



Master of Divinity, Master of Ministry, and Related Programs

OT501/D

Old Testament Foundations

Semester 1, 2019

Malyon College
is an approved institution of the
Australian College of Theology

OT501/D is offered by Malyon College as part of the Master of Divinity, Master of Ministry, and Related Programs authorized for distance and contact delivery by the college, which is an accredited award of the Australian College of Theology (ACT).

MALYON COLLEGE

At Malyon we recognise that the world is changing. These are times of great challenge and opportunity. Our commitment is to raising up a generation of influential Christians who have a strong biblical base, skills in leadership and ministry, and a heart for God.

We have been training Christian leaders for over 100 years, and we've learnt a few things about theological training. Our graduates are serving all over the world as pastors, cross-cultural workers, workplace leaders, chaplains, church leaders and theological faculty.

Malyon offers full-time and part-time study options through lecture, intensive and distance modes. We have excellent resources for students including a large library, wireless internet and 24 hour access to the campus. All our awards are accredited through the Australian College of Theology.

The Australian College of Theology

The ACT was established under the auspices of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia in 1891. The ACT is a company limited by guarantee governed by a nine-member Board of Directors. The Anglican Primate of Australia presides as the chairman of meetings of the company which consists of 54 persons (in 2010). The ACT is an Australasian provider of state accredited higher education courses leading to awards in theology and other disciplines related to Christian ministry. The ACT operates as an ecumenical consortium of some 2,500 students enrolled in 19 Bible and theological colleges approved to teach the awards of the ACT. These awards range from two-year diplomas, three-year undergraduate and coursework masters degrees to masters and doctoral research degrees.

The ACT has a centrally devised and managed curriculum and a quality assurance process that are applied across the whole network of affiliated colleges. The day-to-day educational system is managed by the Dean from the ACT office in Sydney. Academic governance is the responsibility of the Academic Board which oversees all academic activities of the College. The standing committees of the Academic Board share this responsibility by monitoring the quality of delivery and resourcing, developing policy, and reviewing the course structure for research, coursework and diploma courses. The membership of the Academic Board and its committees is comprised mostly of faculty members of affiliated colleges. A number of senior university academics are represented to help ensure that ACT practice (especially in the outcome of the consideration of research examiner's reports and general academic policy) remains comparable with the standards of and best practice in the university sector.

As a HEP under the Higher Education Support Act, the College was required to undergo a quality audit conducted by the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA). The AUQA Audit Report was publicly released on the AUQA website in February 2007.

In 2010 the company consists of 54 members composed in the following way:

- (1) the Anglican Primate of Australian and the Dean of the ACT,
- (2) the principals of 10 Anglican Theological Colleges,
- (3) 21 persons elected by the House of Bishops of the General Synod,
- (4) the principals of 11 affiliated colleges approved to deliver the research degrees of the ACT,
- (5) 5 graduates holding an ACT research degree,
- (6) 5 graduates holding any other degree of the ACT.

UNIT DETAILS

Unit Description

OT501/D examines the foundations of the Old Testament as found in the Pentateuch (Genesis to Deuteronomy) and the Historical Books (Former Prophets). Consideration is given to the Old Testament in general, the cultural and historical context, introductory matters and theological themes. Additionally, the implications of the Old Testament for Christian life and thought are considered.

This unit falls under the Bible and Languages field of study; together with OT502/D, it forms the essential foundation for all advanced studies in the Old Testament.

Credit Points

This unit is valued at 4 credit points.

Co- and Pre-Requisites

None

Exclusions

None

Unit Content

The unit is made up of the following sections and sub-sections:

1. The Old Testament or Hebrew Bible:
 - a. Divisions of the Old Testament.
 - b. Authorship in ancient times.
 - c. Oral tradition.
2. The Torah or Pentateuch:
 - a. Genesis.
 - b. Exodus.
 - c. Leviticus.
 - d. Numbers.
 - e. Deuteronomy.

3. The Former Prophets or Historical Books:
 - a. Joshua.
 - b. Judges.
 - c. Samuel.
 - d. Kings.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an overall acquaintance with the text of the Old Testament, as one of the two primary documents of biblical studies and Christian ministry.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the content and nature of the literature in the Old Testament.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the overall historical framework within which to interpret the books of the Old Testament.
4. Demonstrate an appreciation of the appropriate Ancient Near Eastern background and its relevance for an understanding of the Old Testament.
5. Discuss the major theological themes of the Old Testament and their significance for Christian theology.
6. Commence a more detailed exploration of some aspects of Old Testament studies.
7. Consider the implications of the Old Testament for Christian life and thought.

Workload Requirement

A unit will generally require about 10 hours per week for lectures for contact students or home study for distance students, preparation and revision, and assignment work over thirteen weeks. In addition, two study weeks are worked into each semester. Excluding the study weeks, this generally averages out as follows:

1. Contact students:
 - a. Lectures – 3 hours per week;
 - b. Preparation – 2 hours per week;
 - c. Assignments – 5 hours per week.
2. Distance students:
 - a. Home study; including forums and revisions – 5 hours per week;
 - b. Assignments – 5 hours per week.

Learning Guides

Students should access the Learning Guides on the unit Moodle page for guidance through their studies for the semester.

Assessment Requirements

The student shall complete the following assessment requirements:

1. Two one-hour tests (30% each)
2. Interpretive essay (40%)

Contact students will be expected to attend all lectures.

Students who fail to attend lectures may be failed.

Required Resources

These are the required textbooks for the unit (most students find Book Depository [<https://www.bookdepository.com/>] the best source for competitive prices and prompt delivery).

1. Gordon Wenham, *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Pentateuch* (Intervarsity Press, 2003).
2. David Howard, Jr., *An Introduction to the Old Testament Historical Books* (Moody, 1993).
3. John Walton, *The Lost World of Genesis One: Ancient Cosmology and the Origins Debate* (InterVarsity Press, 2009). **If you don't want to purchase the text for your personal library, it's available through the Malyon College library, both in print and ebook form**

Further learning resources may be made available on Moodle, our Online Learning Centre. These resources may include articles, extracts, contact lecture notes and other learning activities.

Lecture Schedule

Module	Date	Assigned Reading & Reading Guide (RG)	Topics
1	12 Feb		Introduction Reading the Old Testament
2	19 Feb	Wenham 1-34 RG1	Pentateuch: Overview Genesis 1-11
3	26 Feb	Wenham 35-56, 159-183 RG2	Genesis 12-50
4	5 March	Wenham 57-80 RG3	Exodus
5	12 March	Wenham 81-100 RG4	Leviticus, Numbers
6	19 March	Wenham 123-143 RG5	Numbers, Deuteronomy
7	26 March		Test 1
8	2 April	Howard 85-92, 203-7, 66-85 RG6	Former Prophets: Overview Joshua, Judges
	9 April		Study Week
	16 April		Study Week
9	23 April	Howard 160-188 RG7	1 Samuel
10	30 April		2 Samuel
11	7 May	Howard 192-202, 224- 231 RG8	1 Kings
12	14 May	Interpretive essay due: Sunday 19 May	2 Kings
13	21 May		Discussing Essays And Semester Review
	28 May		Study Week
	1 May to 7 June		Test 2

UNIT LECTURERS AND PREPARERS

Lecturer

Dr A.J. Culp (BA, MA, PhD)

Contact details:

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UNIT ASSESSMENT

Assessment Instructions

In completing assessments, students should note that:

1. The **College requirements** for the writing and submission of assignments are to be adhered to at all times, as marks will be deducted for incorrect and poor presentation. Of particular importance is that the official College title page is to be used, and that the word length be indicated.
2. The current **Student Assignment Guide** is available to all students on the Moodle site; it should be studied, both when starting out and at the beginning of each academic year as adjustments or changes may be made from time-to-time.
3. With respect to **length**, students are permitted to write at a length of 10% either side of the stated length; for example, a 1000-word assignment should be within a 900-1100 word length. Students will be penalized 10% over the word limit and may be required to resubmit the assignment in terms of the stipulated word length.
4. With respect to the **List of References**, a specific number of references will not be set; however, students should note the guidelines indicated for the specific assessment requirement. However, students should note that:
 - a. Bibles (including study Bibles), basic dictionaries and devotional guides are not regarded as academic references.
 - b. Electronic sources should generally not number more than half the required number of references, and should be used with caution.
5. The failure to adhere to the stipulated assessment **format** requirements will be penalized as follows:
 - a. Body of assignment:
 - i. 1st level – 1%
 - ii. 2nd and subsequent levels – 2%
 - b. List of References and referencing:
 - i. 1st level – 1%
 - ii. 2nd and subsequent levels – 2%

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Requirement 1: Two Tests (1 hr each)

These two tests will be used to gauge your comprehension of two things: **assigned readings** and **module learning guides**. Please note:

1. You will have **one hour** to complete the short test. For on-campus students, this begins at the start of class; no extra time will be allowed, even if tardy.
2. **The main thing:** the tests are not meant to trick you, but to gauge your comprehension of key ideas and concepts. Readings guides will direct you in regard to assigned readings.

60% of total grade (30% each)

Requirement 2: Interpretive Essay

There is significant debate today over the relationship of Genesis 1 and science. The primary issue is how each portrays creation: Genesis 1 characterises the world coming about through God's direct intervention over an orderly 7-day period, while science portrays it through a long, meandering process of evolution. Since these are seemingly opposite portraits, communities are divided over which one to embrace, which causes tension, quarrels, and division. Indeed, David Kinnaman has shown in *You Lost Me* (2011) that this tension is one of the chief reasons young people are leaving the church today. This essay, therefore, seeks to explore this timely and important issue. In particular, it seeks to answer the foundational question: *What does Genesis 1 say about creation?*

The primary resource for this essay is John Walton's *The Lost World of Genesis 1* (2009). In a sense, then, a major part of your essay will be discussing what John Walton thinks Genesis 1 says about creation. In doing so, of course, you'll also need to do two other important things: 1) highlight key points of strength and weakness in Walton's view, especially in light of the opinion of other scholars; and 2) in light of your study, conclude with your own view. Please remember that in the end the point is that *you* answer the question of what Genesis 1 says about creation.

For the interpretive essay itself, you have the choice of four mediums for expressing yourself:

1. **Analytical:** Analyse the question through a critical essay. Your essay should especially explore the strengths and weaknesses of Walton's view—how do other scholars support or critique his view? How are these helpful? Also, how well and in what ways does Walton address the issue within evangelicalism concerning Genesis 1 and science? You'll want to answer the questions such as: *What does this mean for how we view the relationship of Genesis 1 and science?* and *How does this affect what we consider a faithful, or Christian, view of Genesis 1?* **2500 words.**

2. **Artistic:** Utilising an artistic medium (art, music, drama, etc.), explore and express your view on the above question. The **final submission** should be artwork, a musical piece (including recording of its performance), or dramatic script (along with recording of its performance). Also submit a **1000-word explanation of your work (highlighting any critical issues)**
3. **Practical:** Build or make something that explores and expresses your view to the above question. For example, you might make a poster for youth group, build a set for a church play, or sew vestments for a sermon or celebration. Your **final submission** will include the creation itself (unfortunately, I must have access to this, so distance students might be a bit limited in this regard!) and a **1000-word explanation of your work (highlighting any critical issues)**.
4. **Relational:** Share your own view on the above question with a person or group who you think it might impact. Your sharing can take nearly any form, but it should include the fundamentals of the subject and its importance within scripture and to the people of faith (Israel and us!). Your final submission will be a **2500-word account** of whom you chose to share with, what, why, how you did it, and what the outcome was (**highlighting how you handled critical issues in your sharing**).

Assessment criteria:

1. Properly respond to the assessment item.
2. Meaningfully utilise the medium of presentation required, including technical demands.
3. Reflect on the key dimensions of the governing question.
4. When required, the explanation should reflect the substance of the medium of expression and the way in which you engaged major critical issues from scripture.

40% of total grade

UNIT CONTRIBUTION TO GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

Malyon's Vision: *To form faithful image-bearers of Christ, who love God, listen to His Word, serve the church, engage their culture, and are committed to the mission of God in this world.*

	1.	2.	3.	4.
Graduate Attribute 1: Personal Maturity – 'Shepherds with God's heart'				
a. grows a deepening relationship with Jesus				✓
b. is secure in God's call with a desire and ability to learn and grow				✓
c. is self-aware and maintains self-care				✓
d. seeks and builds healthy relationships				✓
e. is committed to living with integrity and prayerful dependence on God				✓
Graduate Attribute 2: Theological Maturity – 'Knowledge and understanding of God's heart'				
a. knows and trusts the Bible			✓	
b. understands the context of diverse theological ideas			✓	
c. forms a personal theology which is both biblical and thoughtful				✓
d. reflects theologically and applies the Bible to real life				✓
e. is committed to helping others know God's grace and truth and live God's way				✓
Graduate Attribute 3: Ministry Maturity – 'Knowledgeable and wise shepherds'				
a. is able to have a godly influence over others				✓
b. possesses skills needed for chosen ministry path	✓			
c. understands cultures and contexts and is able to minister in a range of contexts				✓
d. is able to work with and lead a team				✓
e. is committed to serving, evangelising and mentoring others				✓
1. A major thrust of this unit	2. A contribution that this unit should make			
3. A possible function of this unit, but not targeted	4. An unlikely product of this unit			

Note: Graduates who have not completed the curricular and non-curricular ministry aspects of Malyon's courses will tend to be most developed in Graduate Attribute 2.

ACT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Key Policies

Students should take note of the following ACT policies:

1. Unit Moderation Policy.
2. Academic Misconduct Policy.
3. Academic Appeals Policy.

Accessing Documents

These and other policy documents are publically available in the following handbooks, through links on ACT's home page (www.actheology.edu.au):

1. Undergraduate Handbook.
2. Postgraduate Handbook.
3. Student Policy Handbook.
4. International Student Handbook.
5. Distance Education Handbook.

These should be read in conjunction with the 'Recent Updates' link found on the ACT website.