CH 632 Augustine of Hippo

*Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee.*
Augustine, *Confessions*

Benozzo Gozzoli, *Tolle, lege*
from the choir of Sant' Agostino, San Gimignano, Italy; c. 1464-1468
(photograph in public domain)
Augustine of Hippo is regarded by many as the most influential theologian outside of the Bible. His views exerted a powerful force on the thousand years of the Medieval Church, and he was the single theologian quoted most extensively by both the Catholics and the Reformers during the sixteenth-century Reformation. His writings have shaped the foundation of much of Western theology, and thus it is important to understand his thought. This course will trace the development of Augustine’s theology in its historical, cultural, theological, spiritual, personal, and philosophical contexts. The world of late Roman Antiquity bears remarkable similarities to the twenty-first-century Western world and thus serves as an excellent setting for raising questions that are relevant to life and ministry today.

Course Objectives
1. To develop a framework for life-long learning about Augustine, his writings, and his theology.
2. To explore key aspects of the life, context, writings, and theology of Augustine of Hippo (including topics such as sin, grace, free will, and human nature; sacraments; faith, reason, and authority; church purity and ecclesiology; church-state relations; mysticism and monasticism; political theory and historiography; creation, anthropology, and salvation; the Trinity).
3. To illuminate the discussion of current issues in light of lessons learned from Augustine’s life and teachings (including epistemology; post-modernism and meta-narrative; sexual ethics; the New Age; pedagogy and homiletics; conflict resolution in the Church; friendship; spirituality, etc.)
4. To propose a model of multi-faceted evangelism based on the Confessions.
5. Noverim te, noverim me: "I would know you [God], I would know myself." [Soliloquies 2.1.1.] To provide opportunities for growing in the knowledge of God and of self through an analysis of Augustine’s life and writings.
6. To provide an opportunity to improve scholarly research, analytical, and writing skills.

Class Schedule (Subject to change if necessary):

September 11   Introduction

September 18   Augustine’s Confessions: The Quests Begin

September 25   Rhetoric and Homiletics: Augustine the Rhetorician and Preacher

October 2      Manicheeism and Anti-Manicheeism: Augustine the Hearer

October 9      NO CLASS (READING WEEK)
October 16  Neoplatonism's Legacy: The Monk, the Mystic, and the Visionary

October 23  Augustine's Confessions: Quest and Conversion

October 30  Exegesis & Catechesis: Augustine the Interpreter and Teacher

November 6  Dealing with Donatists: Augustine as Pastor

November 13  NO CLASS (READING WEEK)

November 20  Pelagian Pugilistics: The Grace-Defender

November 27  Augustine, the Trinity, and Sacramental Theology

December 4  A Tale of Two Cities: Augustine and The City of God

December 11 – Paper Writing Workshop
  • May also be used for lecture make-up or catch-up, as needed; and for student presentations, if any students choose that option for their application assignment

Course Requirements:

1. Analysis: Research Paper (70%) (Due: Final day for written work at 4:00 p.m. in box outside Dr. Adams’ office or postmarked by that date): Write a history research paper (15-18 double-spaced pages; include a title page and a bibliography, but don’t count them in the page count) that takes a topic within Augustine’s thought and explores it in its historical context. Paper will be graded on strength of argument/thought, clarity of structure, style (grammar, literary expression, proper format), and quality of research (should be grounded in primary sources but interact with secondary sources). Please see “Guidelines for Writing a Church History Paper” on student portal for further guidelines.

2. Reading (20%) - 1200 pages of the required texts. Please submit a reading list with one brief paragraph per book answering the question indicated for each book (see below). Please also indicate at the top of the first page of the report: total number of pages read (Due: final day for written work at 4:00 p.m. or postmarked by that date).

Grading method for the reading: If 100% of the reading (and the applications assignment) has been completed, the research paper grade will be the grade for the course. Otherwise, the proportion of reading not done will be deducted from the final grade for the course, at the following rate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>(ex: A to A = no change)</td>
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<tr>
<td>75-99%</td>
<td>(ex: A to A- = 1/3 grade drop)</td>
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<tr>
<td>50-74%</td>
<td>(ex: A to B+ = 2/3 grade drop)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-49%</td>
<td>(ex: A to B = 1 grade drop)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 25%</td>
<td>(ex: A to B- = 1 1/3 grade drop)</td>
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A further 1/3 grade drop will be assessed if fewer than 4 of the 5 required paragraphs are written.
3. **Application (10%)** (Due: final day for written work at 4:00 p.m. or postmarked by that date): Please choose one of the following, preferably the one that will best contribute to your preparation for your calling. Spend ten hours on the project and indicate at the top of the project the number of hours spent. An exceptionally high quality of work may, in some cases, positively affect your final course grade. If the assignment is not done, 1/3 grade will be deducted from the grade that results from step #2 above:

   a. Write a **Confessions-style spiritual autobiography** (10-20 pages) tracing your spiritual pilgrimage/development. Special attention should be given to the variety of aspects involved in your conversion process.

   b. **OR, Class presentation** (7 carefully-crafted minutes) - Choose one aspect of Augustine’s theology to present to a specific ministry situation (nursing home; youth group; hospital visitation; business luncheon talk, etc.) Will be graded primarily on excellence, understanding of ministry situation, creativity, clarity of communication, and accuracy of presentation of Augustine’s theology. (You may use the same topic as for your research paper, but you should not simply read a section of your paper. You need to significantly recast the paper’s material to engage creatively with a ministry “audience.”) An outline of the presentation, bibliography, and copies of materials should be submitted to the professor just before the presentation. Presentations will be done during the final class period specified by the Hamilton Registrar’s Office. As an alternative, a 5-minute video presentation may be submitted to the professor.

   c. **OR, read** *Too Close to the Flame* and work through the questions in each chapter. Read article posted on-line in student portal. Write a 2-3 page summary of your plan. (Do not include these readings in your page count).

   d. **OR, spend 10 hours in "multi-faceted evangelism"** and write a brief (2-3 page) report on what you have learned in the process.

   e. **OR, if the professor approves the project, you may design and implement some other way of applying an aspect of Augustine's thought or practice in a practical way that allows you to grow in your relationship with God and/or in ministry skills. If you plan to pursue an academic vocation, you may want to write a reflection paper on some aspect of Augustine’s theology or on some event or series of events in his life.

4. Class attendance may be taken into account, with one point per missed, unexcused session being taken off of the final grade.

   • Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offense at GCTS. Please follow guidelines at [http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html).

   • Grading scale is the one indicated in the academic catalog guidelines for Gordon-Conwell: "Grade A is given for meeting with **conspicuous excellence** the demands which can fairly be made in relation to the requirements of the course. These demands would normally include unusual accuracy in fact, completeness in detail, perfection in form of work, independence of method, grasp of the subject as a whole and constructive imagination. Grade B is given for **exceeding the minimum of satisfactory attainment** and for meeting certain aspects of the course with excellent.
Grade C is given for attaining satisfactory familiarity with the course and for demonstrating at least some ability to use this knowledge in a satisfactory manner.
Grade D is a passing mark but indicates unsatisfactory control over the material. Grade F declares that the course has been failed.

**Approximate average time for each assignment (note that to earn an A may take more time):**

1. Reading (30 pages/hour) = 49 hours
2. Paper (15-18 pages) = 38 hours
3. Application = 12 hours
4. Classroom = 36 hours

**TOTAL = 135 hours**

**Required Texts**

1. William Harmless, ed. *Augustine in His Own Words* (Catholic University of America Press, 2010) – (496 pages) 978-0813217437 – various sections to be assigned in class to correspond to the lectures – Read all of it except for the chapter on *Confessions*.

2. Augustine’s *Confessions*
   - To be read in its entirety (300 pages).
   - Henry Chadwick, ed. (Oxford University Press, 1998) ISBN: 0521468434 List price: $7.95. Please purchase this particular edition, for we will be referring to it extensively in class.
   - Please bring the *Confessions* to class for the first six sessions.
   - Guiding questions for reading and for class discussion on October 23: How does the autobiography relate to the final section on Genesis? Why did Augustine put these two parts together in the same book? (Please bring a copy of your paragraph to class on October 23)

3. *Rule of St. Augustine*
   - Available online at [http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/ruleaug.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/ruleaug.html)
   - Guiding question for your reading and class discussion on October 16: What are the key themes of Augustine’s monasticism? (Please bring a copy of your list of themes to class on October 16)

4. *City of God*
   - R. W. Dyson, trans., *Augustine: City of God* (Cambridge University Press, 1998) - selected readings to be assigned. **ISBN:** 0521468434; 1278 pages; $25.99 The Dyson edition will be used in class. You may, however, use another version if you prefer. Another option is to read the assigned chapters on-line at [http://www.ccel.org/fathers/NPNF1-02](http://www.ccel.org/fathers/NPNF1-02).
   - Guiding question for your reading: Describe/summarize Augustine’s strategy for responding to the accusation that Christianity has caused the downfall of the Roman Empire. (Please bring a copy of your description paragraph to class on December 4).
### Text Required Reading pages Edition May be read on-line Date to Bring to Class

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<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Required Reading pages</th>
<th>Edition</th>
<th>May be read on-line</th>
<th>Date to Bring to Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Augustine in His Own Words</em></td>
<td>All (about 480 pages) – pages will be assigned in class</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>All sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Confessions</em></td>
<td>All (about 300)</td>
<td>Chadwick required</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>First six sessions;</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Bring Chadwick edition to class</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Rule of St. Augustine</em></td>
<td>All (about 20)</td>
<td>Any (<a href="http://www.fordham.edu">www.fordham.edu</a> preferred)</td>
<td>Yes; but would be helpful to have with you in class</td>
<td>October 16; Bring list of themes as well to October 16 class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>City of God</em></td>
<td>TBA (about 300)</td>
<td>Any (Dyson preferred)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>December 4; Bring paragraph as well to December 4 class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Brown</td>
<td>Recommended</td>
<td>“New” edition (2000) recommended</td>
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<td>Curtis Chang</td>
<td>Recommended</td>
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**Recommended texts:**


Class attendance may be taken into account in grading, with one point taken off the final grade for the course for each unexcused absence from class.

N.B. Extensions are given only by permission of instructor. If the instructor determines that the circumstances are extenuating (illness, death in family) an extension without penalty may be granted for a length of time equivalent to the time lost. Occasionally, in other circumstances, the instructor may grant an extension with penalty (one full grade per week of extension; for example, an A would be reduced to a B). Any work submitted after the final day for written work may incur an additional penalty from the registrar and requires an extension be requested before the final day for written work.

**Primary Source Reading - series**
******The Fathers of the Church: Augustine* [GCTS. Ref. BR. 60.F3.A9]
New City Press - working on series of English translations of all of Augustine’s work.

- **Internet/Game Usage:** Students are required to refrain from accessing the internet or playing computer/cell phone games, etc. at any point during class sessions, unless otherwise instructed by the professor. Surfing the web, checking email, and other internet-based activities are distracting to other students and to the professor, and prevent the student from fully participating in the class sessions.

- **Intellectual Property / Privacy Rights:** To protect the professor’s intellectual property rights with regard to classroom content and to protect the privacy of the professor and other students, students are required to refrain from audio, photographic, and video recording of classes, as well as audio, video, photographic, and written publication (including internet posting and broadcasting) or live transmission of classroom proceedings.