



OT301/501
Old Testament Foundations
Semester 1, 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.

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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 first of two units (OT301/501 and OT302/502) which cover the basic content of the Old Testament. OT301/501 covers the material from Genesis to 2 Kings. The aim is to provide an overview of the geography, culture, history, literature and theology of the Pentateuch and historical books of the Old Testament. 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 | Mr John Coulson <i>BSc(Hons), DipMin, BTh(Hons), MTh</i> | |
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| Additional information | Credit points | 4 | |
| | Co/pre-requisites | N/A | |
| | No. of teaching weeks | 13 | |
| Assessment Summary | OT301 | | |
| | Item | Details/Due Date | Weighting |
| | Article review | 750 words Due: 18 th March | 10% |
| | Essay | 2,250 words Due: 6 th May | 50% |
| | Exam | 80 minutes Due: 17 th June | 40% |
| | OT501 | | |
| | Item | Details/Due Date | Weighting |
| | Book review | 1,000 words Due: 18 th March | 10% |
| | Essay | 2,500 words Due: 6 th May | 50% |
| | Exam | 80 minutes Due: 17 th June | 40% |

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND UNIT CONTENT

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, students will:

1. Have an overall acquaintance with the text of the Old Testament (OT)
2. Be aware of the contents and nature (and major critical issues – OT501) of the literature of the OT
3. Have an overall historical framework within which to interpret the books of the OT
4. Have an appreciation of the relevant Ancient Near Eastern context (cultural, religious and archaeological) and its significance for understanding the OT
5. Have an understanding of major OT theological themes and their significance for Christian theology
6. Be prepared for more detailed exploration of some aspects of OT studies
7. Begin to consider the implications of the OT for Christian life and thought.

Content

Section A: The Pentateuch/Torah

1. Genesis 1-11
2. Genesis 12-50
3. Exodus
4. Leviticus and Numbers
5. Deuteronomy

Section B: Historical Books/Former Prophets

6. Joshua and Judges
7. 1 and 2 Samuel
8. 1 and 2 Kings

UNIT TIMETABLE

| Week | Date | Topic | Pre-reading |
|---|------------|--|--|
| 1 | Feb 18 | Introduction to unit Old Testament canon | H&W, chs. 1-2 |
| 2 | Feb 25 | The Pentateuch | Gen 1-3 H&W, ch. 3 |
| 3 | Mar 4 | Genesis 1-11 Discussion on "Genesis 1-3: Science? History? Theology?" | Gen 4-11 H&W, ch. 4 J. Thompson article |
| 4 | Mar 11 | Genesis 12-50 Discussion on interpreting OT narratives | Gen 12-50 F&S, ch. 5 |
| 5 | Mar 18 | Exodus Assessments due today, 5.00pm: OT301 article review; OT501 book review; essay draft | Exodus 1-34 H&W, ch. 5 |
| Mission exposure week (21-29 March) | | | |
| 6 | Apr 1 | Leviticus | Leviticus (esp. chs. 1, 4-5, 11, 16, 17, 19, 23, 27) H&W, ch. 6 |
| Easter, study week and holiday week (3-17 April) | | | |
| 7 | Apr 22 | Numbers | Numbers (esp. chs. 11-14) H&W, ch. 7 |
| 8 | Apr 29 | Deuteronomy Discussion on interpreting OT laws | Deuteronomy (esp. chs. 1-11, 29-34) H&W, ch. 8 F&S, ch. 9 |
| 9 | May 6 | Introduction to Historical Books/Former Prophets Essay due today, 5.00pm | H&W, chs. 9-10 |
| 10 | May 13 | Joshua | Joshua (esp. chs. 1-12, 23-24) H&W, ch. 11 |
| 11 | May 20 | Judges | Judges (esp. chs. 1-12) H&W, ch. 12 |
| 12 | May 27 | 1 & 2 Samuel | 1 & 2 Samuel (esp. 1 Sam 1-19; 31; 2 Sam 1-2; 5-8; 11-13; 24) H&W, ch. 14 |
| 13 | Jun 3 | 1 & 2 Kings | 1 & 2 Kings (esp. 1 Kgs 1-22; 2 Kgs 1-10; 17-19; 21-25) H&W, ch. 15 |
| 14 | Study week | | |
| 15 | Exam week | Exam: Wed 17 June, 6.45pm | |

ASSESSMENT OUTLINE FOR OT301

This applies to students who are enrolled at Bachelor level.

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Assessment 1 | Item | Article review, 750 words |
| | Details/Due Date | Write a review of John Thompson's "Genesis 1-3: Science? History? Theology?" Due: Wednesday, 18th March, 5.00 pm |
| | Weighting | 10% |
| Assessment 2 | Item | Essay, 2,250 words |
| | Details/Due Date | Trace the development of the idea of covenant as it relates to salvation history in the Pentateuch. In your essay take into account the relevant Ancient Near Eastern background. Due: Wednesday, 6th May, 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. Due: Wednesday, 17th June, 6.45 pm |
| | Weighting | 40% |

ASSESSMENT OUTLINE FOR OT501

This applies to students who are enrolled at Masters level.

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|---------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Assessment 1 | Item | Book review, 1,000 words |
| | Details/Due Date | Write a book review of John Goldingay, <i>Approaches to Old Testament Interpretation</i> . Due: Wednesday, 18th March, 5.00 pm |
| | Weighting | 10% |
| Assessment 2 | Item | Essay, 2,500 words |
| | Details/Due Date | Discuss how the Pentateuch can be considered as an outworking of the Abrahamic Covenant. In your essay take into account the relevant Ancient Near Eastern background. Due: Wednesday, 6th May, 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. Due: Wednesday, 17th June, 6.45 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.

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.

PASSING THIS UNIT

To pass this unit you must complete and submit each assessment item. You must also attain an overall percentage mark of 50% or more.

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

* Books marked with an asterisk are on the Frozen Shelf in the library.

Prescribed text

*Hill, A. E. and J. H. Walton.

A Survey of the Old Testament. Third edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

Other recommended texts

Alexander, P. *The Lion Handbook to the Bible*. Oxford: Lion Hudson, 2009.

Bimson, J. J., et al, eds.

New Bible Atlas. Leicester: Inter-Varsity, 1990.

*Bright, J.

A History of Israel. Fourth edition. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2000.

*Dumbrell, W. J.

The Faith of Israel. Second edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.

*Fee, G. D. and D. Stuart.

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth. Third edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Marshall, I. H., et al, eds.

New Bible Dictionary. Third edition. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2007.

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 Pentateuch and Former Prophets. It also traces God's plan of redemption which culminates in Jesus Christ. |
| 2) Sound knowledge of 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 | | | √ | Careful study of the Scriptures promotes 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 | | | √ | While the unit does not focus specifically on the development of team work, 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, and research and writing. Much time will be spent in interpreting and applying Scripture, which is a basic ministry skill. |
| 8) Commitment to lifelong 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 (Mark 8:34).

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 (2 Tim 3:14-17). They will do their best to be good teachers of the Bible who correctly explain the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15).

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 (Phil 2:3). 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" (Acts 14:22).

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 (2 Tim 4:2), trying to persuade people to believe the Gospel and to become followers of Jesus (2 Cor 5:11).

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 (Matt 28:18-20).

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 (Heb 10:24-25). They will work enthusiastically and cooperatively with others in ministry teams. They will be open to Christians across various evangelical denominations and churches (Luke 9:49-50). As leaders they will be disciple-makers, following the Lord Jesus in serving, leading by example, and training and mentoring other leaders (Mark 10:43-45).

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 (1 Tim 4:6-16). They will be culturally attuned and flexible in dealing with a range of issues (1 Cor 9:19-23). They will embrace accountability and maintain professional standards in various contexts. They will be "salt and light" in the world (Matt 5:13-14) and be able to "prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Eph 4:12).

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" (Phil 3:13-14).