



The University of Manchester



School of Arts, Languages & Cultures, Faculty  
Course Unit Descriptor

of Humanities

23.02.2016

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Credit Rating	10
Course Unit Title	<b>Old Testament Writings</b>
Unit Code	214 (8214 for distance learning version)
Unit Level	2
Contact Hours	22 (n/a for distance learning version)
FHEQ Level	5
Teaching Period	Flexible delivery
Teaching Staff	Dr Zoltán Schwáb
ECTS	5

## EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

Students are first introduced to the Psalms - their origins, use in Israelite worship, structure, exegesis and contemporary application. Attention is paid to the characteristics of Hebrew poetry. An overview of the OT Wisdom tradition is then given and particular attention is paid to two wisdom books. The place of OT wisdom literature within the church is addressed. Throughout, exegetical skills are developed.

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## AIMS

To introduce students to the *Ketuvim* group of OT books, with emphasis on the Psalms, and to consider various approaches to the interpretation of this part of Old Testament literature.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

### Knowledge and Understanding

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Identify the main characteristics of Hebrew poetry
- Describe the major themes and features of OT wisdom literature

### Intellectual Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Critically assess the role of the Writings in the Bible and in Christianity
- Evaluate different approaches to the interpretation of the Psalms

## Practical Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Demonstrate increased exegetical skills
- Apply passages from the Writings in the context of the Church and the world

## Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Assess other people's views on the texts under consideration
- Structure and communicate their ideas effectively

## Employability Skills

Students will consolidate skills such as reading texts appropriately, managing and evaluating information, organizing and presenting their ideas. These skills are vital to a range of employment contexts.

## SYLLABUS

- Introduction to the Psalms:
- History of research
- Hebrew poetry (parallelism etc)
- Exegesis of a Psalm of revenge: Psalm 58
- The Psalms and the New Testament
- Introduction to the Wisdom literature
- Job
- Ecclesiastes / *Qohelet*

## TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

214: Interactive lectures  
8214: Distance learning

## ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
<b>Formative:</b>		
• 214: An essay plan	500 words	n/a
• 8214: An essay plan	500 words	n/a
<b>Summative:</b>		
• 214: An essay	2500 words	100%
• 8214: An essay and a learning journal*	2500 words	100%

\* Distance learning students are required to pass this element. So long as this element has been passed, they will be eligible for compensation if the overall unit mark is within the compensation zone (30-39%), and the compensatable credit allowance as set out in the Degree Regulations has not been exceeded.

## FEEDBACK METHODS

- Oral feedback in class (214 only)
- Written feedback on formative and summative written submissions within 15 working days

## REQUISITES

Available on which programme(s)?	BA in Theology
Available as Free Choice (UG) or to other programmes (PG)?	Available as Free Choice (UG)
Pre-requisite units	n/a
Co-requisite units	n/a

## RECOMMENDED READING

- Akoto-Abutiate, Borothy, *Proverbs and the African Tree of Life, Grafting Biblical Proverbs on to Ghanaian Eve Folk Proverbs* (Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2014) [The first few pages are available on Google Books:  
<https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=gguJBAAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>]
- Bartholomew, Craig G., and Ryan P. O'Dowd, *Old Testament Wisdom Literature: A Theological Introduction* (Downers Grove: IVP Academic/Nottingham: Apollos, 2011) [Available in EBSCO:  
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=904839&site=ehost-live>]
- Camp, Claudia V., *Wise, Strange and Holy, The Strange Woman and the Making of the Bible* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2000) [Available in Perlego]
- Curnow, Trevor, *Wisdom in the Ancient World* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2010) [Available in Perlego]
- Dell, Katharine J. and Will Kynes, *Reading Ecclesiastes Intertextually* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2015) [Available in Perlego]
- Dell, Katharine J. and Will Kynes, *Reading Proverbs Intertextually* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2018) [Available in Perlego]
- Dell, Katharine J., *The Book of Job as Sceptical Literature* (Berlin: de Gruyter, 1991) [Available in Perlego]
- Habel, Norman C. and Shirley Wurst, *Earth Story in the Psalms and the Prophets* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2001) [Available in Perlego]
- Habel, Norman C. and Shirley Wurst, *Earth Story in Wisdom Traditions* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2001) [Available in Perlego]
- Human, Dirk J., *Psalmody and Poetry in Old Testament Ethics* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2012) [Available in Perlego]
- Jarick, John, *Perspectives on Israelite Wisdom, Proceedings of the Oxford Old Testament Seminar* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2015) [Available in Perlego]
- Longman III, Tremper and Peter Enns (eds.), *Dictionary of the Old Testament, Wisdom, Poetry & Writings* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2008) [Available in Perlego]
- Mburu, Elizabeth, *African Hermeneutics*, Africa Christian Textbooks (Plateau State, Nigeria; Carlisle, Cumbria: HippoBooks and Langham Publishing, 2019) [Available in Perlego]
- Perdue, Leo G., *Wisdom in Revolt, Metaphorical Theology in the Book of Job* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 1991) [Available in Perlego]
- Stiebert, Johanna and Musa W. Dube, *The Bible, Centres and Margins, Dialogues Between Postcolonial African and British Biblical Scholars* (London: Bloomsbury, 2018) [See chapter 4 on Prov. 31, available in Perlego]
- Yoder, Christine Roy, *Wisdom as a Woman of Substance* (Berlin: de Gruyter, 2001) [Available in Perlego]
- Zucker, David J., *The Bible's Writings, An Introduction for Christians and Jews* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2013) [Available in Perlego]

Multiple articles, videos, and further resources on the website:  
<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/>

**SCHEDULED ACTIVITY HOURS**

22 contact hours (n/a for distance learning version)

**PLACEMENT HOURS**

n/a

**INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS**

78 (100 for distance learning version)

**ADDITIONAL NOTES**

**APPROVAL**

Date approved by UGC	
Valid from Date (Publishing Date)	