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.

Course Requirements
Required Texts:
- Louis Berkhof, Systematic Theology [211-218; 262-301]; 978-0802838209
- 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 [Available at Reformation Heritage Books]

Syllabus Articles:
- 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


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. If you need to miss a class or to leave early or to arrive late, you should seek permission. 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.

Course Evaluation
1. **Reading and Course Portfolio** (20%) Each student will build a course portfolio 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 Préces** (20%) 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.

3. **Term Paper** (20%) Each student must prepare a 6 page research term paper on a topic in Covenant Theology agreed with the professor.

4. **Final Examination** (40%) 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.
Instructions for Course Portfolio

The portfolio 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.

1. Classnotes Assignment:
   Inclusion of the student’s classnotes in the course notebook will enable the instructor to gauge the quality of classroom 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, Macleod, and Heppe.

3. Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF) Outline Assignment:
   This project calls for the student to develop a concise, typed, outline of the assigned chapter of the WCF (chapter 7).

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.

5. Portfolio Format
   The Course Portfolio is to be submitted as a pdf file, complete with bookmarks for easy location of each set of the above materials. All précis and the term paper must also be included.

Due Dates Summary

Mar. 23  Précis on Covenant of Works

Apr. 27  Précis on Covenant of Grace

May 1   Précis on Covenant of Redemption
        Précis on Covenant Theology
        Term Paper
        Course Portfolio
Course Outline

Feb. 15/16

**Introduction to Covenant Theology**

What is Covenant Theology?; What is a Covenant? Why study it?

Covenant Theology (History and Objections)


Donald Macleod, *Covenant Theology*.

O. Palmer Robertson, *Christ of the Covenants*, 3-63.

*WCF* 7; *LC* Questions 20-22, 30-36; and *SC* Questions 12, 16, & 20.

**Covenant of Works (or Creation)**


Donald Macleod, *Covenant: 2 & Federal Theology—An Oppressive Legalism?*


Mar. 22/23

**Covenant of Grace (Adam)**


Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* [262-301].

Heinrich Heppe, *Reformed Dogmatics* [371-409]


**Covenant of Grace (Noah)**


**Covenant of Grace (Abraham)**

O. Palmer Robertson, *Christ of the Covenants*, 127-146.

Ward, *God and Adam*, 126-146.

**Covenant of Grace (Abraham)**

O. Palmer Robertson, *Christ of the Covenants*, 147-166.

Donald Macleod, *The Lord's Supper as a Means of Grace* (all), *Qualifications for Communion* (all), and *The Real Presence* (all).


**Covenant of Grace (Moses)**


Apr. 26/27

**Dispensationalism**

O. Palmer Robertson, *Christ of the Covenants*, 201-227.

**Covenant of Grace (David)**

O. Palmer Robertson, *Christ of the Covenants*, 229-269.
Covenant of Grace (Jeremiah-New)

Covenant of Grace (New)

Covenant of Grace (New)
## Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

**With Mini-Justification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The student will have a firm grasp of the fundamentals of Covenant Theology as it spans and integrates the Scriptures; the student will articulate his knowledge in the cumulative, comprehensive final exam as well as four major assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scripture</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The student will be able to understand how God is dealt with man in terms of covenants throughout all of history.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reformed Theology</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Covenant Theology is an important concept in Reformed Theology; without a firm foundation and introduction to the Covenants, the student will be unable to grasp the Westminster Standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanctification</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>The student will glorify the God who freely bound Himself save dead sinners by means of the Covenant of Grace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desire for Worldview</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>The student will be able to articulate a world and life view in which the Covenant of Grace is freely offered to all men as the one means of salvation from the wrath to come.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winsomely Reformed/Evangelistic</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The student will understand the distinctiveness and necessity of Covenant Theology as well as a respectful engagement of alternatives such as Dispensationalism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preach</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The student will find that a Scripture united by covenants provides fertile ground for growing preaching arts, topics and applications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>This course will aid the worshipper to better know the God who commands us to worship Him according to His word.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>By studying the theology taught in God’s Word, the man of God is equipped to better use his gifts and callings to encourage, reprove, rebuke, and exhort with complete patience and teaching.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>While ecclesiology is covered in a different course, proper theology is essential for good and right doctrine; both to understand how to love one’s neighbors as well as love one’s brethren.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>