



# OT102 OLD TESTAMENT FOUNDATIONS II

Dr Philip Satterthwaite | 3 CR

## About the Course

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OT Foundations I and OT Foundations II together form an introduction to the Old Testament. These two courses aim:

(i) to introduce the Old Testament books, and the historical and cultural contexts in which they originated; (ii) to help students reflect on how to apply the Old Testament in the modern world,

and to their own lives. Throughout, the Old Testament is interpreted as part of Christian Scripture, and out of a conviction that Christians cannot afford to neglect this first and larger part of God's Word. Though questions relating to history and the ancient Near Eastern context will not be ignored, the main emphasis is on the meaning, theology and application of the text. OT Foundations II covers the Prophets, the Psalms, and the Wisdom Literature. Please note that some of the smaller prophetic books are not covered in detail.

### Credits

3 CR

### Fees\*

S\$450(Credit)

S\$240(Audit)

### Class Format

Online

\* Alumni are entitled to 10% discount on audit course(s)

## About the Lecturer

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**Dr Philip Satterthwaite** has been Lecturer in Old Testament and Biblical Hebrew at BGST since 1998. Before that he was Research Fellow in Hebrew & Aramaic at Tyndale House, Cambridge.

His main research areas are: the Old Testament Historical books; the Septuagint. In 2007 his book *Exploring the Old Testament 2: The Histories* (written with J.G. McConville) was published by SPCK/IVP. Philip has preached and taught in a number of churches in Singapore. He is a member of Prinsep Street Presbyterian church. He is married to Eileen.



# Course Outline

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The first session, which covers the Psalms, is a live lecture. For the remaining five sessions, you are required to listen to recorded lectures in advance. We then meet to discuss issues arising from the lectures. In this part of the course we cover two or three recorded lectures per session.

Session	Topic	Text Book
1	Introduction to the Course; Introducing the Book of Psalms	EOT III, pp. 1–77
2	Introduction to OT Wisdom; Proverbs and Discerning God’s Will Job: What is the Message of the Book of Job?	EOT III, pp. 79–115 EOT III, pp. 117–44
3	Ecclesiastes: The Gospel of Meaninglessness? Song of Songs: Human Love and/or Divine Love?	EOT III, pp. 145–73 EOT III, pp. 175–201
4	Introduction to OT prophecy; Amos Hosea and the Book of the Twelve; the Problem with Baal Worship	EOT IV, pp. xi–xxxii, 163–77 EOT IV, pp. 133–51
5	Ezekiel 1–32; Israel as Battered Wife? Ezekiel 33–48; the NT and the fulfilment of OT Prophecy	EOT IV, pp. 83–101 EOT IV, pp. 133–51
6	Jeremiah 1–29; the Editing of Prophetic Books Jeremiah 30–52 Lamentations: Lament and the Christian	EOT IV, pp. 45–73 EOT IV, pp. 75–82
7	Isaiah 1–27; the Nations in Isaiah Isaiah 28–66; the Restoration of Zion and Hope for the Future	EOT IV, pp. 1–20 EOT IV, pp. 20–44

Note: In the interests of avoiding superficiality and also of doing justice to the section of the course which deals with the Old Testament Wisdom books, there will be no classes on Daniel or on any of the Twelve Prophets apart from Hosea and Amos.

## Course Requirements

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The grade point for OT102 will be based on the following:

1. **Short answers** to questions on Lectures 2–13, the recorded lectures that you are required to have listened to before attending Sessions 2–6. Your grade point for this part of the course will be based on your best 6 marks (out of 10) for these short answers. ***The short answers will count for 10% of the grade point.***
2. A **test**. The test will be on the contents of the Psalms, Writings and Prophets, and on other topics covered in the course of the lectures. Students will be shown some specimen questions to give them an idea of the test format. The test will be ‘closed-book’, and may be taken any time after the last lecture ***The test will count for 20% of the grade point.***

3. One 1000-word *critique* of an article relating to one of the Old Testament books covered in OT102. *The critique will count for 20% of the grade point.*
4. One 500-word *response* to the questions raised by one out of a list of selected 'Think about...' or 'Digging deeper' panels taken from *EOT III* and *EOT IV*. *This response will count for 10% of the grade point.*
5. One 3000-word *essay* on a topic suggested by the lecturer or proposed by the student and agreed to by the lecturer. *The essay will count for 40% of the grade point.*

## COURSE ASSIGNMENT POLICIES

1. For **style and formatting** of assignments, please refer to the document "General Formatting for all Assignments" available on your course Moodle page.
2. ALL assignments are to be submitted by uploading via Moodle. Alternatively, assignments can be sent via email to [assignments@bgst.edu.sg](mailto:assignments@bgst.edu.sg) without the need to c.c. the lecturer (unless requested by the lecturer).
3. Students must submit their assignments **6 months** after the course registration date.

Students are advised that BGST **strongly discourages plagiarism**. For more information on this point (what plagiarism is, how BGST penalises it), please consult the BGST 'Guidelines for Academic Papers'.

## Course Bibliography

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### REQUIRED READINGS

- (1) The text-books for OT II are the third and fourth volumes in the series, *Exploring the Old Testament (= EOT): EOT III*, by E.C. Lucas, covers the Psalms and the Writings;
- (2) *EOT IV*, by J.G. McConville, covers the Prophets, Daniel and Lamentations.

Students must acquire their own copies of the text-books. They may buy them from BGST Library. Students will usually be expected to have read one or two chapters from the text-book before each lecture, as specified in the Course Outline

#### ***General***

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| <i>R. Alter</i>                                     | <i>The Art of Biblical Poetry (New York: Basic Books, 1985)</i>                                 |
| <i>C.G. Bartholomew &amp; D.J.H. Beldman (eds.)</i> | <i>Hearing the Old Testament: Listening for God's Address (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012)</i>    |
| <i>A. Berlin</i>                                    | <i>The Dynamics of Biblical Parallelism (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1985)</i>       |
| <i>J.P. Fokkelmann</i>                              | <i>Reading Biblical Poetry: An Introductory Guide (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001)</i> |

J. Goldingay *Old Testament Theology II: Israel's Faith* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2006)  
J. Kugel *The Idea of Biblical Poetry* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1981)

### Old Testament Prophecy

D.W. Baker *'Israelite Prophets and Prophecy'* in D.W. Baker and W.T. Arnold, *The Face of Old Testament Studies. A Survey of Contemporary Approaches* (Grand Rapids/Leicester: Baker/Apollos, 1999), pp. 266–94

J. Blenkinsopp  
M.J. Boda &  
J.G. McConville (eds.) *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Prophets* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2012)  
R.E. Clements *Old Testament Prophecy: From Oracles to Canon* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1996)

T. Collins *The Mantle of Elijah. The Redaction Criticism of the Prophetic Books* (Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1993)

D.N. Freedman (ed.) *Anchor Bible Dictionary* (New York: Doubleday, 1992): Articles on: OT prophecy; prophecy in ANE

D.E. Gowan *Theology of the Prophetic Books. The Death and Resurrection of Israel* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1998)

R.P. Gordon (ed.) *The Place is too Small for Us: The Israelite Prophets in Recent Scholarship* (Winona Lake; Eisenbrauns, 1995)

### Old Testament Wisdom

C.G. Bartholomew &  
R.P. O'Doyd *Old Testament Wisdom Literature: A Theological Introduction* (Downers Grove/Nottingham: IVP/Apollos, 2011)

J.L. Crenshaw  
R.P. Gordon  
et al. (eds.) *Old Testament Wisdom: An Introduction* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1998)

T. Longman III &  
P. Enns (eds.) *Wisdom in Ancient Israel* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995)

*Dictionary of the Old Testament: Wisdom, Poetry & Writings* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2008)

R.E. Murphy *The Tree of Life* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002)

G. von Rad *Wisdom in Israel* (London: SCM, 1972)

S. Weeks *Early Israelite Wisdom* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1994)

### Ancient Near Eastern Texts

W.W. Hallo &  
K.L. Younger (eds.) *The Context of Scripture* (3 vols.; Leiden: Brill, 1997, 2000, 2002)

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