Course Description
This course is a study of Covenant Theology from exegetical, theological and historical perspectives. Covenant theology is the Bible’s way of explaining and deepening our understanding of (1) the atonement; (2) our assurance; (3) the sacraments; (4) the continuity of redemptive history; and (5) Dynamic of God’s sovereignty and Christian responsibility/piety. The doctrine of the covenants is thus important for both Reformed systematic and biblical theology (the study of special revelation from the standpoint of redemptive history).

The course will survey the successive biblical covenants from a redemptive historical perspective as well as examine the bi-covenantal structure of creation and redemption. Consideration will be given to issues such as the relation of the Old and New Testaments, the significance of the covenants for the doctrine of the atonement, for understanding sacramental theology, the implications of Covenant Theology for Reformed hermeneutics and more. Emphasis will be placed on the role of the Biblical doctrine of the covenants for preaching and pastoral ministry.

Course Objectives
To assist the student in mastering an outline of the covenantal structure of redemptive history and to help him/her begin to grasp the manifold implications of the Biblical doctrine of the covenants (for soteriology and especially the atonement, sacraments, evangelism, family life, ecclesiology, and more). The course will also aim to equip the student with a working knowledge of the history of Covenant Theology and some of the more important objections to Covenant Theology from its theological critics.

Course Requirements
Required Texts:
Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* [211-218; 262-301]; 978-0802838209
Vern Poythress, *Understanding Dispensationalists*; 978-0875523743
O.Palmer Robertson, *Christ of the Covenants*: 978-0875524184
Rowland Ward, *God and Adam: Reformed Theology and the Creation Covenant* 978-0958624169

Syllabus Articles:
- Donald Macleod, *Covenant Theology* in *DSCH&T*, 214-218
- Donald Macleod, *Covenant: 2 in Banner of Truth [BoT]* 141:22-28
- Donald Macleod, *The Lord's Supper as a Means of Grace* in *BoT* 64:16-22
- Donald Macleod, *Qualifications for Communion* in *BoT* 65:14-20
- Donald Macleod, *The Real Presence* in *BoT* 66:13-16

*Westminster Confession of Faith* 7: Of God’s Covenant with Man
*Larger Catechism* Questions 20-22, and 30-36
*Shorter Catechism* Questions 12,16, and 20

Class Attendance
Given the huge amount of material we have to cover and the relative scarcity of classroom hours, attendance will be at a premium and, of course, to the benefit of the student. My TA will take roll at every class. If you need to miss a class or to leave early or to arrive late, you should seek permission (via my TA, my EA or myself). Failure to attend class, or to engage while in the class, will be noted. No unexplained absences.

Academic Integrity
All work submitted must be the student’s own. Group-produced work is not permitted. Plagiarism and copying of old assignments are all considered cheating. Students who do not fulfill assignments with requisite academic integrity will be referred to the Academic Dean with a recommendation for discipline (the student should also consult pp. 33-34 in the Handbook for further details).

Technology Use
Laptop computers may not be used during this course. Students desiring to use a laptop for note-taking purposes only may request an application for permission to do so.

Course Evaluation
1. Reading and Course Notebook (20%) Each student will keep a course notebook to reflect his studies in the course as well as provide the basis for future study or teaching opportunities. Please see the directions below for completing this assignment.

2. Doctrinal Précis' (15%) Each student must complete four, one-page précis of 4 assigned topics: Covenant Theology (Definition, Description, Distinctives, and History); Covenant of Redemption; Covenant of Works; Covenant of Grace. Please be sure to follow the correct format; see the TA if you have any questions, uncertainties, or difficulties.

3. Weekly Quizzes (15%) The Student should prepare for and expect a quiz each week over the reading that is due on that day.

4. Final Examination (50%) The Exam will cover reading and lecture material from the whole of the course. Further details will be given.

NB: Assignments and quizzes will be returned via campus mail. Per Seminary policy, all students enrolled for credit are required to have a campus mailbox; the mailroom does not “hold” assignments for students who choose not to open a mailbox, so please ensure that you have done this well in advance of the first assignment’s due date.

Late Work
Students should make every effort to turn in work on time or early. In the rare case of medical or other providential emergency, extensions and/or alternative arrangements may be granted. In most cases, late assignments will be accepted but penalized one letter grade per day. Please make these arrangements with the TA as soon as possible.
Instructions for Course Notebook
The notebook assignment is designed to reward students for their labors in engaging in the classroom and in assigned reading, and to provide them with a study guide for the final exam—as well as a permanent reference resource for studying and teaching Covenant Theology in the future.

1. Classnotes Assignment:
Inclusion of the student’s classnotes in the course notebook will enable the instructor to gauge the quality of classroom listening and comprehension, and notetaking (and make adjustments in delivery or content beneficial for students).

2. Reading Notes Assignment:
Please include your notes taken (typed or neatly scripted) on reading of Berkhof, Poythress, Macleod and Heppe.

3. Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF) Outline Assignment:
This project calls for the student to develop a concise, typed, outline of the assigned chapter of the WCF (chapter 7).

4. Ward Synopsis
The student will produce a one-page synopsis of Rowland Ward’s God and Adam. The synopsis should be in outline form or in abbreviated narrative, should aim to enumerate the key points in each section, and should be as compact and lucid as possible. The goal of the synopsis is for the student to accurately reproduce the flow of the book’s argument and its main thrust and points. The synopsis should begin with a paragraph-length statement of the book’s thesis and conclusion. Then, an outline of the assigned contents should follow. The student may also want to create a list of the best quotes, and points of weakness or disagreement.

Due Dates Summary

Feb. 24        Précis on Covenant of Works
Mar. 17        Précis on Covenant of Grace
Apr. 14        Précis of Covenant Theology
Apr. 21        Précis on Covenant of Redemption
Apr. 28        Course Binder Due (Last Day of Class)

Collection of Assignments
All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Assignments received after this time will be considered late and penalized accordingly. Assignments are not to be emailed to the TA, but rather physical copies should be submitted.
Course Outline and Assignment Schedule
Listed below are the dates and topics and weekly assignment timetable/due dates for our course. 

*Please factor these into your term calendar now!*

January 27  
**Introduction to Covenant Theology**  
What is Covenant Theology?; What is a Covenant? Why study it?  
Syllabus/Reading/Assignment Review

February 3  
**Introduction to Covenant Theology**  
Covenant Theology (History and Objections)  
DUE: Donald Macleod, *Covenant Theology*.  
DUE: *WCF* 7; *LC* Questions 20-22, 30-36; and *SC* Questions 12,16,& 20.

February 10  
**Covenant of Works (or Creation)**  
DUE: Donald Macleod, *Covenant: 2&Federal Theology-An Oppressive Legalism?*  

February 17  
**Covenant of Grace (Adam)**  
DUE: Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* [262-301].  
DUE: Heinrich Heppe, *Reformed Dogmatics* [371-409]  

February 24  
**Covenant of Grace (Noah)**  
** All students submit précis on *Covenant of Works*.

March 3  
**Covenant of Grace (Abraham)**  

March 10  
No Class today — Happy Spring Break!

March 17  
**Covenant of Grace (Abraham)**  
DUE: Donald Macleod, *The Lord’s Supper as a Means of Grace* (all), *Qualifications for Communion* (all), and *The Real Presence* (all).  
** All students submit précis on *Covenant of Grace*.  

March 24  **Covenant of Grace (Moses)**  

March 31  **Dispensationalism**  

April 7  **Covenant of Grace (David)**  

April 14  **Covenant of Grace (Jeremiah-New)**  
**All students submit précis on Covenant Theology  
*(Definition, Description, Distinctives, and History).*

April 21  **Covenant of Grace (New)**  
**All students submit précis on Covenant of Redemption.*

April 28  **Covenant of Grace (New)[Last Day of Class]**  
Course Notebook and Revised Précis Deadline  
**All students submit Course Notebook**

**Paper Day: May 5, 2014 5:00 p.m.**  
**Final Exams: May 6-8, 2014**
Teacher Information

About the Teacher

For inquiring minds who want to know, I taught full-time at RTS from June 1990- July 1996 and then became the Minister of the historic First Presbyterian Church (1837), Jackson, Mississippi in August of 1996. In 2013, I was called to serve as the Chancellor and CEO of Reformed Theological Seminary. As of the beginning of 2014, I assumed that role fully as I transitioned from full time ministry at First Presbyterian Church over to full time leadership RTS.

I am a native of Greenville, South Carolina, and was born and reared in a Christian home (a ninth generation Southern Presbyterian to be precise!). I am a graduate of Furman University, Greenville, SC (BA); Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis (MDiv, MA); and the University of Edinburgh, Scotland (PhD). I have been here in Jackson for over 21 years now.

My wife, Anne (who is a graduate of Furman University, BA; Gordon-Conwell Seminary, MRE; and Reformed Theological Seminary, MA [MFT]) is currently Director of Community Service at the Jackson Preparatory School, in Flowood, MS. She is an accomplished Christian Educator in her own right, and is the loving mother of our daughter, Sarah Kennedy (now 17), and son, Jennings (now 13).

Contacting the Teacher

My address and contact numbers are below. Catching me can be a challenge, my Executive Assistant Ms. Jan Hyde may be your best bet. Appointments should be scheduled through Ms. Hyde, at 601 923 1600 (RTS Main Switchboard).

Ligon Duncan
Reformed Theological Seminary
5422 Clinton Blvd.
Jackson, MS 39209

Phone 601.923.1600 (Main Switchboard)

Executive Assistant Jan Hyde: JHyde@rts.edu
Campus Office Dean Center
TA: Sean Morris – smorris@fpcjackson.org
TA: Kevin Phipps – kevinp@fpcjackson.org
**Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes**

*With Mini-Justification*

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<thead>
<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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<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>Moderate</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>Strong</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>Moderate</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; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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