Syllabus – Old Testament Survey

1) **Course:** MTC001, Old Testament Survey

2) **Contact Hour:** Nov. 2nd, Nov. 30, Dec. 28, and Jan. 11th (2014), 10:00am-3:00pm each day central time.

3) **Course Description:** This course is designed to assist the participant in gaining a basic understanding of the content and history of the Old Testament as seen through God’s missional movement in the world through His activity and people.

4) **Professor:**
   a) Pastor Matt Gehrke
      Concordia Lutheran Church
      21 Circle Dr.
      Cottage Hills, IL 62018
   b) Office Phone Number: 618-259-2911; e-mail: matthew.gehrke@cuw.edu
   c) Available: Office hours: Tuesday: 9am-1pm (central time); Thursday 9am-10:30am (central time); Monday and Wednesday varies.

5) **Instructional Goals and Objectives:**
   a) Being (Spiritual Formation) Objectives: The student will
      i) become more deeply engaged and involved in the study of Scripture;
      ii) become spiritually formed as a child of God;
      iii) humbly accept the Old Testament as God’s Word and self-revelation to the world;
      iv) appreciate studying the historical and geographical context of the Old Testament;
      v) gain excitement in knowing that the study of the God’s missionary activity in the Old Testament leads to a fuller expression of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
   b) Knowing (Cognitive Formation) Objectives: The student will
      i) recognize that God’s clear teaching and activity in the Old Testament is intricately connected to His mission and purpose for the world;
      ii) grasp the importance of Biblical genre, local culture, and worldviews to better understand the primary meaning of the Old Testament and its teaching for people today;
      iii) become familiar with the content and central message of each book of the Old Testament;
      iv) become familiar with the historical setting and geography of the Old Testament and Ancient Near East.
   c) Doing (Conative Formation) Objectives: The student will
      i) identify the occasions, authors, contents, and main themes of the Old Testament books in light of God’s mission movement in the world and apply those insights to present realities;
      ii) apply general hermeneutical principles used by mainstream Christian churches to read and interpret portions of the Old Testament;
      iii) outline the contents and structure of each book of the Old Testament;
      iv) locate chapters of missional and theological significance;
      v) communicate basic Old Testament history;
      vi) map significant locations of the Old Testament.
6) **Required Course Texts:**
   a) Engelbrecht, Edward, et. al., eds. *The Lutheran Study Bible*. St. Louis: Concordia: 2009 OR, Hoerber, Robert, et. al., eds. *The Concordia Self Study Bible*. St. Louis: Concordia, 1986. These are preferred. Other study Bibles acceptable. References throughout class will be made to *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

   **Recommended Reading**

7) **Attendance Policy:** There are four classes scheduled. It is important to attend class at the scheduled time. Your direct involvement will benefit your learning, ability to ask questions in class, and help the other students as well. The class will be recorded in case of a conflict. The student may be permitted to miss one class, but that student must be in communication with the instructor prior to the class.

8) **Academic Integrity:**
   a) Academic integrity is essential to any academic institution and is in keeping with the mission of Concordia University. Academic integrity includes:
      i) Working honestly on tests and assignments
      ii) Honestly reporting research findings.
      iii) Properly citing the source of any materials quoted, paraphrased or modified in the work one submits. Lynn Troyka’s *Simon and Schuster Handbook for Writers* defines properly citing source material in this manner:

      To plagiarize is to present another person’s words or ideas as if they were your own. Plagiarism is like stealing. The word plagiarize comes from the Latin word for kidnapper and literary thief. Plagiarism is a serious offense that can be grounds for failing a course or expulsion from a college. Plagiarism can be intentional, as when you submit as your own work a paper you did not write. Plagiarism is also intentional when you deliberately incorporate the work of other people into your writing without using documentation to acknowledge those sources. Plagiarism can also be unintentional – no less serious an offense – if you are unaware of what must be acknowledged and how to do so with documentation.

9) **Assignments and Projects:**
   a) Reading
      i) Read Lutheran Study Bible or Concordia Self-Study Bible book introductions and assigned Bible books.
      ii) Also read the appropriate sections of our text in preparation for our online sessions:
         (1) For Nov. 2: Steinmann, pages 1-214
         (2) For Nov. 30: Steinmann, pages 217-366
b) Paper
   i) Write an 8-page typed, double-spaced research paper on one of the following topics or a
      topic of your choice with approval of the instructor. Quote from appropriate Scriptures and
      outside reference books (at least two) to supplement your own views on the topic. Include
      reference notes and Bibliography for quoted material.
      i) Life and Significance of Abraham
      ii) Life and Significance of Moses
      iii) Life and Significance of King David
      iv) The Creation and Fall of Humans
      v) Importance of the Old Testament for Understanding the New Testament
      vi) Prophecies regarding Jesus in the Old Testament Historical books
      vii) Prophecies regarding Jesus in the Psalms
      viii) God’s Mission to the Gentiles in the Old Testament
      ix) Discuss the Justification for Holy War
      x) Was Israel right to ask God for a king to rule over them?
      xi) Why did God select Israel as a Chosen People in the Old Testament? Compare the Old
          Covenant and the New Covenant
      xii) The Gospel in the Old Testament
      xiii) God’s Providence
      xiv) A topic of your choice with the approval of the instructor
   ii) Due: January 11, 2013.

   c) Exams
   i) After the second and fourth class sessions, an exam reviewing material for the previous
      sessions and that session will be e-mailed to students.
   ii) Students will be expected to complete the exam, using class notes and study of the Bible,
      and return it to the instructor within one week after the class session.
   iii) Students should not get outside human help or consult with other students in order to
      complete the exam.

10) Grading Procedure:
   a) Exams (2): 50%.
   b) Research Paper: 40%.
   c) Reading and class participation: 10%.

11) Course Outline
   a) November 2, 2013 – 10 am-3 pm CDT
      i) Reading and Understanding the Bible.
      ii) Introduction to the Old Testament.
      iii) Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.
      iv) Reading Assignment: Steinmann Pages 1-214.
   b) November 13, 2013 – 10:00am-3:00pm CST
      i) Begin Studying the Prophets and understanding the difference between the Former
         Prophets and the Latter Prophets.
      ii) Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah,
         and Esther.
c) December 28, 2013 – 10:00am-3:00pm CST
   i) Study the Latter Prophets and the Minor Prophets.
   iii) Reading Assignment: Steinmann Pages 441-622.

d) January 26, 2013 – 10:00am-3:00pm CST
   i) Wisdom Literature.
   ii) Between the Testaments: History and Literature.
   iii) Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs.
   iv) Reading Assignment: Steinmann Pages 369-438, and 626-645.