

XIANTHE 834: The Thought of Augustine of Hippo. Class meets in two sections, Mondays 5:15-7:45pm (060L), & Wednesdays 5:15pm-7:45pm (060L), at Duke Divinity School. Instructor: Paul J. Griffiths (056 Langford; pgriffit@gmail.com). My office hours are each Wednesday from 3pm-5pm. Please feel free to email me for an appointment at other times if you're not free during these hours.

non solum non peccemus adorando, sed peccemus non adorando
not only do we avoid sin when we're adoring, but we sin when we're not

What this course is for & how it'll be done

In this course we'll read, in English, selections from the correspondence between Augustine and Jerome, and (parts of) fifteen works by Augustine, avoiding, mostly, his more well-known works, which are treated in other Divinity School courses, or which are likely to be known to you anyway. The works treated cover the span of Augustine's writing life, most of the topics that interested him, and most of the genres in which he wrote.

The course's principal purpose is to give you a reasonably broad and deep exposure to his words and thoughts if you haven't read him before; and to deepen your understanding of the patterns of his thought if you have. We shall throughout study Augustine as a thinker making complex and interesting claims about a wide range of topics. In reading him you should constantly have two questions in mind: First, how should these works be read? Second, is what they claim true? The first question will prove challenging enough, but we may occasionally have time and energy for the second.

Each class will begin with a short lecture in which an overview and interpretation will be offered of the required reading for that week. The remainder of the class will be devoted to (mostly) instructor-driven Q&A, as described in #2 under 'what you'll need to do.'

What you'll need to do

If you take this course for credit you'll be expected to do the following:

1. Read, take notes on, and think about the required reading for each class before the class to which it relates. The schedule for this reading is given below. For some weeks, there's also recommended reading, which it's up to you to track down and read if you'd like to; I assume that most of you won't, but I will often talk about it in my brief introductory lectures, and reading it will provide a fuller picture of the topic at hand for that week.
2. Be prepared, when called on, to discourse intelligently on any part of the required reading. An intelligent discourse should include: (1) a brief summary of what the passage you're asked to comment on argues or depicts; (2) a location of the passage's argument in the trajectory of the work to which it belongs; (3) an identification of points of special difficulty or special interest in the passage; and possibly (4) a critique. I'll identify passages for comment by section number (not page number); you should take notes accordingly. Some of the works we'll be studying have two layers of sectional division. In such cases, use the layer that yields the smallest divisions.
3. Write about the works we're reading. The default for this is that you'll write a final paper of 5K words, plus or minus 10%, due to me as an attachment to an email by noon on Thursday 4 May 2017. This paper will be on a topic to be cleared by discussion with me by, at latest, the end of the week after spring break – which is to say Friday 24 March 2017. If there's some other way of writing about the material that might serve your needs better than the paper option (two or three well-turned homilies? instructional materials to be used in a parish setting? other possibilities?), please feel free to suggest that when you discuss with me what you'll write about. I'm entirely and enthusiastically open to such suggestions. What you write will need to be about Augustine, however.
4. One-half of your grade will come from class participation. The other half will come from your final paper.

Texts by Augustine available to you in English, listed in approximate chronological order of composition/completion

1. De beata vita/The Happy Life <386-387, in Trilogy>
2. De utilitate credendi/The Use(fulness) of Believing <391-392, in Trilogy>
3. Ad simplicianum (Book One only)/To Simplician <396-398, in Selected Writings>
4. De fide rerum invisibilium/Faith in Unseen Things <400, in Trilogy>
5. De bono coniugali/The Good of Marriage <401, in Marriage>
6. De sancta virginitate/Holy Virginitate <401, in Marriage>
7. Tractatus in epistolam Ioannis ad Parthos/Homilies on I John <406, in Homilies>
8. De peccatorum meritis et remissione et de baptismo parvulorum/The Punishment & Remission of Sins and the Baptism of Children <411-413, in Selected Writings>
9. De spiritu et littera/The Spirit & the Letter <412-413, in Selected Writings>
10. De bono viduitatis/The Good of Widowhood <414, in Marriage>
11. De natura et gratia/Nature & Grace <415, in Selected Writings>
12. De adulterinis coniugiis/Adulterous Marriages <419-420, in Marriage>
13. De continentia/Continenence <418-420(?), in Marriage>
14. De trinitate/The Trinity <399-426, in Trinity>
15. De praedestinatione sanctorum/The Predestination of the Saints <428-429, in Selected Writings>
16. De dono perseverantiae/The Gift of Perseverance <428-429, in Selected Writings>
17. Letters, various – these will be made available to you as PDF files.

Books in which English versions of the texts listed above are to be found – all available for purchase at the Divinity School's bookstore

1. Hill, Edmund. (transl) The Trinity. Hyde Park, NY: New City Press. 2nd ed. (2012) ISBN 9781565484467 (paper). \$23.99 (Amazon 1609)
2. Kearney, Ray. (transl.) Marriage and Virginitate. Hyde Park, NY: New City Press. ISBN 1565482220 (paper). \$31.96 (Amazon 1609)
3. Ramsey, Boniface. (transl.) Homilies on the First Epistle of John. Hyde Park, NY: New City Press. ISBN 9781565482890 (paper). \$18.89 (Amazon 1609)
4. Ramsey, Boniface. (ed) Trilogy on Faith and Happiness. Hyde Park, NY: New City Press. ISBN 9781565483590 (paper). \$13.95 (Amazon 1609)
5. Teske, Roland. (transl) Selected Writings on Grace and Pelagianism. Hyde Park, NY: New City Press. ISBN 9781565483729 (paper). \$39.95 (Amazon 1609)

Topics & Schedule

- week one: Introductory: Augustine's life, times, & controversies; Augustine as writer and theologian; Augustine on what there is, what there isn't, and why; Augustine's reception by and significance for the Church — no required reading. However, if you've time & interest, it wouldn't hurt to read the biographical studies by Brown & Lancel, listed under 'books on library reserve' below.
- week two: Correspondence with Jerome
 - Required: letters 28, 39, 40, 67, 68, 71, 72, 73, 75, 81, 82 [available as a PDF file]
 - Recommended: De mendacio/Lying, all
- week three: Augustine on what life is and is for
 - Required: De beata vita/The Blessed Life, all (§§1-36)
 - Recommended: De ordine/Order, all

- week four: Augustine on knowing, believing, testimony, authority
 - Required: De utilitate credendi/The Usefulness of Believing, all (§§1-36)
 - Recommended: De fide rerum invisibilium/Faith in Unseen things
- week five: Augustine on the triune LORD (1)
 - Required: De trinitate/The Trinity, book four, all (§§1-32)
 - Recommended: De trinitate/On the Trinity, books one, two, three
- week six: Augustine on the triune LORD (2)
 - Required: De trinitate/The Trinity, book five, all (§§1-17)
 - Recommended: De trinitate/On the Trinity, books six, seven, eight
- week seven: Augustine on the triune LORD
 - Required: De trinitate/The Trinity, book fifteen, all (§§1-51)
 - Recommended: De trinitate/On the Trinity, books nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen
- week eight: Augustine on 1 John (1)
 - Required: Tractatus in epistolam Ioannis ad Parthos/Homilies on 1 John, Prologue, all; first homily, all (§§1-13); second homily, all (§§1-14)
 - Recommended: Tractatus in epistolam Ioannis ad Parthos/Homilies on 1 John, third, fourth, & fifth homilies
- week nine: Augustine on 1 John (2)
 - Required: Tractatus in epistolam Ioannis ad Parthos/Homilies on 1 John, ninth homily, all (§§1-11); tenth homily, all (§§1-10)
 - Recommended: Tractatus in epistolam Ioannis ad Parthos/Homilies on 1 John, sixth, seventh, & eighth homilies
- week ten: Augustine on body, sex, gender, desire, marriage, virginity (1)
 - Required: De bono coniugali/The Good of Marriage, all (§§1-35)
 - Recommended: De sancta virginitate/Holy Virginity
- week eleven: Augustine on body, sex, gender, desire, marriage, virginity (2)
 - Required: De continentia/Contenance, all (§§1-32)
 - Recommended: De adulterinis coniugiis/Adulterous Marriages; De bono viduitatis/The Good of Widowhood
- week twelve: Augustine on nature, grace, freedom, predestination (1)
 - Required: Ad Simplicianum/To Simplician, Book 1, all (§§1.1-1.17 & §§1.2.1-22),
 - Recommended: Ad Simplicianum/To Simplician, Book 2; De spiritu et littera/The Spirit & the Letter.
- week thirteen: Augustine on nature, grace, freedom, predestination (2)
 - Required: De dono perseverantiae/The Gift of Perseverance, all (§§1-68)
 - Recommended: De praedestinatione sanctorum/The Predestination of the Saints

Books on library reserve

The following volumes will prove helpful for matters of reference, and to take interest in particular topics further. It's always a good idea to begin with the Fitzgerald volume: it will usually provide further bibliographic guidance. If you're looking for an introduction to Augustine's thought, then read either Wetzel's Guide for the Perplexed or Harrison's Augustine. If you want a biography, read Brown's. The Stump & Meconi volume is a useful set of essays on key aspects of Augustine's thought. The Pollmann volumes are an essential guide to the reception of Augustine.

- Ayres, Lewis. Augustine and the Trinity. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. BR65.A9 A98 2010. The best thing on the Augustinian grammar of the Trinity.

- Bright, Pamela (ed & transl). Augustine and the Bible. Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, 1999. The Bible Through the Ages, vol.2. BS410.B5355 v.2. Based on Bible de tous les temps, vol.3, Saint Augustin et la Bible, ed. Anne-Marie La Bonnardière. On A. as exegete.
- Brown, Peter. Augustine of Hippo: A New Edition with an Epilogue. Berkeley & Los Angeles, 2000. BR1720.A9 B7. First pub. 1967. New ed. differs only in the addition of a new preface and a lengthy review of recent literature through early '99. The best first biography to read.
- Cary, Phillip. (two volumes) Inner Grace: Augustine in the Traditions of Plato and Paul. Oxford University Press, 2008; Outward Signs: The Powerlessness of External Things in Augustine's Thought. Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Dobell, Brian. Augustine's Intellectual Conversion: The Journey from Platonism to Christianity. Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Dodaro, Robert & George Lawless. (ed) Augustine and His Critics. London; Routledge, 2000. BR65.A9A83. A useful collection of essays on particular topics in A's thought; it shows the state of play in (mostly) Anglophone scholarship in the 1990s about A's thought.
- Dodaro, Robert. Christ and the Just Society in the Thought of Augustine. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004. BR65.A9 D63. A recent treatment of A's thought about politics.
- Ebbeler, Jennifer. Disciplining Christians: Correction and Community in Augustine's Letters. Oxford Studies in Late Antiquity. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012. ISBN 9780195372564 (cloth).
- Evans, G. R. Augustine on Evil. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982. BJJ1401 .E77 1982 c.1. A brief, elegant, and lucid analysis of A's view that *malum* [evil] is *privatio boni* [absence/lack of good].
- Fitzgerald, Allan D. (ed) Augustine Through the Ages: An Encyclopedia. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1999. B655.Z69 A84. The standard English-language reference on A. -- entries on all the texts, and on most of the topics of interest to A. Start with this if you have questions about A.
- Fredriksen, Paula. Augustine and the Jews: A Christian Defense of Jews and Judaism. New York: Doubleday, 2008. BR65.A9F74.
- Gioia, Luigi. The Theological Epistemology of Augustine's De Trinitate. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008. [BR65.A69752 G56 2008](#).
- Harrison, Carol. Augustine: Christian Truth and Fractured Humanity. Christian Theology in Context. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000. BR1720.A9 H337 2000 c.1. A first-rate broad-scope introduction to A's thought.
- Kolbet, Paul. Augustine and the Cure of Souls: Revising a Classical Ideal. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2010. BM535 .C475 v.17.
- Lancel, Serge. Saint Augustine. Translated by Antonia Nevill. London: SCM Press, 2002. French original published in Paris by Librairie Arthème Fayard, 1999. BR1720.A9 L3613. This biography pays more attention than Brown's to material culture, and therefore to the fabric of A's day-to-day life.
- Pollmann, Karla, et al. (ed) The Oxford Guide to the Historical Reception of Augustine. 3 vols. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. ISBN 9780199299164 (set). BR65.A9 O9 2013.
- Stock, Brian. Augustine the Reader: Meditation, Self-Knowledge, and the Ethics of Interpretation. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Belknap Press, 1996. BR65.A62 S76. A puzzlingly opaque book that nonetheless contains very important observations on A's practices of reading.
- Stump, Eleonore & David Meconi. (ed) The Cambridge Companion to Augustine. Second edition Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- Wetzel, James. Augustine and the Limits of Virtue. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992. B655.Z7 W47. On the central nexus of A's thought: will, freedom, grace, and goodness.
- Wetzel, James. Augustine: A Guide for the Perplexed. New York: Continuum, 2010. Probably the best thing to read if you know nothing about Augustine.