**Law and Gospel in Jonathan Edwards and his Sources**  
Dr. Michael J. Lynch, Instructor

**Course Description**

Jonathan Edwards remains, perhaps, the most significant theologian-philosopher from North America. In this class, we will investigate one key aspect of his theological system—how he understood the relationship between law and gospel. To that end, we will read material from sermons and his treatises where he discusses the law of God and its relation to the gospel. We will also analyze his oft-overlooked *Miscellanies* on law and gospel. Finally, in order to get a better sense of the theological tradition bequeathed to Edwards, we will examine some significant precursors to his own thinking, including from the Reformation, post-Reformation, and early New England context. An appreciation for Edwards and his historical-theological setting will undoubtedly better position one to value his legacy within later American history, especially the evangelical tradition of Protestantism.

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**Course Format**

The format of the course will be predominantly one of guided discussion. The instructor will often be doing most of the talking, but generally to illuminate and draw out themes from the text for discussion, rather than in straight-up lectures. Thus, students will be expected to come having read and engaged with the text selection for the week, and with thoughts prepared to contribute.

Classes will meet via Zoom for two hours each week and will be recorded for later viewing by students who cannot participate. Additional student participation and instructor interaction can take place on a private discussion board.

**Course Objectives**

Objectives for this course include: (1) to sketch the Reformed and Post-Reformation Reformed Orthodox discussions of Law and Gospel (2) to appreciate the impact the Reformed tradition had on Edwards’ understanding of law and gospel (3) to explore the contours of how Edwards defined law and its relationship to the gospel. (4) to better understand how Edwards understood the law given at Mount Sinai and its relation to the New Covenant (5) to examine Edwards’ understanding of redemptive history (6) to remark on the various pastoral and moral concerns addressed in Edwards’ understanding of law and gospel.

**Course Requirements**

1. Weekly readings (due before our meeting each week).

2. Weekly interaction with fellow participants and the instructor in live class sessions.

**Additional Course Requirements for Course Credit:**

1. Weekly (10) 1-page, typed, in 12-point Times New Roman font, reflections which engage with the assigned readings for that day. These may range from a simple digest of the material to an engagement with and reflection upon a single aspect of the reading.
2. One (1) 12–15 page essay exploring a topic approved by the instructor.

**Course Text**

*A History of the Work of Redemption* [Access here: [A History of the Work of Redemption (WJE Online Vol. 9)](http://edwards.yale.edu/archive?path=aHR0cDovL2Vkd2FyZHMueWFsZS5lZHUvY2dpLWJpbi9uZXdwaGlsby9zZWxlY3QucGw/d2plby44)]

*Miscellanies.* [Access here: [Miscellanies Index](http://edwards.yale.edu/research/misc-index)]

*Justification by Faith Alone* [Access here: [Justification by Faith Alone](http://edwards.yale.edu/archive?path=aHR0cDovL2Vkd2FyZHMueWFsZS5lZHUvY2dpLWJpbi9uZXdwaGlsby9nZXRvYmplY3QucGw/Yy4xODo5OjEud2plbw==)]

Other readings to be provided.

**Course Schedule**

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| **Week** | **Dates** | **Discussion Topics** | **Reading** |
| 1 | TBD | Melanchthon, Calvin, and Ursinus on Law and Gospel | To be Supplied |
| 2 | TBD | *Synopsis Purioris* and Rutherford on Law and Gospel | To be Supplied |
| 3 | TBD | Grotius, Turretin and Witsius on Law and Gospel | To be Supplied |
| 4 | TBD | Bellamy and Mather on Law and Gospel | To be Supplied |
| 5 | TBD | *History of the Work of Redemption* | TBD |
| 6 | TBD | *History of the Work of Redemption* | TBD |
| 7 | TBD | *History of the Work of Redemption* | TBD |
| 8 | TBD | *Miscellanies* | On Law and Gospel |
| 9 | TBD | *Justification by Faith Alone* | TBD |
| 10 | TBD | *Justification by Faith Alone* | TBD |