I. **Course Description**

A biblical and theological study of the foundational theology applied by the Old Testament for the New Testament and the Christian church. This study identifies and inductively derives the center or focal point for the theology of both the Old and New Testaments. It also deals with the amount of continuity and discontinuity between the Old and New Testaments.

Included are the topics of saving faith, the people of God, the role of the law of God, the worship of God, the doctrine of atonement, relationship between the law and wisdom theology, kingdom of God, the Messiah, the inclusion of the Gentiles, the theology of the Holy Spirit, and the preparation of the New Covenant.

II. **Course Perspective**

A. The Old Testament problem is the master problem of theology. Simply put, it is this: "How should a Christian in the midst of our modern world understand, appropriate, and apply the Old Testament?"

B. The theme of the course will be to show that the Old Testament is indeed useful for equipping believers for every good work as outlined long ago by the Apostle Paul in II Timothy 3:16-17.

C. The thesis of the lectures is that the Promise Doctrine is the integrating plan of God that brings together all the variegated themes and topics of the Old Testament. From this center, both the developing lines of theological continuity and the jettisoned themes of discontinuity can be shown.

D. The non-lecture material should inform the students regarding other evangelical proposals for Old Testament theology, and challenge them to gain exegetical and theological skills necessary to engage in Old Testament theology.

III. **Course Objectives**

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

A. Understand the problems of OT theology.
   Accomplished primarily through reading assignments and through Lectures #1 and #24.

B. Explain promise theology.
   Accomplished through the lectures.
C. Explain OT theological themes. Accomplished through the lectures and through reading assignments.

D. Apply OT theology to life and ministry. Accomplished primarily through the Application assignments in the Learning Guide.

E. Evaluate proposals for OT theology. Accomplished through reading assignments and through the Kaiser Evaluation Paper.

F. Appreciate the significance of the OT for the church. Accomplished throughout the course, but particularly in the Application assignments and in the Ministry Research Paper.

G. Utilize an inductive methodology to do OT theology. Accomplished through reading and study of OT books and through Dr. Kaiser’s advocacy of the biblical theology approach.

H. Relate OT texts to OT theology. Accomplished through reading and study of OT books and through the lectures.

I. Formulate an OT theology. Accomplished throughout the course, but particularly through studying OT books and through interaction with promise theology.

IV. Course Materials


Choose one from the following two:


of each book of the Old Testament. Due to the length of this work students need only to read 300 pages from it.

VI. **Course Requirements and Assignments**

A. Listen to all twenty-four of Dr. Kaiser’s lectures and respond in **writing** to the questions in the Interactive Learning Guide (the ILG is included with the purchase of the lectures (DVD) and is also posted in your documents folder in your course forum).

B. Read all the required texts. At the end of the course, a statement indicating how much of the reading was completed should accompany the answers to the ILG. Note that the ILG does not provide a reading schedule for Hasel or Martens. Hasel’s work should be read at the beginning of the course in conjunction with lesson 1. Martens should be read by the time the student writes the Promise Plan Evaluation paper. (Another excellent book is Willem VanGemeren’s *Progress of Redemption*, but it is not required because it may be difficult to obtain.)

C. Read the assigned portions of the OT. A statement indicating how much of the reading was completed should accompany the answers to the ILG.

D. Complete a final examination on the lecture material. This exam will be based on the lectures and will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

E. Write a paper (10-12 pages) on the significance of the OT for ministry based upon the work of an OT theologian. For this assignment the student should follow the following guidelines: a) he/she is to read the book (see list below); b) do other research as appropriate (see full bibliography in ILG); c) evaluate the book’s contribution; d) formulate a personal position on this topic; e) detail some **specific** ministry plans in the area as a result of the study. The following are potential subjects. See the bibliography under “The Significance of the Old Testament” for a more complete list of authors.

1. Worship (David Peterson, *Engaging with God*; or Andrew Hill, *Enter His Courts with Praise*).
2. Ethics (Christopher Wright, *Walking in the Ways of the Lord*).
3. Prayer (Patrick Miller, *They Cried to the Lord*; or Samuel Balentine, *Prayer in the Hebrew Bible*).
5. Election (David Novak, *The Election of Israel*).
9. Environmental stewardship (Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, *Tending the Garden*; or Fred Van Dyke, *Redeeming Creation*).
10. The Old Testament and Jesus (Christopher Wright, *Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament*).
11. Character and Wisdom (William P. Brown, *Character in Crisis*).

F. Write a brief paper (5-7 pages) evaluating Dr. Kaiser’s proposal in conversation with the readings for this course (Hasel, Martens or VanGemeren). The student should suggest strengths and/or weaknesses of Dr. Kaiser’s approach, and if s/he differs with it significantly s/he should provide a tentative alternative proposal.

G. Participate in the discussion areas of TriNet. Thoughtful responses should be given to at least one question in each discussion area, and responses to the comments of other students are encouraged.

VII. **Course Grading**

A. Study questions and reading: 25%
B. Final examination: 20%
C. Ministry research paper: 30%
D. Promise theology evaluation paper: 20%
E. TriNet discussion questions 5%

For assistance in formatting your papers, feel free to consult the TIU Style and Format Guide, which can be found in DE Resources inside TriNet as well as on the Trinity Library website.

All assignments should be submitted directly to your Course Tutor using the icon within your TriNet course (labeled with your course tutors name). Exams should be mailed by your proctor to the address below. Course work may be submitted by mail if necessary.

Distance Education  
Trinity International University  
2065 Half Day Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015

If you have questions related to your assignments, please contact your Course Tutor in TriNet. All other questions should be directed to the Distance Education office (email or 847-317-6554).

VIII. **Course Bibliography**

**The Significance of the Old Testament**


