

Syllabus 2026

ST 5300 – Covenant Theology

General Information

Semester: Fall
Meeting times: September 25-26; November 6-7; 2026
Credit hours: 2.00
Instructor name: Dr. Stephen G. Myers
Tel. office: 704-763-3732
Tel. home: 704-763-3732
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Course Purpose

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 articulation.

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.

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.

Course Assignments

1. **Class Participation:** Students are expected to engage actively in the lecture component of the course and participate in discussions as they arise.
2. **Reading Assignments:** All assigned readings must be completed. The student will complete a reading report to indicate the amount of the reading that has been completed. **This assignment is due on December 11, 2026, and must be uploaded to Canvas.**
3. **Sermon/Study Manuscript:** Each student will submit a full manuscript (9-11 pages, 1.5 spaced) of a sermon (for M.Div students) or Bible study (for non-M.Div students) on a Scripture passage of covenantal significance. In the manuscript, the student will be expected to highlight covenantal points exegetically, incorporate those covenantal points into a "popular-level" treatment, and apply those covenantal points to God's people. This is to be a sermon/study, not a covenant theology lecture; but yet a sermon/study filled with covenant theology. A bibliography of commentaries used should be included (but not included in the page count). **This assignment is due on December 11, 2026, and must be uploaded to Canvas.**
4. **Course Paper:** A major paper of 10-12 pages (1.5 spaced, Times New Roman font size 12) in the area of Reformed covenant theology will be submitted. This research should draw on both primary and secondary sources. It should be uploaded to Canvas on the date indicated below. Each student should speak with the professor to discuss paper topics that are of interest to the student. 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. **This assignment is due on December 11, 2026, and must be uploaded to Canvas.**
5. **Final Exam:** The final exam should be taken with a proctor during the seminary exam period. For the exam, the student will select several short answer questions based on lecture material and required reading. The student will have three hours to complete the exam.

Weighting of Course Assignments

Class Participation – 10%

Required Reading – 20%

Sermon/Study Manuscript – 20%

Course Paper – 40%

Final Exam – 10%

Course Required Reading

Do not allow the length of the following list to intimidate you. I have listed each chapter from *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives* separately since they are distinct essays. That makes the list much longer than it would be otherwise.

Allen, Michael. “Covenant in Recent Theology.” In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 427-444. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 17 pgs.

Baugus, Bruce P. “Covenant Theology in the Dutch Reformed Tradition.” In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 379-400. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 21 pgs.

Belcher, Richard P. Jr. “The Covenant of Works in the Old Testament.” In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 63-78.. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 15 pgs.

Belcher, Richard P. Jr. "The Davidic Covenant." In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 173-189. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 16 pgs.

Belcher, Richard P. Jr. *The Fulfillment of the Promises of God: An Explanation of Covenant Theology*. Fearn, UK: Mentor, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- Chapters 11-13

Total page # from this resource – 77 pgs.

Brown, Michael G. and Zach Keele. *Sacred Bond: Covenant Theology Explored*. Second Edition. Reformed Fellowship, Inc, 2017.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 142 pgs.

Cara, Robert J. "Covenant in Hebrews." In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 247-266. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 19 pgs.

Currid, John D. "Adam and the Beginning of the Covenant of Grace." In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 99-109. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 10 pgs.

DeYoung, Kevin. "Afterword: Why Covenant Theology?" In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 589-598. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 9 pgs.

Duncan, Ligon. "Covenant in the Early Church." In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 291-310. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 19 pgs.

Gentry, Peter J. and Stephen J. Wellum. *Kingdom Through Covenant: A Biblical-Theological Understanding of the Covenants*. Second Edition. Wheaton: Crossway, 2018.

Read the following pages:

- Chapters 16-19

Total page # from this resource – 192 pgs.

Gladd, Benjamin L. "Covenant in Contemporary New Testament Scholarship." In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 485-502. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 17 pgs.

Glodo, Michael J. "Dispensationalism." In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 525-550. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 25 pgs.

Griffith, Howard. “Covenant in Reformation Theology.” In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 327-350. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 23 pgs.

Kelly, Douglas F. “Covenant in Medieval Theology.” In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 311-325. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 15 pgs.

Kruger, Michael J. “Covenant in the Gospels.” In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 211-226. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 15 pgs.

Lanier, Gregory R. “Covenant in the Johannine Epistles and Revelation.” In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 267-287. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 21 pgs.

Lee, Peter Y. "Covenant and Second Temple Judaism." In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 467-484. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 17 pgs.

Macleod, Donald. 'Covenant Theology.' In *Dictionary of Scottish Church History and Theology*, ed. Nigel M. de S. Cameron, 214-218. Downers Grove: IVP, 1993.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 4 pgs.

McDowell, Mark I. "Covenant Theology in Barth and the Torrances." In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 401-425. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 25 pgs.

McKelvey, Michael G. "The New Covenant as Promised in the Major Prophets." In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 191-209. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 18 pgs.

Myers, Stephen G. *God to Us: Covenant Theology in Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 2021.

Read the following pages:

- Chapter 4

Total page # from this resource – 22 pgs.

Owen, John. 'Federal Transactions Between the Father and the Son'. In *The Works of John Owen*. Volume 18. Ed. William H. Goold. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1991.

Read the following pages:

- Pages 77-97

Total page # from this resource – 20 pgs.

Redd, John Scott. "The Abrahamic Covenant." In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 133-147. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 14 pgs.

Reid, J. Nicholas. "Ancient Near Eastern Backgrounds to Covenants." In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 447-465. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 18 pgs.

Reid, J. Nicholas. "The Mosaic Covenant." In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 149-171. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 22 pgs.

Richard, Guy. "The Covenant of Redemption." In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 43-62. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 19 pgs.

Robertson, O. Palmer. “Israel and the Nations in God’s Covenants.” In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 503-524. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 21 pgs.

Smith, D. Blair. “Post-Reformation Developments.” In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 351-377. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 27 pgs.

Swain, Scott R. “New Covenant Theologies.” In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 551-569. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 18 pgs.

Thomas, Derek W.H. “Covenant, Assurance, and the Sacraments.” In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 571-587. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 16 pgs.

Van Pelt, Miles V. "The Noahic Covenant of the Covenant of Grace." In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 111-132. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 21 pgs.

Waldron, Samuel. *A Modern Exposition of the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith. Fifth Edition: Revised and Corrected*. Garden City, UK: Evangelical Press, 2016.

Read the following pages:

- Chapter 7

Total page # from this resource – 19 pgs.

Waters, Guy Prentiss. "Covenant in Paul." In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 227-245. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 18 pgs.

Waters, Guy Prentiss. "The Covenant of Works in the New Testament." In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 79-97. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 18 pgs.

Waters, Guy Prentiss, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, "Introduction." In *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether, 31-39. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.

Read the following pages:

- All

Total page # from this resource – 9 pgs.

Witsius, Herman. *The Economy of the Covenants Between God and Man: Comprehending a Complete Body of Divinity*. New York: George Forman, 1798.

Read the following pages:

- Book 2 Chapter 1 – Book 3 Chapter 3

Total page # from this resource – 161 pgs.

Tentative Schedule

Date	Topic / Assignments
September 25	Introduction; History of Covenant Theology; Foundational Principles; Covenant of Works; Covenant of Redemption/Counsel of Peace - Baugus, all - Belcher, “Covenant of Works in the Old Testament,” all - Brown and Keele, Introduction, Chapters 1-2 - Duncan, all - Glodo, all - Griffith, all - Kelly, all - Macleod, all - McDowell, all - Owen, all - Reid, “Ancient Near Eastern,” all - Richard, all - Smith, all - Waters, “The Covenant of Works in the New Testament,” all - Waters, Reid, and Muether, all - Witsius, Book 2
September 26	Covenant of Grace; The Character and First Announcement of the Covenant; the Noahic Covenant; the Abrahamic Covenant - Belcher, <i>Fullfillment</i>, all - Brown and Keele, Chapters 3-5 - Currid, all - Gentry and Wellum, all - Myers, Chapter 4 - Redd, all

	- Swain, all - Van Pelt, all - Waldron, all - Witsius, Book 3.1-3
November 6	The Mosaic Covenant; the Davidic Covenant - Belcher, “Davidic Covenant,” all - Brown and Keele, Chapters 6-7 - Reid, “Mosaic,” all
November 7	The New Covenant; Covenant and Ecclesiology; Critical Issues in Covenant Theology - Allen, all - Brown and Keele, Chapter 8 - Cara, all - DeYoung, all - Gladd, all - Kruger, all - Lanier, all - Lee, all - McKelvey, all - Robertson, all - Thomas, all - Waters, “Covenant in Paul,” all

Extensions Policy for Assignments: In extenuating circumstances, a deadline extension of **up to one week** may be granted at the discretion of the professor. Requests for extensions of **more than one week** must be submitted to the Registrar for consideration by the Academic Dean in consultation with the professor. Extensions are granted only for

significant emergencies or unforeseen circumstances, and a grade penalty may be applied. *All extension requests must be made **prior to the assignment deadline**.* No retrospective extensions will be granted.

RTS Houston

Student Instructions for Exams with LockDown Browser

1. Install the LockDown Browser application on the computer you intend to use for exams, prior to sitting for the exam, using this link:
<https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=998253613>
 - a. This link is ONLY for RTS students and covers Mac and Windows applications.
 - b. Be sure that you are able to log in to your Canvas account from the LockDown Browser before the day of the exam.
 - c. If you use internet filtering software (for example, Covenant Eyes) you may need to disable it before beginning an exam with LockDown Browser. Some types of filtering software can block your computer's connection to Canvas. Also, please be sure to add an exception for our Canvas URL: <https://rts.instructure.com>
2. The exam proctor should not be a current RTS student (current = taken a class within the past year but not yet graduated) or a member of the library staff.
3. The proctor must observe the student taking the exam and ensure that there are no devices or resources available other than the computer being used for the exam.
4. Access the exam during the date window specified for that exam.
 - a. Sign in with the proctor.
 - b. Start the LockDown Browser application using a wired or known reliable Wi-Fi connection. We do not recommend using restaurant or coffee shop Wi-Fi to take exams.
 - c. Have your student ID number and proctor details available to input into the exam.
 - d. Log in to your Canvas account.
 - e. Navigate to the exam. You will not be able to access the exam with a standard web browser. For additional details on using LockDown Browser, review this [Student Quick Start Guide \(PDF\)](#).
 - f. The time clock will begin once you open the exam.
 - g. The exam must be completed in one sitting. You may not exit and return to the exam later.
 - h. The exam will contain questions regarding an honor pledge, and certification that your proctor was present during the entire exam period.
 - i. Sign out with the proctor.

5. Proctors may be contacted to verify information regarding exam administration.
6. In the rare case of a technical issue (for example, if power goes out during exam) the proctor will document the date and time when the issue was reported. Once you open the exam using the LockDown Browser, you will not be able to access other programs on your computer.

RTS Houston Classroom Technology Usage

RTS Houston recognizes how essential it is for students to have reliable, campus-wide access to the internet. For that reason, we have made Wi-Fi available for our student body, not only in the library and student lounges, but also in the classrooms. We know that students need to use the internet to download class materials, access files on the Cloud, and locate other important information. However, we also recognize that internet access in the classroom provides opportunity for abuse and misuse. Some students have unfortunately used their internet access to engage in many activities that distract them from the classroom lectures (e.g., surfing the web, checking sports scores, playing games). Not only does such activity hamper a student's own seminary education, but it distracts other students who can easily view the screens of nearby students. In addition, donors and classroom guests (who often sit in the back) can see this inappropriate internet usage, which reflects poorly on RTS. Classroom etiquette includes leaving cell phones turned off, refraining from surfing the Internet or playing computer games or other distracting activities. In addition, students must respect standards set by individual professors regarding the use of technology during their class.

In order to address this issue, we must appeal to the integrity of the students as ones who are preparing for a lifetime of ministry to Christ and his church. We expect each student to take personal responsibility for proper classroom technology usage and to encourage others around them to do the same. All RTS-Houston students are accountable to the policies stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Catalog and are therefore expected to use technology in the classroom only for appropriate class-related activities. Student conduct is under the supervision of the Dean of Students.



Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Covenant Theology
 Professor: Stephen G. Myers
 Campus: Houston
 Date: Spring 2026

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes <i>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.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		Rubric • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None	Mini-Justification
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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Both papers and sermon manuscripts will examine the ability to communicate.
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	Lectures, readings, and assignments all focus on exegesis.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	The Westminster Confession is a touchstone for material throughout.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Focus is on covenant love of God for His people.

Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Emphasis on the expansive implications of covenant theology.
Winsomely Reformed	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.)	Strong	The course interacts with other views of covenant theology.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Strong	Lectures address pastoral issues; sermon manuscripts address preaching abilities.