Covenant Theology
Covenant Theology (ST 601)
Course Overview
By: Dr. Kelly

TEXTBOOKS:

The Bible

The Westminster Confession of Faith


O. Palmer Robertson, Christ of the Covenants (Phillipsburg: P& R, 1980) All


Pierre Courthial, The Day of Small Beginnings (an English translation by Matthew Miller of Courthial’s Le Jour de Petits Recommanccements). The required pages will be made available to via self-service.

ON RESERVE:

W. J. Dumbrell, Covenant and Creation (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1984)

Meredith G. Kline, By Oath Consigned: A reinterpretation of the Covenant Signs of Circumcision and Baptism (Wm. B. Eerdmans: Grand Rapids, 1968)

George E. Mendenhall, Law and Covenant in Israel and the Ancient Near East (The Biblical Colloquium: Pettsburg, PA, 1955)


ARTICLE: (To be posted on Self Service)


STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE:

We survey the concept of Covenant in Holy Scripture with attention to the relationship of the various covenants running throughout Scripture, and to their development in the History of Redemption. We will consider the place of covenant concepts in the larger Christian tradition, with especial reference to Reformed Theology. We will look at the usage of covenant in the New Perspective on Paul. Also we shall look at how the Church’s understanding of Biblical covenants has been foundational for life in Western society: particularly, marriage and family, and civil and religious order and liberty.
REQUIREMENTS:

1. Do the required reading.

2. Learn the content conveyed in lectures.

3. Prepare an essay: 6 to 8 pages (typed, double spaced) due March 20 at the beginning of class. (30%) See attached for more information.

4. Two Exams:
   A) A Midterm Exam which will be given out on March 20 and is due at the beginning of class on April 17. This open-book exam will cover the readings you have done up until that time. (30%)

   B) A Final Exam which will cover everything we have covered in class. To be taken during exam week. (40%)
This paper should be from 6 to 8 pages in length (typed and double-spaced) with appropriate footnoting and bibliography. Do not include a string of long quotations. Make sure you (1) deal with the relevant information competently and fairly to all sides, and (2) interact with the material yourself so that you demonstrate that you have "thought about it theologically." (3) Have a proper introduction and conclusion and a clear structure for your essay. (4) Use good grammar and write clearly.

Choose 1 out of 7 options:

(1) Discuss the concept of the covenant of works or the covenant with Adam. Make some reference to the different accounts of this given by John Murray and Palmer Robertson on the one hand and M. Kline and M. Horton on the other hand. Include any biblical evidence as to whether or not there was a covenant before Noah.

(2) Discuss in some detail the differences between Suzerainty Treaty and Royal Grants. Make reference to Weinfeld, Horton and any others.

(3) Discuss the concept of covenant of redemption: what if any is the Biblical background for it?

(4) Discuss the concept of blood shedding in the various covenants in Holy Scripture.

(5) Discuss the way “New Covenant” is developed in chapters 8 and 10 in The Epistle to the Hebrews.

(6) Discuss the distinction between covenant and contract and show how this is relevant to marriage.

(7) Discuss the relevance of Biblical covenant concepts to the American constitutional settlement.
# Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes With Mini-Justification

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<tr>
<th>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed/ Evangelistic</strong></td>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings;</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.

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<th>Church/World</th>
<th>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>This class utilizes the teachings of the Church Fathers and other theologians from throughout history, and thereby offers a rich emphasis on history. Many of the issues that the church has faced in the past continue to plague the church today, and this course offers orthodox responses to those issues.</td>
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