Master of Divinity, Master of Ministry, and Related Programs

OT502D
Prophets & Writings

Semester 2, 2016

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

OT502/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 examines the foundations of the Old Testament as found in the Latter Prophets (Isaiah to Malachi) and Writings (Psalms to Chronicles). 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, 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 Latter Prophets:
   a. Isaiah
   b. Jeremiah
   c. Ezekiel
   d. The Twelve

2. The Writings:
   a. Poetic Books:
      i. Psalms
      ii. Proverbs
iii. Job
b. Five Scrolls (Megillot)
   i. Song of Songs
   ii. Ruth
   iii. Lamentations
   iv. Ecclesiastes
   v. Esther
c. Others
   i. Daniel
   ii. Ezra-Nehemiah
   iii. Chronicles

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.
5. Discuss the major theological themes of the Old Testament and their significance for Christian theology.

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 and assignments – 7 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. Weekly forum posts (30%)
2. Interpretive essay (30%)
3. Final examination (40%)

*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 complete forum posts satisfactorily may be failed.*

**Required Resources**

The required textbooks for this unit are:


Additionally, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assigned Reading &amp; Forum Post (FP)</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>19 July</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>26 July</td>
<td>Hays pp. 22-74 FP 1</td>
<td>Prophets and Prophecy</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>2 Aug</td>
<td>Hays pp. 96-143 FP 2</td>
<td>Isaiah</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>9 Aug</td>
<td>Hays pp. 146-196 FP 3</td>
<td>Jeremiah, Lamentations</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>16 Aug</td>
<td>Hays 200-230 FP 4</td>
<td>Ezekiel</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>23 Aug</td>
<td>Hays 260--272, 286-293 FP 5</td>
<td>The Twelve</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>30 Aug</td>
<td>Lucas 79-89 FP 6</td>
<td>The Wise and their Wisdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>6 Sept</td>
<td>Lucas 1-34 FP 7</td>
<td>Psalms</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>13 Sept</td>
<td>Lucas 91-114, 117-137 FP 8</td>
<td>Proverbs, Job</td>
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<td></td>
<td>20 Sept</td>
<td>Interpretive essay due:</td>
<td>Study Week</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Sunday 25 Sept 11:55pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>4 Oct</td>
<td>Lucas 145-155, 175-188</td>
<td>Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>18 Oct</td>
<td>Howard pp. 313-356 (on Moodle) FP 10</td>
<td>Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>25 Oct</td>
<td></td>
<td>Revision</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3 Nov</td>
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<td>Study Week</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7-10 Nov</td>
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<td>Exams</td>
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Lecturer

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

AJ was born and raised in rural America, though he’s spent most of his adult life further abroad—ranging from the Rocky Mountains to England to Australia. While he used to consider himself a man of diverse interests, AJ’s come to realise he’s neither diverse nor terribly interesting. All of his interests, it turns out, revolve around just one thing: understanding scripture, in both its ancient and contemporary contexts, as formative for God’s people. AJ’s current work is a renaissance of his humanities training, looking at how wonder and imagination fuel Christian formation/education.

He and his wife Andrea and their two children, Elijah and Hadassah, feel fortunate to live in a beautiful part of the world, where, in biblical style, the trees are enchanting and the snakes deadly.

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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 Assignment Style and Writing Guides are 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. The due date is non-negotiable; in exceptional circumstances students are to adhere to College protocol for requesting permission for late submission. Penalties for late submission are set at 5% per College week. The Assignment Style Guide contains details of the protocols to be followed.

4. 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 1% per 100 words, or part thereof, under or over the stipulated length.

5. 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.

6. 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%
**Requirement 1: Weekly Forum Posts**

Weekly forum posts, ten in total, gauge your comprehension of the *assigned readings*.

1. **Assigned readings**: forum posts are based on the assigned readings each week. While there might be some overlap with the module learning guides, the intent of these is to ensure students have grasped the assigned readings.
2. **Open-book**: you are free to use the assigned readings to work through your forum posts. However, *no other resources* are to be used.
3. **Due dates**: unless permission has been granted otherwise, the forum posts for each week are due by the week’s end—*Sunday night at 11:55pm*. If you fail submit by then, you’ll receive a zero for that week.

*30% of total grade*
Requirement 2: Interpretive Essay

Explore the biblical notion of idolatry, using G.K. Beale’s work *We Become What We Worship* (2008) (pertinent pages on Moodle).

Assignment options:
Choose one of the following:

1. Analyse Beale’s notion of idolatry in Isaiah 6 and its significance for contemporary Christianity. In particular, your essay should have two parts: one part summarising Beale’s argument, including any valuable critiques or nuancing from other scholars (c. 1000 words) and one part discussing how, precisely, Beale’s notion might speak to Christians today (c. 500 words). More than the other options, this one focuses on the “theological problem” posed by Isaiah 6. **1500 words total.**

2. Utilising an artistic medium (art, music, drama, etc.), reflect the theological significance of Beale’s notion of idolatry. While this option can utilise Isaiah 6, its main purpose is to explore more generally the underlying nature of idolatry and its effects on the human person. As such, it does not necessarily require consulting other scholarship. The final submission should be the artwork itself, a musical piece (including recording of its performance), or dramatic script (along with recording of its performance). Also submit a **500 to 800-word explanation of your work (highlighting meaningful engagement with the key elements of Beale’s view)**

3. Build or make something that expounds Beale’s notion of idolatry. 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. While this option can utilise Isaiah 6, its main purpose is to explore more generally the underlying nature of idolatry and its effects on the human person. As such, it does not necessarily require consulting other scholarship. Your final submission will include the creation itself and a **500 to 800-word explanation of your work (highlighting meaningful engagement with the key elements of Beale’s view).**

4. Share your chosen subject 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 Beale’s notion of idolatry and its significance for us today. While this option can utilise Isaiah 6, its main purpose is to explore more generally the underlying nature of idolatry and its effects on the human person. As such, it does not necessarily require consulting other scholarship. Your final submission will be a **1500-word account** of whom you chose to share with, what, why, how you did it, and what the outcome was (highlighting meaningful engagement with the key elements of Beale’s view).

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 Beale’s view of idolatry.
4. When required, the explanation should reflect the substance of the medium of expression and the way in which you engaged meaningfully the key components of Beale’s view.

\[30\% \text{ of total grade}\]
**Requirement 3: Final Examination**

A final 1.5 hour examination, covering the whole semester's work, and worth 40% of the semester's mark.

This will focus on the class material, which for distance students means module learning guides and for on-campus students means learning guides, discussions, and activities. The exam will test everything from key names, dates, and themes to one's ability to interact with theological issues in essay format.

*Note: the focus here is on class material, not on assigned readings or the work you do in the interpretive essay assignment.

*40% of total grade*
Another major thrust of this unit 2. A contribution that this unit should make

1. 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.
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.
5. Distance Education Handbook.

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