ST 601 – Covenant Theology

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Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando
Spring 2014

“All the word of God appertains to some covenant; for God speaks nothing to man without the covenant.”

Robert Rollock

Course description

An examination of covenant theology from exegetical, historical, and systematic theological perspectives. Consideration is given to such issues as the relation of the Old and New Testaments, the significance of the covenants for sacramental theology, and redemptive historical hermeneutics.

Class meetings

Mondays 6:00-8:00 pm, February 10-May 12, 2014.

Required texts


Assignments

1. Quizzes: On most weeks, class will begin with a quiz based on the assigned readings for that week. Students may bring one page of notes (that they have taken personally) on the assigned readings to use during the quiz. (More details to follow.)

2. Research paper: Students will write a 12-15 page research paper that articulates a clear thesis related to one of the following topics/questions (more details to follow):

   Is the doctrine of the Covenant of Works a biblical doctrine?

   Is the doctrine of the *pactum salutis* a biblical doctrine?

   Are the various postlapsarian covenants (e.g., Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic, New) administrations of one Covenant of Grace?

   In what sense (if any) is the Covenant of Grace “conditional”?

   How should Reformed theology respond to Gentry and Wellum’s, *Kingdom through Covenant*?

   What is the relationship between the moral law and the covenants according to the Westminster Confession of Faith?

   Students may also choose to write an historical-theological paper devoted to a major theme in covenant theology as developed in the thought of a major Reformed theologian.

   Other topics/questions may be chosen in consultation with the professor.

3. Extra credit: Students who attend all four Kistemaker Academic Lectures on March 18-19, 2014 may replace their lowest quiz grade with a perfect quiz grade.

Academic Policies

1. Late assignments: Apart from exceptional circumstances, I will not accept late assignments for credit.

2. Plagiarism: Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, will result in a failing grade for the course.
Office hours

I am generally available for appointments after 2pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. If that does not fit your schedule, we can arrange something else. Please email me (sswain@rts.edu) or Ceci Helm (chelm@rts.edu) to make an appointment.

Select bibliography


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Thomas F. Torrance, Scottish Theology: from John Knox to John McLeod Campbell (T & T Clark International, 2000).


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### MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Research paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Focus on redemptive historical hermeneutics, unity and diversity of Scripture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<td>None</td>
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#### Rubric Explanation

**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.

**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.)

**Reformed Theology**
- Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.

**Sanctification**
- Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.

**Desire for Worldview**
- Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.

**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.)

**Preach**
- Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.

**Worship**
- Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.

**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.

**Church/World**
- Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.

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*Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes
Course: Covenant Theology  
Professor: Scott R. Swain  
Campus: Orlando  
Date: Spring 2014