

MTG200.7 INTERPRETING THE OLD TESTAMENT

Name of Unit 1 (Unit Code 1)
Interpreting the Old Testament (MTG200.7)

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Level	Unit Coordinator
Diploma Bachelor	One semester	Intermediate	Dr Chris Johnstone

Core or elective unit

Indicate if the unit is a

- core unit
 elective unit
 other (please specify below):

Core: Bachelor of Ministry, Bachelor of Theology
 Elective: Diploma in Ministry and Theology, Bachelor of Intercultural Studies

Unit weighting

Using the table below, indicate the credit point weighting of this unit and the credit point total for the course of study (for example, 10 credit points for the unit and 320 credit points for the course of study).

Unit credit points	Total course credit points
6 credit points	48 / 144 credit points

Student workload

Using the table below, indicate the expected student workload per week for this unit.

No. timetabled hours per week	No. personal study hours per week	Total workload hours per week
3	6	9

For those students requiring additional English language support, how many additional hours per week is it expected that they will undertake?

Additional English language support: 0 hours per week

Pre-requisites and co-requisites

Are students required have undertaken a prerequisite or co-requisite unit for this unit?

Yes No

If **YES**, provide details of the prerequisite or co-requisite requirements below.

Prerequisite: MTG100.5 The Biblical Story for Everyone

SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS

Brief description of the content of the unit

This unit examines the formation, content, background, storyline, main themes and literature of the Protestant Old Testament canon to facilitate its faithful interpretation for and communication to diverse contemporary audiences. It connects strongly with the MTC formation domain, *Engaging God's Story*. Students critically analyse the three worlds of the biblical text, developing an informed theory of interpretation and engaging with various perspectives and methodologies. Special focus is given to the cultivation of methods and skills for reading and communicating the various genres within this corpus.

Learning outcomes for the unit

- 1) Analyse contemporary issues and perspectives in Old Testament interpretation, with reference to the world behind, within, and in front of the biblical text
- 2) Examine the formation, content, background, storyline, main themes and literature of the Protestant Old Testament canon
- 3) Critically apply the insights from contextual and comparative studies to the interpretation of various Old Testament genres
- 4) Creatively communicate clear and coherent interpretations of various Old Testament genres to diverse audiences

Assessment tasks

Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
1. Quizzes x4 (equiv 500 words) Based on textbook readings, students complete four true/false, multiple choice quizzes addressing the formation, content, background, storyline, main themes and literature of the Protestant Old Testament canon	2	Wks 3, 6, 9, 13	10%

Assessment tasks			
Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
<p>2. Research Essay</p> <p>From a list of topics provided, which address contemporary issues and perspectives in Old Testament interpretation, students select, illustrate and assess the contribution made to understanding the three worlds of the biblical text.</p> <p>At least 6 resources are required. (1200 words)</p>	1	Wk 14	25%
<p>3. Exegetical Paper</p> <p>Students engage with the background, storyline and main themes of the Old Testament and employ specific exegetical methods and skills to interpret two Old Testament passages of different genres that address the same theme or issue and present their work in a formal academic paper. A minimum of 6 resources is required, including at least 2 intermediate level commentaries. (1800 words)</p>	2 & 3	Wks 5 (draft of first passage) & 10 (final)	40%
<p>4. Multimedia presentations x2</p> <p>Based on their exegetical paper on two different OT passages and genres (see assessment task 2), students develop and creatively deliver two multimedia presentations of 10-minutes each designed for two different specifically targeted audiences. (750 words equiv. x 2)</p>	4	Wks 7 & 12	25% (12.5% each)

2.1 Prescribed and recommended readings

Prescribed reading:

Duvall, J. and J. Hays. *Grasping God's Word*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Hubbard, Jr., Robert L., and J. Andrew Dearman. *Introducing the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2018.

Longman, Tremper, and Mark L. Strauss. *The Baker Compact Dictionary of Biblical Studies*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2018.

Recommended reading:

Aharoni, Yohanan, Michael Avi-Yonah, Anson F. Rainey, Ze'ev Safrai, and R. Steven Notley. *The Carta Bible Atlas*. 5th, revised and expanded ed. Jerusalem: Tyndale, 2011.

Arnold, Bill T., Bill T. Arnold, and Brent A. Strawn. *The World around the Old Testament: The People and Places of the Ancient Near East*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019.

Beldman, D. J. H. & C. G. Bartholomew (eds). *Hearing the Old Testament: Listening for God's Address*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.

Boadt, L. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction*. 2nd ed. New York: Paulist Press, 2012.

Brown, J. *Scripture as Communication: Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.*

Brueggemann, W. *Redescribing Reality: What We Do When We Read the Bible*. London: SCM, 2009.*

Clifford, Hywel C., Douglas S. Earl, Ryan O'Dowd, and Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer. *Companion to the Old Testament: Introduction, Interpretation, Application*. London: SCM, 2016.

Drane, John William. *Introducing the Old Testament*. 4th ed. Oxford: Lion Scholar, 2019. Fee, G. & D. Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2014.

Goldingay, J. *An Introduction to the Old Testament: Exploring Text, Approaches and Issues*. London: SPCK, 2016.

——— *Key Questions about Biblical Interpretation: Old Testament Answers*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.

——— *Old Testament Theology, Volume 1: Israel's Gospel*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2003.*

——— *Old Testament Theology, Volume 2: Israel's Faith*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006.*

——— *Old Testament Theology, Volume 3: Israel's Life*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2009.*

Klein, W.W., Blomberg, C.L. & Hubbard, R.L. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2017.

Kim, Brittany, and Charlie Trimm. *Understanding Old Testament Theology: Mapping the Terrain of Recent Approaches*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2020.

Matthews, Victor Harold, and Don C. Benjamin. *Old Testament Parallels: Laws and Stories from the Ancient Near East*. 4th ed. New York, NY: Paulist Press, 2016.

Moberly, R. W. L. *The God of the Old Testament: Encountering the Divine in Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2020.

Richards, E. & B. O'Brien. *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2012.

Schultz, R. *Out of Context: How to Avoid Misinterpreting the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012.

Stein, R. *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing by the Rules*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.

Strauss, M. *How to Read the Bible in Changing Times*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.

Strawn, Brent. *The Old Testament: A Concise Introduction*. London, UK: Routledge, 2019.

Walton, J. *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.

Dictionaries

Alexander, T. & D. Baker (eds.). *Dictionary of the Old Testament Pentateuch*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2003.

Arnold, B. & H. Williamson (eds.). *Dictionary of the Old Testament Historical Books*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2005.

Boda, M. & J.H. McConville, (eds.). *Dictionary of the Old Testament Prophets*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2012.

Longman III, T. & P. Enns (eds.). *Dictionary of the Old Testament Wisdom, Poetry and Writings*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2008.

Ryken, L, J. Wilhoit & T. Longman III (eds.). *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1998.

Vanhoozer, K., C. Bartholomew, D. Treier & N.T. Wright (eds.). *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*, Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.

* Seminal Work