

ST5300 Covenant Theology (2 hrs) Summer 2026

Course Description

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.

Class Schedule

- Tuesday through Friday, 9.00am-4.30pm
- June 23-26, 2026

Student Evaluation

- Final exam (worth 70% of final grade), which will cover both material delivered in lecture as well as material from reading assignments. Final exam due 07 August 2026
- Exam will be on Canvas
- Completion of all required reading (worth 20% of final grade). Reading report is due with the final exam on 07 August 2025. Indicate the percentage at the top of your exam.
- Participation (worth 10% of final grade) involves attendance and participating in class discussions.

Academic Policies

Class academic policies are those that are outlined in the current RTS Course Catalog (grading scale, class attendance policy, conduct, and examination policies).

Recording Class Lectures

You are not permitted to record class lectures; if you miss a portion of a class day, you are responsible for getting lecture notes from a classmate.

Zoom Policy

Your professor may allow you to Zoom into class or watch Zoom recordings for excused absences based on the professor's discretion and subject to the availability of equipment. Students should contact their professor well in advance of the class meeting. For a third absence the Registrar should be consulted. Your professor may require additional interactive assignments to offset the absence of classroom interaction. Sync or Remote Live courses have priority for the limited Zoom equipment.

Failure to Submit Required Assignments

If you fail to turn in required assignments, you will receive the grade of an "F."

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Registrar’s Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 46 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 18)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 49)

Required Reading

Perkins, Harrison, *Reformed Covenant Theology: A Systematic Introduction* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Academic, 2024). ISBN-13 978-1683597339

Witsius, Herman, *Economy of the Covenants Between God and Man*, 2 vols. (Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books, n. d.).

<https://www.heritagebooks.org/products/economy-of-the-covenants-between-god-and-man-2-volumes-witsius.html>

Note, you can also download free PDFs of the original 19th century edition for free through Google Books or prdl.org

Lecture Schedule

Topic	Time	Day	Required Reading
Intro: Definition	9-10am	Jun 23	Witsius, bk. 1, chp. 1
Covenant of Redemption			
Historical Survey	11-12pm		Witsius, bk. 2, chps. 2-3
Historical Survey	1-2pm		
Exegetical Foundations	2-3pm		
Exegetical Foundations	3-4.30pm		
Doctrinal Formulation	9-10am	Jun 24	Perkins, pp. 101-86
Doctrinal Formulation	10-11am		
Covenant of Works			
Historical Survey	11-12pm		Witsius, bk. 1, chps. 2-9
Historical Survey	1-2pm		
Exegetical Foundations	2-3pm		
Exegetical Foundations	3-4pm		
Exegetical Foundations	9-10am	Jun 25	

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Doctrinal Formulation	11-12pm		Perkins, pp. 19-100
Doctrinal Formulation	1-2pm		
Covenant of Grace			
Historical Survey	2-3pm		Witsius, bk. 2, chps. 1, 4-10, bk. 3, chps. 1-3
Exegetical Foundations	3-4.30pm		
Exegetical Foundations	9-10am	Jun 26	
Exegetical Foundations	10-11am		
Doctrinal Formulation	11-12pm		Perkins, pp. 187-386
Doctrinal Formulation	1-2pm		
	2-3pm		
	3-4.30pm		



Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: ST5300 Covenant Theology

Professor: J. V. Fesko

Campus: Atlanta

Date: 23-26 June 2026

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes		Rubric	Mini-Justification
<p><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></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
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	Must be able to explain covenant theology.
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	Must be able to show in Scripture the doctrine of the covenants
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Must understand the history of covenant theology in the Reformed tradition
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Covenant theology has salvation and the sinner's transformation at its heart.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	God's covenants shape our understanding of life
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	Often a contentious topic, students must understand how to discuss the doctrine in a humble and loving manner.
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-Xns.	Strong	A right understanding of the covenants undergirds all aspects of pastoral ministry.