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.

Contact Information
Ligon Duncan, PhD – John E. Richards Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology, Chancellor of RTS
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Phone 601.923.1656
Executive Assistant Jan Hyde: jhyde@rts.edu

Assisting me to facilitate this course will be my RTS Jackson TA:
Jonathan Hunt Email: jhunt2@rts.edu (in case Jonathan is otherwise occupied)
Bentley Crawford Email: bccrawf@gmail.com

All assignments must be submitted via Canvas in pdf format. Jonathan and Bentley are both available to answer questions for you about logistical matters related to the course.

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
J. Ligon Duncan III, *Covenant Theology* 978-1-938435-21-8 (iBook)

Syllabus Articles (located on Canvas):
Heinrich Heppe, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 281-319, 371-409
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
Online Lectures
There will be online lectures to which the student will be required to listen and take notes before class. These are located on iTunes (https://itunes.apple.com/us/course/covenant-theology-dr-j-ligon/id668706261).

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%) See the last page for details.

3. Quizzes (15%) The Student should prepare for and expect a quiz over the reading that is due on that day. These quizzes will be taken through the Canvas website. You may not use any helps such as, but not limited to, notes, textbooks, books, Bible, etc.

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

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. Lecture notes Assignment:
Inclusion of the student’s lecture notes from the online lectures in the course notebook will enable the instructor to gauge the quality of 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. 22        Précis on Covenant of Works
Mar. 14        Précis on Covenant of Grace
Mar. 28        Précis of Covenant Theology
April 11       Précis on Covenant of Redemption
April 25       Course Binder due (Last Day of Class)

Collection of Assignments
All assignments are due by 5:00 PM of the assigned day. Assignments received after this time will be considered late and penalized accordingly. Assignments are not to be emailed to the TA, but rather uploaded to the corresponding Canvas module.

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. At 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 at 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 23 years now.

My wife, Anne (who is a graduate of Furman University, BA; Gordon-Conwell Seminary, MRE; and Reformed Theological Seminary, MA [MFT]) is an accomplished Christian Educator in her own right, and is the loving mother of our daughter, Sarah Kennedy (19), and son, Jennings (15).

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 to your term calendar now!

February 8  [CLASS 1] Introduction to Covenant Theology
  Syllabus/Reading/Assignment Review
  What is Covenant Theology? What is a Covenant? Why study it?
  Covenant Theology (History and Objections)

February 15  [CLASS 2] Covenant of Works (or Creation)
  DUE: Donald Macleod, *Covenant Theology*.
  DUE: Listen to online lectures – Lesson 1
  DUE: WCF 7; LC Questions 20-22, 30-36; and SC Questions 12, 16, & 20.

February 22  [CLASS 3] Covenant of Grace (Adam)
  DUE: Macleod, *Covenant: 2 & Federal Theology-An Oppressive Legalism?*
  DUE: Listen to online lectures – Lesson 2
  **All students submit précis on Covenant of Works.**

February 29  [CLASS 4] Covenant of Grace (Noah)
  DUE: Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* [262-301].
  DUE: Heinrich Hепpe, *Reformed Dogmatics* [371-409]

March 7    SPRING BREAK!!
March 14  
DUE: Listen to online lectures – Lesson 3  
**All students submit précis on *Covenant of Grace*.**

March 21  
*CLASS 5*  
Covenant of Grace (Abraham)  

March 28  
*CLASS 6*  
Covenant of Grace (Moses)  
DUE: Donald Macleod, *The Lord’s Supper as a Means of Grace* (all), *Qualifications for Communion* (all), and *The Real Presence* (all).  
DUE: Listen to online lectures – Lesson 4  
**All students submit précis on *Covenant Theology*  
(Definition, Description, Distinctives, and History).**

April 4  

April 11  
DUE: Listen to online lectures – Lesson 5  
**All students submit précis on *Covenant of Redemption*.**

April 18  
*CLASS 7*  
Covenant of Grace (David) and Dispensationalism  
DUE: Listen to online lectures – Lessons 6-7

April 25  
*CLASS 8*  
Covenant of Grace (Jeremiah-New) [*Last Day of Class*]  
DUE: Listen to online lectures – Lessons 8-9  
Course Notebook and Revised Précis Deadline  
**All students submit Course Notebook**

**Final Exams: May 3-5, 2016**  
*Précis Assignments*
A précis is a precise summary or abstract of a particular subject matter or topic. 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.** These will aid you in understanding more about the doctrine as well as provide you with teaching material for the future. Please see the TA if you have any questions, uncertainties, or difficulties. These must be submitted in pdf format on Canvas. Each précis must be exactly one page with the bibliography on the second page. The format will be 11 pt., Times New Roman, ½” margins, single spaced. You must use MLA parenthetical citations such as [“by means of the covenant” (Marcel 127).] Following is an example of how your paper should be titled:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Précis on the Covenant of Works</th>
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Begin by outlining the doctrine. For example, you may break the Covenant of Works down to Contracting Parties, Abiding Significance, Sacraments, Blessings & Curses, Ordinances, Christ’s Fulfillment, and Stipulations. Then fill it in with Scripture references and supporting quotations/summaries from your research maintaining the outline format. Following are two examples of précis’: one is sparse, the other is full. One is in proper format, the other is not.

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**Suggested Resources:**


