



PBC
PERTH BIBLE COLLEGE

STUDY LEVEL 700

UNIT CODE: OT702
UNIT TITLE: Old Testament B – Poetry or Prophets

SEMESTER: Trimester 1, 2025

LECTURER: Dr. David Shaw

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| UNIT OVERVIEW: | This subject introduces the student to the major topics that are important for a study of the OT prophets and their literary compositions. The topics include (1) a look at the function of the prophets and their prophecies in Israelite society, (2) the historical and cultural background of the prophets, (3) the most significant teachings of the Major Prophets, and (4) hermeneutic considerations for an application of prophetic teachings of the OT to the life of the modern Christian. After a general overview, specific attention will be given to the book of Ezekiel. |
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ACADEMIC DETAILS

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| Location in course: | This core unit is an introductory unit and is offered at Levels 700 |
| Workload | This unit carries 3 credit points. The contact hours for this unit are 2.5 hours/week for 12 weeks as well as scheduled seminars. Students are expected to study a further 8.5 hours/week. |
| Pre-Requisites | None |

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| Delivery | Delivery will be via lectures, research assignments, and extra content supplied online. |
| Summary of Content | This unit engages in exegesis and Old Testament theology on a selected Poetic or Prophetic book in the Old Testament. |
| Learning outcomes | <p>By the completion of this unit, the students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Explain literary features and background factors of the Old Testament prophecy. b) Employ new theological knowledge to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify the major theme and sub-themes of an OT book (or set of books) within a particular genre. b. Analyse and discuss the interplay between the individual and the group as addressees of the text and the hermeneutical implications this interplay holds for creating meaning for today. c) Discuss contemporary issues in the study of the Old Testament prophets. d) Conduct a critical analysis of a practical context to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Critically evaluate how the poetic or prophetic genres within the Old Testament is dealt with in the teaching within a local church. e) Engage in critical personal reflection to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop a personal response that correlates with the genre employed within the text being exegeted. f) Outline the major theological themes in Old Testament prophetic literature. g) Competently employ appropriate interpretive methods and hermeneutical tools for the study and analysis of Old Testament prophecy. h) Develop and employ practical methods and actions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Utilise an appropriate exegetical methodology to interpret, explain and effectively communicate the text and its genre to modern-day believers. i) Exegete selected passages from the Old Testament prophetic literature and demonstrate their theological and practical relevance for Christian life today. |
| Requirements to complete | <p>To complete this unit successfully students must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) attend at least 85% of all classes (Provisional Students, Conditional Students and Students-at-risk), excluding approved absences; b) lodge all assessments that are required for this unit, and c) obtain a total grade of at least 50% in the unit. |

LECTURE SYLLABUS

| Session | Topic | Readings |
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| Session 1 | <p>Introduction to the OT Prophets – Major</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding the nature and purpose of prophecy in the Old Testament - Overview of the literary features and historical context of prophetic literature - Discussion on the relevance and significance of studying Old Testament prophets today - Major Prophetic Books and their unique contributions - Analysing the distinct messages, themes, and styles of each major prophet - Discussing the historical and theological significance of these major prophets | <p>Gordon McConville, <i>Exploring the Old Testament</i>, vol. 4</p> <p>Chapters relevant to the study of the books of the Major Prophets</p> <p>AVAILABLE ON DTL2 and in the PBC Library.</p> <p><u>Recommended additional reading</u> Chisolm, RB 2009, <i>Handbook on the Prophets</i>, Baker Academic.</p> <p>John H. Walton and Andrew E. Hill, <i>Old Testament Today</i>, 2nd ed.</p> |
| Session 2 | <p>Introduction to the OT Prophets – Minor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minor Prophetic Books and their unique contributions - Identifying and examining their central theological themes - Analyzing how these themes relate to the broader theological framework of the Old Testament | <p>Gordon McConville, <i>Exploring the Old Testament</i>, vol. 4</p> <p>Chapters relevant to the study of the books of the Minor Prophets</p> <p>AVAILABLE ON DTL2 and in the PBC Library.</p> <p><u>Recommended additional reading</u> Chisolm, RB 2009, <i>Handbook on the Prophets</i>, Baker Academic.</p> <p>John H. Walton and Andrew E. Hill, <i>Old Testament Today</i>, 2nd ed.</p> |
| Session 3 (E-Learning) | <p>The Book of Ezekiel as a Case Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Importance of studying the biblical book of Ezekiel - Overview of the book's context and themes | <p>Relevant chapters sections from Christopher Wright, <i>The Message of Ezekiel</i> and/or Robert W. Jenson, <i>Ezekiel</i> (Brazos Theological Commentary), both available in the PBC library and via DTL2.</p> |
| Session 4 | <p>The Prophetic Call of Ezekiel, Historical and Cultural Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding the historical context of the exile and Babylonian captivity - Exploring the cultural milieu of ancient Babylon - Examining the unique circumstances and nature of Ezekiel's prophetic ministry - Analyzing the vision of God's glory and its impact on Ezekiel's mission | As above |
| Session 5-6 (Intensive) | <p>A) Symbolic Actions in Prophetic Books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exploring the significance of Ezekiel's symbolic actions and their messages | As above |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unpacking the role of visual imagery in conveying prophetic messages <p>B) Workshop on The Visionary Experiences of Ezekiel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investigating the vivid and intricate visions described in the book - Analyzing the symbolism and theological implications of these visions | |
| Session 7 | <p>The Messianic Hope in Prophecy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying messianic prophecies and their fulfilment in the New Testament - Examining Ezekiel's vision of the restoration of Israel and the Messianic Kingdom | As above |
| Session 8 | <p>Interpreting Prophetic Passages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducting in-depth exegesis of specific passages from various prophetic books - Examining the historical context, literary features, and theological significance of these passages - Identifying practical applications and contemporary relevance for Christian life based on the exegetical analysis - Case studies on specific prophetic books | As above |
| Session 9-10 (Intensive) | <p>A) Ezekiel 24 – Trauma and Prophecy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traumatic Events and Symbolic Actions in Ezekiel 24 - Understanding the traumatic experiences faced by the Israelites during the Babylonian siege <p>B) Workshop on the Relevance of Ezekiel's Experience to Contemporary Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drawing parallels between the challenges faced in Ezekiel's time and modern-day issues - Analysing the significance of Ezekiel's symbolic actions in response to the trauma - The Interplay of Prophecy and Healing - Ezekiel's prophecies as hope for a traumatized community. - The role of prophecy in the process of healing and restoration. | As above |
| Session 11 (E-Learning) | <p>Reflection and Synthesis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summarizing the key learnings from the course and connecting them to the learning outcomes - Encouraging students to critically reflect on their journey through the study of Old Testament prophecy | As above |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synthesizing the various themes, methods, and contemporary relevance of prophetic literature in a final discussion - Considering the practical implications of prophetic literature for Christian life and ministry - Reflecting on the transformative potential of prophetic messages in addressing contemporary challenges - Discussing ways to apply prophetic insights and principles in personal and communal contexts | |
| Session 12 | Exam Week | |

| | Recorded video sessions follow the pattern below; dates have been updated to reflect the week beginning each Monday in Tri 1, 2025. |
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| 24 Feb 2025 | Session 1 |
| 3 March 2025 | Session 2 |
| 10 March 2025 | Session 3 (E-Learning, recording) |
| 17 March 2025 | Session 4 |
| 24 March 2025 | Session 5 -6 INTENSIVE (6-8pm; 8-9.30pm) |
| 31 March 2025 | Session 7 |
| 7 April 2025 | Session 8 |
| 14 April 2025 | MID TERM BREAK |
| 21 April 2025 | Session 9-10 INTENSIVE (6-8pm; 8-9.30pm) |
| 28 April 2025 | Session 11 (E-Learning, recording) |
| 5 May 2025 | |

| Assessment Type | When assessed | Weighting | Learning outcomes Assessed |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Reference Survey | 28 March | 20% | a, h |
| 2. Exegetical Analysis | 22 April | 40% | a, b, g, i |
| 3. Resource Development | 16 May | 40% | c, d, e, f, |

ASSESSMENT ITEMS

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| 1. ANNOTATED REFERENCE SURVEY (Carries 20% of the total grade) | Create an annotated reference survey in preparation for your exegesis paper. You must include a variety of sources including commentaries, journal articles, books, etc., articulating the core idea(s) that will serve your exegesis paper. Word count: 1000 (+/- 10%); DUE: Week 5. Min 8 ref's incl. 2 journal articles. |
| 2. EXEGETICAL PAPER (Carries 40% of the total grade). | Present an exegesis paper on Ezekiel 34:1–16. The final product must be in essay form (see Gorman's example), with your exegetical work included as an appendix. DUE: Week 8 (Tues 22 April); Word count: 2,500 (+/- 10%) This assessment requires a minimum of 8 references, incl. at least 2 journal articles. |
| 3. RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Carries 40% of the total grade). | Develop a Bible study with three sessions for a specific audience based on Ezek 1:1–28; 37:1–14; and 47:1–12. The study should also include a leader's guide for each session that outlines possible answers, points of interest, further questions Also include a bibliography (min. 8 references) for the Bible study leader to increase the depth and range of their knowledge of 1 Peter's structure and key theological themes for the purpose of leading the studies. Word count: 2,000 (+/- 10%); DUE: Week 11. Min 8 ref's incl. 2 journal articles |

Students should also have a *working* knowledge of **PBC's Assessment Policies** (www.pbc.wa.edu.au and then *Student Portal/Useful Links/Policies & Procedures/ Assessment Policies*) to assist in completing this unit.

TEXT BOOKS AND KEY REFERENCES

See Lecture Syllabus