ST 601 Covenant Theology

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Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando
Fall 2011

I. Course description

An examination of covenant theology from exegetical, historical, and systematic theological perspectives (2 hours). This course will follow a seminar format.

II. Required readings

1. Texts to be purchased by the student


2. Texts on reserve in the library/available from the professor


   Wilhemus à Brakel, *The Christian’s Reasonable Service*, vol. 1, chap. 16

   Heinrich Bullinger, *A Brief Exposition of the One and Eternal Testament or Covenant of God* (1534)

   Frank Moore Cross, “Kinship and Covenant in Ancient Israel,” in *From Epic to Canon: History and Literature in Ancient Israel*, chap. 1

Peter J. Gentry, “Kingdom through Covenant: Humanity as the Divine Image,”


Richard Pratt, “God of Covenant” (http://thirdmill.org/god-of-covenant)

Willem van Asselt, “Covenant Theology: An Invitation to Friendship”


David VanDrunen, “Natural Law and the Works Principle under Adam and Moses,” in The Law is Not of Faith


Johannes Wollebius, Compendium of Christian Theology (1626), chap. 21

III. Assignments and grading

1. Weekly seminar (30 % of final grade)

This course is structured as a seminar. Accordingly, lectures will be minimal, whereas class discussion will be maximal. In order to facilitate meaningful discussion, students will be expected: (1) to have read the assigned readings for a given week before they come to class that week; (2) to engage actively in class discussion of the assigned readings for that week; (3) to lead class discussion of the assigned readings from time to time (2 or 3 times during the semester). Failure with respect to any of the three aforementioned requirements will result in a deduction of points from the student’s final grade.
Please note: Given the seminar format of this course, I have kept the weekly reading assignments to a very manageable length in order to facilitate intelligent discussion of the authors’ arguments.

2. Reading Report (30 % of final grade)

Students will turn in a reading report stating the percentage of the assigned readings that they have read over the course of the semester. The reading report is due on the last day of class.

3. Book reviews (40 % of final grade)

All students are required to write a critical book review of the following book (due October 17):

Paul R. Williamson, Sealed with an Oath: Covenant in God’s Unfolding Purpose

Students will choose one of the following books and write a critical book review (due on the last day of class):

J. Mark Beach, Christ and the Covenant: Francis Turretin’s Federal Theology as a Defense of the Doctrine of Grace (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht)

Scott Hahn, Kinship by Covenant: A Canonical Approach to the Fulfillment of God’s Saving Promises (Yale University Press)

Michael Horton, Covenant and Salvation: Union with Christ (Westminster John Knox)

I will provide detailed instructions regarding the format for the book review at a later date.

IV. Schedule of assignments

I will provide a schedule of assignments on the first day of class.
# Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Covenant Theology  
**Professor:** Scott R. Swain  
**Campus:** Orlando  
**Date:** Fall 2011

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<td>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</td>
<td>Strong, Moderate, Minimal, None</td>
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### Articulation (oral & written)
| Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. | Strong | Seminar format; book reviews |

### Scripture
| 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.) | Strong | Understanding covenant theology is integral to understanding Scripture |

### Reformed Theology
| Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Strong | Reformed theology is covenant theology |

### Sanctification
| Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Strong | Understanding the covenantal love of the triune God toward elect sinners incites faith and love in the triune God and a desire to glorify his most excellent name |

### Desire for Worldview
| Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Moderate | Covenant is central to a Christian worldview |

### Winsomely Reformed
| 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.) | Moderate | Witsius |

### Preach
| Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | Moderate | Understanding covenant theology helps us interpret and apply Scripture with confidence as ministers of the new covenant |

### Worship
| Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. | Minimal | |
| **Shepherd** | 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. | Moderate | Seminar format encourages charitable interaction with and assessment of various viewpoints, a crucial skill in pastoral ministry |
| **Church/World** | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Minimal |  |