



Master of Divinity, Master of Ministry and Related Programs

OT630
Exegesis of the Pentateuch
(Hebrew text)

Semester 1, 2019

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

UNIT CODE is offered by Malyon College as part of the Master of Divinity, Master of Ministry and Related Programs. This unit is an accredited award of the Australian College of Theology (ACT) and is authorized for distance and contact delivery by Malyon College.

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

Welcome to OT630! This is a class in Old Testament exegesis, working from the original Hebrew text of the Pentateuch. It investigates select passages that are important theologically and/or representative of the types of literature within the Pentateuch (law, narrative, etc.).

Credit Points

This unit is valued at 4 credit points.

Co- and Pre-Requisites

LA003A and LA003B (pre-requisite) and OT501 (co-requisite)

Exclusions

OT420

Unit Content

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

1. The theology of the Pentateuch with special reference to one or two of the five books of the Pentateuch, especially such themes as covenant, law, land, grace, holy war, people of God, blessing and cursing.
2. Translation and exegesis of the Hebrew text of Genesis 1—3 and Deuteronomy 5—7, or comparable passages, drawn from the books of the Pentateuch.

Unit Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, student should be able to:

Know and understand

1. The contents and structure of the Pentateuch, with special reference to the selected books
2. The themes and theological teaching of the Pentateuch
3. The major issues in contemporary study of the Pentateuch

4. The nature and methods of Old Testament exegesis
5. Selected chapters of the Hebrew text of the Pentateuch
6. The relevance of the Pentateuch to contemporary ministry

Be able to

1. Use sources such as lexicons, grammars, textual analyses, biblical and theological dictionaries, commentaries and on-line resources
2. Evaluate textual variants and issues in the history of the text
3. Recognise literary form, genres and structure
4. Assess matters relating to authorship, date and purpose
5. Utilise the historical, religious, social and cultural contexts
6. Relate passages to their literary context
7. Establish the meaning of significant words and phrases
8. Trace inter-textual references and allusions
9. Discuss the main themes, arguments and theological teachings
10. Translate and exegete a selection of chapters from the Hebrew text of the Pentateuch

Be in a position to

1. Exegete the Hebrew text of the Pentateuch for personal understanding and for use in ministry contexts
2. Integrate perspectives from the Pentateuch into biblical interpretation and Christian thinking
3. Apply the teaching of the Pentateuch to situations and issues in contemporary Christianity and society

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. Assessments – 5 hours per week.
2. Distance students:
 - a. Home study; including forums and revisions – 5 hours per week;
 - b. Assessments – 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. Weekly work (45%)
2. Exegetical and Theological Essay (55%)

Contact students will be expected to attend all lectures; while the forum posts are the distance student's equivalent of classroom interaction. Just as class attendance is compulsory for on-campus students, forum participation is compulsory for distance students.

Students who fail to attend lectures or complete forum posts satisfactorily may be failed.

Required Resources

In order to complete the unit, the student will be required to have access to the following resource/s:

1. ***Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS)***. This is the standard Hebrew Old Testament for doing exegesis, as it includes something called the textual apparatus—which is vital. As such, you must ensure you get the correct version (e.g. [here](#)), as some versions exclude it.¹
2. **Bill Arnold and John Choi, *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*, 2nd edition (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018).**

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

¹ If you would like to access the BHS for free online (but *without* the apparatus), you can find it here: <https://www.academic-bible.com/en/online-bibles/biblia-hebraica-stuttgartensia-bhs/read-the-bible-text/>.

Lecture Schedule

Module	Date	Preparation	Topics
1	13 Feb		Introduction
2	20 Feb		Nature and Purpose of the Pentateuch
3	27 Feb	Gen 1:1-13	Days 1-3 of Creation
4	6 March	Gen 1:14-31	Days 4-7 of Creation
5	13 March	Gen 12:1-10	Promises to Abraham
6	20 March	Exod 3:1-15	Burning Bush & Divine Name
7	27 March	Exod 16:1-15, 34-35	Manna in the Wilderness
8	3 April	Exod 20:1-8, 12-19	Ten Commandments
	10 April		Study Week
	17 April		Study Week
9	24 April	Lev 16:1-10, 20-22	Day of Atonement
10	1 May	Num 6:22-27; 8:1-4	Priestly Blessing & Tabernacle Holy Place
11	8 May	Deut 6:1-9, 20-25	Shema
12	15 May	**Essay due** Sunday 19 May	Class Review and Discussion
13	22 May	**Class Presentations**	
	29 May		Study Week
	31 May to 7 June		Exams Week

UNIT LECTURERS AND PREPARERS

Lecturer/s

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%

Grade Criteria

Graduate Diploma and Master's students at the advanced graduate degree 600-level should note that grades are awarded on the following criteria:

Units at advanced level build upon foundational studies. Critical issues raised by a broad range of contemporary scholars are introduced and evaluated; primary sources are analysed in depth; and the critical and evaluative faculties of the students are developed in dialogue with scholarly literature.

Pass

- ✓ Demonstrates ability in engaging the primary sources, is beginning to understand their setting and historical context.
- ✓ Evidences a grasp of the foundational features of the discipline.
- ✓ Demonstrates emerging skills in the task of critically evaluating a range of scholarly viewpoints.

Credit

- ✓ Demonstrates pronounced ability in engaging primary sources and understands their setting and historical context.
- ✓ Evidences a sound grasp of the foundational features of the discipline.
- ✓ Shows an ability to evaluate critically a range of scholarly viewpoints with empathy.

Distinction

- ✓ Demonstrates pronounced ability in the analysis of primary sources and understands their setting and historical context.
- ✓ Evidences a confident grasp of the foundational features of the discipline.
- ✓ Exhibits an ability to evaluate and assess empathetically a range of scholarly viewpoints that suggests the emergence of independent thinking and research skills required at early postgraduate level.

High Distinction

- ✓ Demonstrates superior ability in the analysis and critique of primary sources and ideas and understands their setting and historical context.
- ✓ Evidences a confident grasp of the foundational features of the discipline.
- ✓ Exhibits superior ability in assessing and reporting on a range of scholarly viewpoints empathetically that exhibits the emergence of independent thinking and research skills required at early postgraduate level.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Requirement 1: Weekly Work

Each week you will need to complete preparatory work on the passage in view (as listed in the schedule under “Preparation”). This work needs to be **submitted (as a Word document) on Moodle before class or it will receive a zero**. This work has three parts:

1. **Translation of the passage:** you will translate the passage in view *without aids or commentaries*. The point is to do the hard work of translation and hone our skills at this fundamental level before moving on to the work of experts. It is not important that you have a smooth translation, but that you wrestle with the text. This should also note *any key issues in the textual apparatus*.
2. **Grammar and Syntax:** in the course of translating, you should consult Arnold and Choi’s *A Guide to Biblical Syntax* and note any important grammatical/syntactical features in the passage (at the back of the book is a “Scripture Index” that points you to parts of the book discussing the passage in view). These notes should be *about 200 words*.
3. **Themes:** at the beginning of the class, you will choose **one** of the following themes and focus on it throughout: the promise of **people** (seed), **place** (land), **divine presence**, or **blessing**. For the weekly work, you will include a *100-word* reflection on how your chosen theme relates to the passage in view.

45% of Total Grade
3000 Words (300/week over 10 weeks)

Requirement 2: Exegesis and Theological Theme Essay

Write a 3500-word essay—followed by a 10-minute class presentation—on **one** of the passages from the weekly work. This essay will be both exegetical and theological, and it should include the following parts:

1. **Discussion of thematic element (1300 words):** discuss David Clines' view of the theme of the Pentateuch and then develop further the role and significance of your chosen element (e.g. promise of people, place, presence, or blessing). This should include a critical interaction with Clines' view (strengths, weaknesses, and supplementing with other views).
2. **Exegesis of passage (1700 words):** you should carry out exegesis of your chosen passage, with an eye toward showing how it contributes to the development of your theme in the Pentateuch (which you do in the conclusion). It should include:
 - a. **Translation of the passage, including discussions about important points of grammar/syntax and textual issues (from the BHS textual apparatus)**
 - b. **Interpretation of the passage, highlighting key issues of historical background, literary context, theology, etc.**
3. **Conclusion (500 words):** here you bring together the previous elements to show how your passage contributes to the development of your theme in the Pentateuch as a whole and how this, in turn, contributes to the overarching message of the Pentateuch.

The **key assessment criteria** for this requirement are as follows:

1. **Theme:** student articulates the nature and significance of the chosen thematic element and locates their perspective within scholarly views.
2. **Translation:** the student offers a good English translation of the Hebrew, grounded in grammar/syntax and the textual apparatus.
3. **Interpretation:** student carries out good exegesis of the text, highlighting key issues and discussing their own views within the witness of scholarly views.
4. **Theme in the Pentateuch:** the student articulates how their chosen passage helps develop their chosen theme in the Pentateuch and how this, in turn, serves in the overarching plot and theology of the Pentateuch.
5. **Presentation:** the student presents their findings in a clear and accessible way, both in writing and in the class presentation.

***55% of Total Grade
Essay: 3500 Words
Class Presentation: 10 minutes***

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 Formation – 'Shepherds with God's heart'				
a. Is secure in God, living in the truth and freedom of the gospel				✓
b. Pursues intimacy with God and Christ-likeness, particularly through spiritual disciplines				✓
c. Intentionally plans for growth, being aware of personal strengths and weaknesses				✓
d. Grows spiritual, personal and relational health, especially through accountability				✓
e. Is committed to influencing and serving others in the church and the world				✓
Graduate Attribute 2: Theological Formation – 'Knowledge and understanding of God's heart'				
a. Understands the 'big story' of the Bible and the gospel	✓			
b. Is personally able to interpret and apply the Bible	✓			
c. Is formulating a biblical, historical and contemporary theology	✓			
d. Reflects biblically and theologically on life and practice	✓			
d. Is committed to communicating and demonstrating the gospel			✓	
Graduate Attribute 3: Ministry Formation – 'Knowledgeable and wise shepherds'				
a. Has a godly influence on others				✓
b. Possesses the knowledge and skills needed for chosen ministry path	✓			
c. Ministers and communicates the gospel with clarity in a range of contexts				✓
d. Works well in a team and intentionally does so				✓
e. Is committed to servant leadership and the mentoring of 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 publicly 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.