The Theology of Johannes Cocceius (06HT611)

Spring Session, 2014
Friday Afternoons: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
February 28 – April 11

Instructor: Dr. Brian J. Lee
Email: Pastor@ChristReformedDC.org
Office Hours: By appointment, February 1 – April 19
(preferred availability is 3:00 – 5:00 pm on class days)

**DESCRIPTION:** The Theology of Johannes Cocceius will will explore the contribution of Johannes Cocceius (1603 – 1669) to the development of the Reformed tradition in the seventeenth century, with particular attention to development and application of the doctrine of the covenants (federal theology). Cocceius’s approach to relating the two testaments will be put in the context of the Cocceian-Voetian debates in the Dutch Reformed Church, as well as his apologetical and polemical labors with Roman Catholics, Socinians (unitarians), and Jews. The course will further serve as an introduction to issues arising from the study of Post-Reformation Reformed dogmatics.

**REQUIRED READING:**

- Johannes Cocceius and the Exegetical Roots of Federal Theology, Brian Lee
- The Federal Theology of Johannes Cocceius (1603 – 1669), Willem J. van Asselt (on reserve)
- A Comprehensive Treatise of the Doctrines of the Covenant and Testament of God (Summa doctrinae de foedere et testamento Dei), Johannes Cocceius, pre-publication translation by Casey Carmichael made available to students in course reader.
- Additional articles will distributed in class.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Attendance & Participation: Students are required to attend and participate in each class. Please notify me if you plan to miss a session. A good deal of this class will involve reading and discussing primary source material in a seminary format (Cocceius’s *Summa doctrinae*). Class participation will be your only opportunity to demonstrate that you have completed the reading in a timely fashion, and will therefore contribute to the grade to a significant degree.

- Reading: Students are required to do the assigned reading before each class and come prepared to discuss the materials assigned.
Papers: A single course paper will be required, analyzing an aspect of Cocceius’s *Summa doctrinae*, properly putting it in context with contemporary debates, and evaluating it in the light of the Scriptures and the history of Reformed doctrine. Students who are facile in reading Latin may request permission to write on an untranslated work of Cocceius.

**Grading:**

- Assignments will be weighted accordingly:
  - Attendance & Participation 30%
  - Course Paper 70%

- The standard grading scale as found in the RTS Student Handout will be employed: A (97-100), A- (94-96), B+ (91-93), B (88-90), B- (86-87), C+ (83-85), C (80-82), C- (78-79), D+ (75-77/0), D (72-74), D- (70-71), F (below 70).

**Course Schedule and Outline**

*Detailed reading assignments for each week will be distributed at the first class, as well as additional articles.*

- **February 28**
  - Who is Johannes Cocceius? Life, Career, Controversy
  - A Biblical Scholastic Theologian: A Survey of Cocceius’s Works
    - *Van Asselt*, 1 – 33
    - *Lee*, 13 – 22

- **March 7**
  - Issues in the study of Post-Reformation Reformed Dogmatics and Scholasticism
  - Introduction to Covenant and Cocceius in the Reformed Tradition

- **March 14**
  - Reading the *Summa Doctrinae*: The Covenant of Works

- **March 21**
  - Reading the *Summa Doctrinae*: The Eternal Pact of Peace (*Pactum Salutis*)

- **March 28**
  - Reading the *Summa Doctrinae*: The Covenant of Grace

- **April 4**
  - Reading the *Summa Doctrinae*: Sacraments, Ecclesiology, and Last Things
  - The Relation Between the Old and New Testaments and its apologetic value

- **April 11**
  - The Impact of the Redemptive Historical method in Cocceius
  - Concluding Thoughts
- Papers Due.