

SYLLABUS

Reformed Covenant Theology

CH 920
CH/ST 866

Prof. Stephen G. Myers

1. Introduction

Course description

“My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.”
Psalm 89.34

One of Reformed theology’s deepest convictions is that God has revealed Himself and redeemed His people through covenant. It therefore is through the study of covenant theology that we come to understand God and His redemption better. In the present course, the exegetical roots and doctrinal development of this Reformed covenant theology will be examined. The course will proceed thematically, examining the major texts, questions, and issues that have driven covenantal reflection, yet within each theme, attention will be given to how the specific doctrine developed over the course of the Reformation and Post-Reformation periods and its particular emphases within specific theologians and broader reform movements. Through this examination, a clear understanding of covenant theology and its implications will be pursued.

Purpose of the course

The central academic purpose of the course is to introduce students to the biblical foundations for Reformed covenant theology and the ways in which that theology developed through the Reformation and Post-Reformation periods. This purpose will be achieved through an examination of the exegetical antecedents of covenant theology and an exposure to texts and theologians critical to its development.

The central spiritual purpose of the course is to guide the student in coming to understand better the Triune God of the covenant and the redemption that He has accomplished. Through such study, God’s faithfulness, His power, His grace, and other perfections are magnified, leading to doxological scholarship.

Overall, given the centrality of covenantal thought in all Reformed theology, the course’s examination of Reformed covenant theology will prove foundational for much of the student’s other coursework.

2. **General**

Instructor information: Stephen G. Myers

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Mobile phone: +1-704-763-3732

Office hours: Please see Professor

Location and time of class: Martin Bucer Seminary

July 29 – August 2, 2019

Academic Policies: Students are expected to adhere to the Academic Policies of PRTS, found at https://prts.edu/academics/academic-catalog-2/#Academic_Policies.

3. **Readings**

Selected and assigned readings include:

- Primary sources: see Appendix A
- Secondary sources: see Appendix B

4. **Course Assessment**

The student's assessment in the course will be based on the following components:

- A. Class participation** Students are expected to engage actively in the lecture component of the course and participate in discussions as they arise. This will account for 5% of the student's final grade.
- B. Reading assignments:** All assigned readings must be completed by the due date for the Course Paper (see below). The student will notify the professor regarding his completion of this requirement. This will account for 20% of the student's final grade.
- C. Course paper:** A major paper consisting of original research in the area of Reformed covenant theology will be submitted. This research should draw on both primary and secondary sources. The due date for the paper will be advertised during the course lectures. The paper should be submitted, in Word format, via email to stephen.myers@prts.edu and uploaded in Gennera. Failure to meet the due date and time of the course paper will result in an "F" grade. This will account for 75% of the student's final grade.

Topic: Each student should make an appointment with the professor to discuss paper topics that are of interest to the student.

Length: For Ph.D. students, the paper should be 8,000-10,000 words, not including bibliography. For Th.M. students, the paper should be 6,000-8,000 words, not including bibliography.

Format: The paper should be formatted in accordance with the most recent edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style*. It should include both footnotes and a bibliography.

5. Course Objectives

- a. Be able to assess critically primary interdisciplinary sources (theology, philosophy, social and political history).
- b. Be able to read primary sources both as individual theological reflections and as representatives of trajectories of intellectual thought.
- c. Be able to read secondary sources with discernment, critical assessment, and reflection on historiography.
- d. Acquire proficiency in using digital text archives.

6. Course Calendar and Outline

The following is a tentative lecture outline and may be modified slightly to allow more time for certain topics as the need arises. Readings have been divided to reflect which portions pertain most directly to each topic; it is not required that they be read in this order. Readings marked with an asterisk () are for PhD students only; readings not marked with an asterisk are for both ThM and PhD students.*

July 29: Introduction; Origins and History of Covenant Theology; The Covenant of Works (ThM, 728 pages; PhD, 996 pages)

- *Cocceius, chapters 1-3 (48 pages)
- Rollock, chapters 1-2 (9 pages)
- *Turretin, 8.3-9.10 (62 pages)
- Witsius, book 1 (120 pages)

- Beeke and Jones, chapter 14 (19 pages)
- Macleod, all (4 pages)
- Torrance, all (25 pages)
- *Weir, all (158 pages)
- Woolsey, all (551 pages)

July 30: The Covenant of Works; The *Pactum Salutis* (ThM, 553 pages; PhD 788 pages)

- *Cocceius, chapters 4-5 (61 pages)
- *Gib, part 2 period 1 (81 pages)
- Gillespie, chapters 1-6 (145 pages)
- *Owen, 'Federal Transactions' (20 pages)
- Witsius, book 2 (117 pages)

- Beeke and Jones, chapter 15 (21 pages)

- Fesko, all (220 pages)
- *Muller, all (54 pages)
- Swain, all (18 pages)
- Trueman, *John Owen*, chapter 3 (32 pages)
- *Trueman, 'From Calvin to Gillespie,' all (19 pages)

July 31: The Covenant of Grace (ThM, 419 pages; PhD 764 pages)

- Boston, heads 1-3 (140 pages)
- *Cocceius, chapters 6-11 (108 pages)
- *Gib, part 2 periods 2-3 (137 pages)
- Rollock, chapters 3-6 (25 pages)
- *Turretin, 12.1-12 (100 pages)
- Witsius, book 3 chapters 1-3, book 4 chapters 1-3 (97 pages)
- Beeke and Jones, chapters 16, 19 (32 pages)
- Gentry and Wellum, chapters 16-19 (192 pages)

August 1: The Covenant of Grace (ThM, 429 pages; PhD, 692 pages)

- Boston, heads 4-6 (85 pages)
- *Cocceius, chapters 12-16 (135 pages)
- *Turretin, 11.22-26; 14.10-14; 19.9, 20 (108 pages)
- Witsius, book 4 chapters 4-17 (302 pages)
- *Asselt, all (20 pages)
- Beeke and Jones, chapters 17-18, 45 (42 pages)

August 2: The Covenant of Grace; Covenant Theology and the Sacraments

- The reading for these lectures will be covered by the reading for the previous two lectures