

## MTG200.9 INTERPRETING THE OLD TESTAMENT

### Name of Unit 1 (Unit Code 1)

Interpreting the Old Testament (MTG200.9)

### SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

#### Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Level	Unit Coordinator
Graduate Certificate Graduate Diploma Masters	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: Master of Divinity  
 Elective: Graduate Certificate in Christian Studies, Graduate Diploma in Christian Studies,  
 Graduate Diploma in 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	24 / 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: MTG100.8 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, methodologies and biblical criticisms. 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, perspectives and criticisms in Old Testament interpretation, evaluating their significance for engaging with the world behind, within, and in front of the biblical text
- 2) Evaluate the contribution of Ancient Near Eastern studies and literature for Old Testament interpretation
- 3) Analyse the background, storyline and main themes of the Old Testament and apply to the interpretation of various Old Testament texts
- 4) Synthesise and critically apply the insights from contextual and comparative studies to the interpretation of various Old Testament genres
- 5) Creatively communicate clear and coherent interpretations of various Old Testament genres to diverse audiences, justifying the strategies employed

**Assessment tasks**

Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
<p><b>1. Research Essay</b>                      From a list of topics provided, which address contemporary issues, perspectives and or criticisms in Old Testament interpretation, students select, analyse and evaluate the contribution made to understanding the three worlds of the biblical text.                      8-10 resources are required, including Tate's <i>Biblical Interpretation</i>.                      (1500 words)</p>	1	Wk 7	30%

Assessment tasks			
Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
<p>2. <b>Study Paper: Ancient Near Eastern literature &amp; OT interpretation</b> From a list provided, students analyse three ANE writings, one cosmological, one legal and one wisdom and evaluate the contribution each makes to Old Testament interpretation.</p> <p>Students engage with the ANE literature plus at least 5 additional sources (1500 words)</p>	2	Wk 4	20%
<p>3. <b>The Bible Speaks Today – Exegetical Project</b> Students select a biblical, theological, social, ethical and or pastoral theme or issue as the focus for their exegetical research, in which students will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse the background, storyline and main themes of the OT to determine the significance for understanding the issue</li> <li>Identify and exegete at least two substantial OT passages of different genres that speak to the issue, justifying both the selection of OT passages and the exegetical methods employed</li> <li>Synthesise the results of their exegetical work into a clear and concise summary, including an evaluation of the OT contribution to the issue</li> <li>Communicate points 1 &amp; 2 in a formal academic paper (2000 words) and create and deliver two 10-minute multimedia presentations (500 words each equiv), one designed to speak to a Christian context, and the second designed to speak within the public domain.</li> </ol> <p>A minimum of 12 resources is required, including at least 2 advanced level commentaries. (3000 words equiv)</p>	3, 4 & 5	<p>Written presentation: Wk 9</p> <p>Multimedia Presentations: Wks 11 &amp; 13</p>	<p>50% (Written 30% Multimedia 10% each)</p>

## 2.1 Prescribed and recommended readings

### Prescribed reading:

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

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

Tate, W. R. *Biblical Interpretation: An Integrated Approach*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed, Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

### Recommended reading:

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.

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.

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*. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2014.

Goldingay, J. *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.\*

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.

Osborne, Grant R. *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Rev ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2006.

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.

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