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"> <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 judgement 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>

*See over for next assessment item.*



<p><b>90 Minute Exam</b> <b>(approx. 2250 words)</b> <b>50% of final grade</b></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 (33.3% of the unit marks). The longer essay question is worth one-third of the exam marks (16.7% of the unit marks). The exam covers lectures and readings from 'The Writings' only.</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](mailto: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.

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
<p><b>Essay</b>  <b>3500 words</b>  <b>50% of final grade</b></p>	<p>Write a 3500-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"> <li>1. How does the message of Isaiah 1-39 relate to that of Isaiah 40-66?</li> <li>2. How important are Jeremiah's own experiences 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>

*See over for next assessment item.*

## OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS AND WRITINGS

<p><b>2 Hour Exam</b> <b>(approx. 3000 words)</b> <b>50% of final grade</b></p>	<p>Students must answer three from seven short questions and two from five longer essay questions.</p> <p>The three short questions are of equal value and together are worth one-third of the exam marks (16.7% of the unit marks). The two longer essay questions are of equal value and together are worth two-thirds of the exam marks (33.3% of the unit marks). The exam covers lectures and readings from 'The Writings' only.</p>
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# 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](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 and Exam**

As in OT001-512/812, the crucial element in the **OT002-512/812 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 a list of 'Works Cited' in the usual SBL format. The 'Works Cited' will include 10-20 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.

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 answer is structured appropriately.

## 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-

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>
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