Module Descriptor

Title	Encountering the Old Testament L8		
Session	2025/26	**Status**	Active
Code	THEO08021	**SCQF Level**	8
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Education and Social Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	A Cuthbert		

Summary of Module

This module introduces students to the literature of the Old Testament, and how to interpret it. The various genres of literature contained within it are explored, and their historical setting and literary styles considered. Students will be introduced to the skills and methods of historical criticism as an important prerequisite to interpreting these books in the contemporary setting. Students will also be introduced to basic hermeneutical method, encouraged to develop awareness of their own presuppositions and biases, and learn how to explore different hermeneutical approaches which will help them use Scripture in pastoral practice.

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus[1] ☐	Hybrid[2] ☒	Online[3] ☒	Work -Based Learning[4] ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☒ Paisley	☒ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)	
Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1 ☒	Term 2 ☐	Term 3 ☐	

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate a discerning understanding of the various genres of literature which are contained within the Old Testament, along with their literary and historical contexts.
L2	Employ the principles and methods of historical criticism by using a range of scholarly tools available (e.g. commentaries, dictionaries etc) in analysing selected texts.
L3	Evidence specialist knowledge of key themes found in the OT canon and discuss their significance for Christian teaching.
L4	Evidence knowledge, and engagement with selected hermeneutical approaches to OT texts, e.g. feminist, liberationist, canonical.
L5	Demonstrate a discerning understanding of the pastoral implications of the interpretation of OT texts.

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	**SCQF 8** Reading literary texts with a discerning understanding of literary genre and historical context. Demonstrating specialist knowledge of the historical and theological contents and major themes represented in a substantial sacred text (i.e. The Hebrew Bible)
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 8** Using professional skills to interpret biblical materials and discus these in an informed way in a group context. Using advanced interpretive tools such as commentaries, dictionaries and biblical 'Introductory' literature
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 8** Undertake critical analysis of biblical material in a structured and synthetic way, presenting the results in written and oral forms. Using a range of interpretive approaches to analyse sacred texts and critically evaluate the literary contents.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 8** Presenting and defending conclusions on personal research and study of selected biblical texts.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 8** Interpreting complex biblical material in discussion with others where opinion may be contested. Constructive participation in discussions on, at times, contested areas of study, demonstrating an obvious capacity to listen to opposing viewpoints and to clearly articulate one's own.

Prerequisites	Module Code	Module Title
	Other	
Co-requisites	Module Code	Module Title

Learning and Teaching
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.

Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	Student Learning Hours (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	24
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	12
Asynchronous Class Activity	24
Independent Study	140
n/a	
n/a	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:
Brueggemann, Walter, Introduction to the Old Testament: The Canon and Christian Imagination (Westminster John Knox Press, 2003)
Alter, Robert. The Art of Biblical Narrative: Revised and Updated (New York: Basic Books, 2011)
Wright, Christopher, J. H. Old Testament Ethics for the People of God (Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2004)
(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements
In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.
For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:
Students must attend scheduled sessions, complete learning activites and submit assessments. Detailed guidance will be provided by the module coordinator

Equality and Diversity
The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code. As a Christian theological college, students should be aware that teaching, discussion and the college's ethos is from a confessional viewpoint. The college actively encourages an environment of openness and religious tolerance, but the main function of the college is the training of ministerial candidates and the learning environment will be supportive of this. Where students need additional support, this is provided by the college team with reference if appropriate to other UWS colleagues, they are referred to Student Support Services for further assistance. In consultation with the student, the needs of individual students are met, wherever practicable, and every effort made to ensure individual students are not disadvantaged.
(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	Education
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☒ **Yes** ☐ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	Divinity
Moderator	I. Birch
External Examiner	C Gardiner
Accreditation Details	None
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	3 Module delivery methods updated to reflect new UWS categories; Change of module co-ordinator

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Essay: 50%
Assessment 2
Learning Log 50%
Assessment 3
n/a
(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed. (ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Essay	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	50	0

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Workbook/ Laboratory notebook/ Diary/ Training log/ Learning log	☒	☐	☐	☒	☒	50	0

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
n/a	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	0 hours

Change Control

What	When	Who
Module delivery methods updated to reflect new UWS categories	Feb 2025	E. Bell
Change of module co-ordinator	Mar 2025	E Bell