



OT 302 & 502
Old Testament Prophets & Writings
Semester 2, 2015

Brisbane School of Theology offers high quality, Bible-centred theological training in a diverse and supportive community, shaping the whole person for God's purpose. Aiming for more than simply growing students' knowledge of theology, BST is developing passionate, capable disciples who use what they know about God's word to serve him in the church and the world.

*Brisbane School of Theology is an operating name of Bible College of Queensland.
We are an affiliated college of the Australian College of Theology, our ABN no. is 55009670160 and the ACT CRICOS no. is 02650E.*

• Know God's word; take it to the world •

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS UNIT

Description	This is the second of two units (OT 301/501 and OT 302/502) which cover the basic contents of the Old Testament. OT 302/502 covers the literature of the prophets, wisdom, and Psalms. The aim is to provide an overview of the geography, culture, history, literature, and theology of the Old Testament prophets and writings. The unit will introduce students to critical issues in the interpretation of the Old Testament. It also considers the significance of the Old Testament for contemporary Christian life and ministry.																										
Teaching staff	Lecturer	Dr. Jason Atkinson <i>BAppSc, MA (Soc.), MDiv, PhD</i>																									
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	Email	jatinson@bst.qld.edu.au																									
Additional information	Credit points	4																									
	Co/pre-requisites	N/A																									
	No. of teaching weeks	13																									
Assessment Summary	<p>EQUIP 1) Reflection Paper, due on 11th Nov.</p> <p>OT 302</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Item</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>% of Final Grade</u></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><u>Due Date</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1) Article Review (750 wds)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10%</td> <td style="text-align: right;">19th Aug.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2) Major Essay (2,250wds)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50%</td> <td style="text-align: right;">16th Sept.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3) Exam (80 mins)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">40%</td> <td style="text-align: right;">11th Nov.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>OT 502</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Item</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>% of Final Grade</u></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><u>Due Date</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1) Book Review (1,000 wds)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10%</td> <td style="text-align: right;">19th Aug.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2) Major Essay (3,000 wds)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50%</td> <td style="text-align: right;">16th Sept.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3) Exam (80 mins)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">40%</td> <td style="text-align: right;">11th Nov.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			<u>Item</u>	<u>% of Final Grade</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	1) Article Review (750 wds)	10%	19 th Aug.	2) Major Essay (2,250wds)	50%	16 th Sept.	3) Exam (80 mins)	40%	11 th Nov.	<u>Item</u>	<u>% of Final Grade</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	1) Book Review (1,000 wds)	10%	19 th Aug.	2) Major Essay (3,000 wds)	50%	16 th Sept.	3) Exam (80 mins)	40%	11 th Nov.
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STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND UNIT CONTENT

On completion of this unit, students will:

<p>Learning Outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To assist candidates acquire an overall acquaintance with the text of the Old Testament, as one of the two primary documents of biblical studies and Christian ministry. ○ To provide candidates with an overview of the contents of literature in the Old Testament, taking into account the nature of that literature. ○ To give candidates an overall historical framework within which to interpret the books of the Old Testament. ○ To ensure that candidates have an appreciation of the appropriate Ancient Near Eastern background (cultural, religious and archaeological) and its significance for understanding the Old Testament. ○ To provide candidates with an understanding of major theological themes of the Old Testament and their significance for Christian theology. ○ To enable candidates to begin a more detailed exploration of some aspects of Old Testament studies. ○ To consider the implications of the Old Testament for Christian life and thought.
<p>Unit Content</p>	<p>Section A: Prophetic Books/Latter Prophets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Book of Isaiah ○ The Book of Jeremiah ○ The Book of Ezekiel ○ The Book of Daniel ○ The Twelve. <p>Section B: The Writings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah ○ The Book of Psalms ○ Wisdom Literature

UNIT TIMETABLE

(M) = Item available on Moodle.

Wk	Date	Lecture Content	Pre-Reading
1.	July 22	Introduction to unit, prophecy, and the ancient historical context. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to Unit Hebrew prophecy in its ancient Near Eastern (ANE) context. Overview of ANE history during 8th–5th centuries. 	H&W §§ 20 (pp. 383–89), 27. Bright: 253–66. F&S §10 (M).
2.	July 29	Assyrian Period: Northern Prophecy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assyria and its expansion: A lesson in effective state-terrorism. Prophecy in Samarian Kingdom: Jonah; Amos; Hosea. End of the Samarian Kingdom. 	2Kgs 14–17; Jonah; Amos; Hosea. H&W §§ 37, 35, 33. Bright: 269–78.
3.	Aug 5	Assyrian Period: Southern Prophecy – Part I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prophecy in the Judean Kingdom: Joel; Obadiah; Micah. 	Mic, Joel. H&W §§ 34, 36, 38.
4.	Aug 12	Assyrian Period: Southern Prophecy – Part II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prophecy in the Judean Kingdom: Isaiah 1–39; Nahum. End of the Assyrian threat (replaced by the Babylonian threat). 	2Kgs 18–21; Isa 1–12, 36–39; Nahum. H&W § 28, 39. Bright: 278–98, 310–24.
5.	Aug 19	Babylonian Period: Prophecy – Part I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babylonia and its empire: A lesson in bureaucratic continuity, with a twist. Prophecy in the Judean Kingdom: Habakkuk; Zephaniah; Jeremiah. End of Judean Kingdom. Article/Book Review Due (see assessment details below).	Hab; Jer 1–10, 26–44. H&W §§ 40, 29. Bright: 324–36.
6.	Aug 26	Babylonian Period: Prophecy – Part II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prophecy in Exile: Ezekiel. 	Eze 1–11, 33–37; Lam; Psa 74, 79, 137. H&W § 30, 31. Bright: 336–54. LaSor § 51 (M).
7.	Sept 2	Babylonian Period: Prophecy – Part III <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prophecy in Exile: Isaiah 40–66; Daniel. End of Babylon and the Judean exile. 	Isa 40–55; Dan. H&W § (28) 32. Bright: 354–61. Wright § 14 (M). <i>*Apocalyptic Literature.</i>
8.	Sept 9	Persian Period: Prophecy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medo-Persian Empire: A lesson in “liberation”. Prophecy after Exile: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi. 	Hag; Zec; Mal. H&W §§ 42, 43, 44. Bright: 361–72.
9.	Sept 16	Persian Period: Historical Writings – Part I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chronicles. Essay Due (see assessment details below).	2Kgs 18–20 vs 2Chr. 29–32. H&W § 16.
Mid-Semester Break: Sept 21st — Oct 2nd.			
10.	Oct 7	Persian Period: Historical Writings – Part II Ezra; Nehemiah, Esther.	Ezra 1–6; Neh; Esth. H&W §§ 17, 18. Bright: 373–402.
11.	Oct 14	Writings: Book of Psalms	Psa 1, 2, 8, 13, 19, 23, 72, 73, 96, 118, 150. H&W §§ 22. F&S § 11.
12.	Oct 21	Writings: Wisdom Literature – Part I Proverbs.	Prov 1–9. H&W §§ 20, 23.
13.	Oct 28	Writings: Wisdom Literature – Part II Job; Ecclesiastes.	Job 1–14, 28–42; Ecc. H&W §§ 21, 24. F&S § 12.
End of Semester Exam: Nov 11th @6:30pm			

ASSESSMENT OUTLINE FOR OT302

This applies to students who are enrolled at Bachelor level. See supplementary document for detailed assignment instructions.

Assessment 1	Item	Article review, 750 words
	Details/ Due Date	Write a review of J. Daniel Hays, "The Prophets: Sin, Exile and Restoration," in <i>The Story of Israel: A Biblical Theology</i> , C. Marvin Pate et al. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2004, 88–103. Due: Wednesday, 19th August, 5.00pm.
	Weighting	10%
Assessment 2	Item	Essay, 2,250 words
	Details/ Due Date	Write an essay on ONE of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Define and discuss the problem of idolatry and idols in Isaiah. ○ Define and discuss the problem of false prophecy in Jeremiah. ○ Discuss how the book of Deuteronomy relates to the prophetic message. Due: Wednesday, 16th September, 5.00 pm
	Weighting	50%
Assessment 3	Item	Exam, 80 minutes
	Details/ Due Date	The exam will cover Section B of the unit. There will be five essay questions, from which you will choose TWO and write your answers. Wednesday, 11th November, 6.30 pm
	Weighting	40%

ASSESSMENT OUTLINE FOR OT502

This applies to students who are enrolled at Masters level. See supplementary document for detailed assignment instructions.

Assessment 1	Item	Book review, 1,000 words
	Details/ Due Date	Write a book review of Marvin A. Sweeney, <i>The Prophetic Literature</i> , Interpreting Biblical Texts. Nashville: Abington Press, 2005. Due: Wednesday, 19th August, 5.00 pm
	Weighting	10%
Assessment 2	Item	Essay, 3,000 words
	Details/ Due Date	Write an essay on ONE of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outline and discuss the key similarities and differences between the Hebrew prophets and their counterparts in the Ancient Near East. ○ Evaluate the claim that for the Hebrew Prophets "idolatry challenged the very foundation of YHWH's relationship with his people". ○ Citing a specific example from the Hebrew Prophets, discuss how the message of the prophets relates to the book of Deuteronomy. ○ Is false prophecy a concept applicable only to prophets of pagan deities? Discuss. Due: Wednesday, 16th September, 5.00 pm
	Weighting	50%
Assessment 3	Item	Exam, 80 minutes
	Details/ Due Date	The exam will cover Section B of the unit. There will be five essay questions, from which you will choose TWO and write your answers. Wednesday, 11th November, 6.30 pm
	Weighting	40%

LECTURE ATTENDANCE

Please note the [ACT policy](#) (see also BST Student Handbook) on lecture attendance in the *Undergraduate Handbook* and the *Graduate and Postgraduate Handbook*. You are required to attend at least 80% of lectures. This means you can miss a maximum of two lectures. If you know that you will not be at a lecture, please phone or email the lecturer beforehand. If you miss more than two lectures, your enrolment for this unit may be ended.

HOW TO STUDY THIS UNIT

You should allocate approximately 7 hours outside of class each week to this unit.

PASSING THIS UNIT

In order to pass this unit students must complete the Article/Book Review, Major Essay, a Final Exam, and gain 50% or more overall.

LATE SUBMISSION OF WORK

Please note the [ACT Late Penalties Policy](#) (including extensions; see also BST Student Handbook). Failure to submit any individual assignment on time may result in either a late penalty or a zero mark for the assignment.

PLAGIARISM

Please note the [ACT Academic Misconduct Policy](#) (see also BST student handbook) on plagiarism. This is a serious issue and it is your responsibility both to understand what plagiarism includes and to avoid it completely. If you are found to have plagiarised, there will be serious consequences as specified in the BST student handbook.

Penalties for plagiarism are as follows (from [ACT Academic Misconduct Policy](#)).

First offence:

Students will be subject to academic counselling, with the maximum penalty being to fail the item with no marks awarded. Where deemed appropriate, the minimum penalty available will be that students may be granted an opportunity to resubmit the assessment with a maximum of 50% for the assessment.

Second offence:

Fail unit, with no remedial opportunity.

Third or major offence:

Exclusion from any award of the ACT, or exclusion from the award for up to two years, or other outcome appropriate to the case but with an impact less serious than exclusion. In the case of severe plagiarism and/or cheating, a student may be subject to a separate disciplinary process approved by the ACT Academic Board. Colleges are required to immediately report to the ACT Director of Academic Services all offences of wilful academic misconduct, for recording on TAMS.

READING MATERIALS

Prescribed texts

H&W: Andrew E. Hill and John H. Walton, *A Survey of the Old Testament*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

Assigned readings

Bright: John Bright, *A History of Israel*, 4th ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2000.

F&S: Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart, "The Prophets: Enforcing the Covenant in Israel," in *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. Chapters 10, 11, and 12.

LaSor: William S. Lasor, David A. Hubbard, and Frederic W. Bush, *Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form, and Background of the Old Testament*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996. Chapter 51.

Wright: Christopher J. H. Wright, *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2006. Chapter 14.

Recommended texts

Survey of Hebrew Prophecy:

Robert B. Chisholm Jr. *Handbook on the Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.

Gordon McConville, *The Prophets*, Vol. 4 of *Exploring the Old Testament*. London: SPCK, 2002.

Bible Dictionary:

Mark J. Boda and J. Gordon McConville eds., *Dictionary of the Old Testament Prophets*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2012.

Bible Atlas:

Barry J. Beitzel, *The New Moody Atlas of the Bible*. Chicago: Moody, 2009.

Anson F. Rainey and R. Steven Notley, *The Sacred Bridge*. Jerusalem: Carta, 2006.

GRADUATE OUTCOMES

Attribute	Emphases of Unit			Comment
	Strong	Moderate	Light	
1. Passionate discipleship		✓		The unit considers the key themes of Christian teaching and life as they are found in the Prophets and Writings. It also traces God's plan of redemption which culminates in Jesus Christ.
2. Sound knowledge of the Bible	✓			The unit is foundational for understanding the Scriptures correctly. The major themes of biblical theology will be studied. Students will gain an overall understanding of the theme of the Bible as well as a historical framework in which to interpret the Bible.
3. Humility and faithfulness			✓	The study of the Scriptures should promote humility and faithfulness.
4. Communicating the Gospel		✓		An understanding of the biblical and historical context of the gospel is essential for effective communication of the gospel. The unit provides the historical context for the gospel message.
5. Commitment to Mission		✓		One of the key themes of the unit is mission, especially as the outworking and purpose of God's covenants. Students will appreciate that mission is not a secondary theme of Scripture, but lies at its core.
6. Commitment to Team ministry			✓	The unit does not focus on the development of team work. However, class discussion will provide opportunity for students to learn within a communal setting.
7. Basic ministry skills		✓		This unit involves the skills of listening, discussing, facilitating discussion, research and writing. Much time will be spent in interpreting and applying Scripture, which is a basic ministry skill.
8. Commitment to Life-long learning		✓		The unit will highlight the immense scope of the Scriptures and the need for ongoing learning and growth. Learning will whet the appetite to keep learning.

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

- 1) They will be passionate disciples of Jesus Christ.** Graduates will maintain a vibrant relationship with God, be passionate about following Jesus and walk by the Spirit in every area of life. They will seek to love God above all else and others as themselves in attitudes, words and deeds. They will be imitators of Jesus, obey His Word, deny themselves, take up their cross and follow Jesus wherever He may lead.
- 2) They will have a sound knowledge of the Bible.** Graduates will have an in-depth and comprehensive knowledge of the Bible. They will be committed to the infallibility and authority of the Bible as God's Word in everything pertaining to salvation and the Christian life. They will do their best to be good teachers of the Bible who correctly explain the word of truth.
- 3) They will have genuine humility and demonstrate faithfulness in life and ministry.** Graduates will live lives of holiness, humility and faithfulness. They will be willing to acknowledge their shortcomings and mistakes, and be open to receive constructive criticism and advice. They will do nothing out of selfish ambition, but in humility will consider others better than themselves. They will be prepared to suffer for the sake of Christ, knowing that "we must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God".
- 4) They will be effective communicators of the Gospel.** Graduates will know the Gospel and will be eager and able to communicate the Gospel, especially in word, but also through writing and other media, in ways that are culturally sensitive and intelligible to others. They will have compassionate hearts, listening empathetically to people in their particular contexts. They will be ready to preach the Word at any time with patience and care, trying to persuade people to believe the Gospel and to become followers of Jesus.
- 5) They will have a great commitment to God's mission.** Graduates will be aware of the needs and opportunities of local and global mission. They will endeavour to see the coming of God's kingdom in every sphere of life, strive for justice for the poor and work towards community transformation. They will be passionately committed to and will be active in working towards the fulfilment of the Great Commission, to make disciples of all nations.
- 6) They will be committed to team ministry and servant leadership.** Graduates will be committed to the local church as the family of God and as their context for ministry and base for mission. They will work enthusiastically and cooperatively with others in ministry teams. They will be open to Christians across various evangelical denominations and churches. As leaders they will be disciple-makers, following the Lord Jesus in serving, leading by example, and training and mentoring other leaders.
- 7) They will be competent in basic ministry skills.** Graduates will be competent in basic ministry skills, including preaching, teaching, leading and caring for people. They will use their gifts to implement constructive change in the church and community. They will be culturally attuned and flexible in dealing with a range of issues. They will embrace accountability and maintain professional standards in various contexts. They will be "salt and light" in the world and be able to "prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up".
- 8) They will be committed to lifelong learning and personal growth.** Graduates will be proactive in expanding their knowledge and abilities. They will be open to new challenges, be willing to face unfamiliar problems and accept wider responsibilities. They will continue to grow in faith, knowledge and maturity, "forgetting what is behind and pressing ... toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus".