COVENANT THEOLOGY

RTS-O

2ST601/SPRING 2018

J. Nicholas Reid, D.Phil.

Class meets WEDNESDAY mornings 9:00am-12:00pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION (According to the RTS Catalogue)

An examination of covenant theology from exegetical and historical 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 the hermeneutics of Dispensationalism and Theonomy. Emphasis is placed on the role of the biblical doctrine of the covenants in preaching and pastoral ministry.

COURSE DETAILS

1. Grading Schedule. The letter grading scale for this course is institutional catalogue and is summarized below.

   A (97-100) 4.00
   A- (94-96) 3.66
   B+ (91-93) 3.33
   B (88-90) 3.00
   B- (86-87) 2.66
   C+ (83-85) 2.33
   C (80-82) 2.00
   C- (78-79) 1.66
   D+ (75-77) 1.33
   D (72-74) 1.00
   D- (70-71) 0.66
   F (below 70) 0.00
   I (incomplete) –
   W (withdraw) –
   S (satisfactory) –
   P (passing) –
2. Attendance and Late Assignments. **Attendance and prepared participation is required.** If class is not attended, the student’s final grade will be affected. Late assignments are reduced one letter grade per day.

3. Special Needs. In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g. tape recorders, special adaptive equipment) is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor at the beginning of the course.

4. Disclaimer. This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may become necessary.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Textbooks**

*Choose one of either:*
*OR*

If the student is new to covenant theology, it is recommended that the student read Rhodes. If the student has some previous exposure to the doctrine of the covenants, Robertson is recommended.

**Other Required Textbooks:**


Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Registration opens through Self-Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>Orientation</td>
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<td>February 6</td>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
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<td>February 20</td>
<td>Last day to add a class</td>
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<td>March 13</td>
<td>Last day to drop a class</td>
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<td>March 18-22</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>Last day of spring semester classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>Term paper deadline (11:00 a.m.)</td>
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<td>May 20-23</td>
<td>Examination period</td>
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<td>May 24</td>
<td>Graduation</td>
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Assignments

1. **Complete all of the assigned readings.** These readings constitute 40% of the final grade.

2. **Write three précis’** on the topics of: (1) the covenant of redemption, (2) the covenant of works, and (3) the covenant of grace. Each précis is worth 5% of the total grade for a total of 15%. (Submit via Canvas.)

3. **Write a paper (8-10 pages)** on one of the topics below. Paper topics on anything other than the topics listed below require approval by the professor. This paper will constitute 45% of the term grade. The paper is due **May 17 by 11 am.**

*Paper Topics may include:*

- 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 “unconditional”?
- 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?
- An original language exegetical paper on a key text in covenant theology (i.e. Hos. 6:7; Jer. 31; Heb. 8, etc.).
A 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 with the approval of the professor.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY


Lyle Bierma, German Calvinism in the Confessional Age: The Covenant Theology of Caspar Olevianus (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997).

Lyle Bierma et al., An Introduction to the Heidelberg Catechism: Sources, History, and Theology (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005).


Meredith Kline, By Oath Consigned (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1968).


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


Rowland Ward, God and Adam: Reformed Theology and the Creation Covenant (New Melbourne Press, 2003).


Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Covenant Theology (ST601)
Professor: Dr. J. Nicholas Reid
Campus: RTS Orlando
Date: Spring 2019

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<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>
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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 | Academic paper stresses articulation by engaging with primary sources and secondary literature. |

| 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 | 1. Examination and evaluation of historical and biblical theology stressed to develop understanding of covenant theology. 2. Interpretive strategies stressed throughout. 3. Some engagement with original languages. |

| Reformed Theology | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Strong | 1. Historic Reformed faith and theological implications of the text stressed throughout. 2. Evaluation of Reformed positions and non-reformed positions with regard to covenant theology |

| Sanctification | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Moderate | 1. The Biblical text is an ordinary means by which God communicates grace. 2. Text will be applied throughout. |

<p>| Desire for Worldview | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Moderate | Desire to conform worldview to the Biblical text. |</p>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></th>
<th>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.)</th>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>1. Academic integrity and warm piety expected when engaging the ideas of others. 2. Convey how a reformed understanding of covenant theology can be helpful in understanding Scripture.</th>
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<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>Moderate</td>
<td>The course attempts to give the student knowledge of the biblical text and to prepare the student to engage secondary literature with discernment.</td>
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<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>Minimal</td>
<td>1. The regulative principle is informed by Scripture. 2. Understanding of covenant theology informs positions on sacraments.</td>
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<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>
<td>The biblical text informs all aspects of church service.</td>
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<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>Minimal</td>
<td>Understanding of Scripture and covenant theology informs faith and practice.</td>
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