



The University of Manchester



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

23.02.2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

Credit Rating	10
Course Unit Title	Old Testament Writings
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.

COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

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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
Formative:		
• 214: An essay plan	500 words	n/a
• 8214: An essay plan	500 words	n/a
Summative:		
• 214: An essay	2500 words	100%
• 8214: An essay and a learning journal*	2500 words	100% Pass/fail*

* 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

Ballard, H.W., and Tucker W.D., <i>An Introduction to Wisdom Literature and the Psalms. FS Marvin E. Tate</i> (Macon GA: Mercer University Press, 2000)
Bartholomew, Craig G., and Ryan P. O'Dowd, <i>Old Testament Wisdom Literature: A Theological Introduction</i> (Downers Grove: IVP Academic/Nottingham: Apollos, 2011)
Bullock, C. Hassell, <i>Encountering the Book of Psalms</i> (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001)
Crenshaw, J.L., <i>OT Wisdom: An Introduction</i> (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1998)
Futato, M., <i>Interpreting the Psalms: An Exegetical Handbook</i> (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007)
Holladay, William L., <i>The Psalms through Three Thousand Years</i> (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1993)
Johnston, Philip S., and David G. Firth, <i>Interpreting the Psalms: Issues and Approaches</i> (Leicester: Apollos, 2005)
McCann, J.C., <i>A Theological Introduction to the Book of Psalms</i> (Nashville: Abingdon, 1993)
Murphy, Ronald E., <i>The Tree of Life: An Exploration of the Biblical Wisdom Literature</i> (New York: Doubleday, 1992)
Murphy, Ronald E., <i>The Gift of the Psalms</i> (Peabody: Hendrickson, 2000)
Sheriffs, D., <i>The Friendship of the Lord: An Old Testament Spirituality</i> (Carlisle: Paternoster, 1996)

SCHEDULED ACTIVITY HOURS

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

n/a

INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS

78 (100 for distance learning version)
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ADDITIONAL NOTES

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APPROVAL

Date approved by UGC	
Valid from Date (Publishing Date)	