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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Jackson, MS 39209
Phone 601.923.1656
Executive Assistant Jan Hyde: jhyde@rts.edu

Assisting me to facilitate this course will be my RTS Jackson TA:
Matt Pinckard Email: mpinckard@rts.edu
Tony Doggett Email: tony_doggett@yahoo.com (in case Matt is otherwise occupied)

All assignments must be submitted via Canvas in pdf format. Matt and Tony 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 Geerhardus
Vos, Biblical Theology [3-182, 185-342] 978-0851514581
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. The Course Notebook will be submitted as a single PDF document on Canvas. Any handwritten notes will need to be scanned.
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 robust, typed, outline of the *assigned* chapter of the *WCF* (chapter 7). Aim for around 1 full page, and include references to the Scripture proofs.

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 25</td>
<td>Précis on Covenant of Works</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 18</td>
<td>Précis on Covenant of Grace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Précis of Covenant Theology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>Précis on Covenant of Redemption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>Course Binder due</td>
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**Collection of Assignments**
All assignments are due **by 11:59 PM Central Time 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 25 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 (22), and son, Jennings (18).
Course Outline and Assignment Schedule

Class Meets Select Mondays 8am-11am

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!

January 28  NO CLASS
DUE: Listen to online lectures – Lesson 1

February 4  [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 11  NO CLASS!
DUE: Donald Macleod, *Covenant Theology*.
DUE: WCF 7; LC Questions 20-22, 30-36; and SC Questions 12, 16, & 20.
DUE: Listen to online lectures – Lesson 2

February 18  [CLASS 2] Covenant of Works (or Creation)
DUE: Macleod, *Covenant: 2 & Federal Theology-An Oppressive Legalism?*

February 25  [CLASS 3] Covenant of Grace (Adam)
**All students submit précis on *Covenant of Works*.

March 4  NO CLASS!
DUE: Listen to online lectures – Lesson 3

March 11  SPRING BREAK!!
March 18  
**[CLASS 4] Covenant of Grace (Noah)**
**All students submit précis on *Covenant of Grace*.**

March 25  
**[CLASS 5] 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).
DUE: Listen to online lectures – Lesson 4

April 1  
NO CLASS!
**All students submit précis on *Covenant Theology* (Definition, Description, Distinctives, and History).**

April 8  
NO CLASS!
DUE: Listen to online lectures – Lessons 6-7

April 15  
**[CLASS 6] Covenant of Grace (Moses)**
**All students submit précis on *Covenant of Redemption*.**

April 22  
**[CLASS 7] Covenant of Grace (David) and Dispensationalism**
DUE: Listen to online lectures – Lesson 9

April 29  
**[CLASS 8] Covenant of Grace (Jeremiah-New) [Last Day of Class]**
Course Notebook and Revised Précis Deadline
**All students submit Course Notebook**

**Final Exams: TBA**
**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>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Précis on the Covenant of Works</th>
<th>2/20/2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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.

**Bad**

**Good**

**Suggested Resources:**


Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

With Mini-Justification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DMin Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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-ove attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<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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<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></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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</tbody>
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