

Augustine/City of God (xtianthe810). Taught at Duke Divinity School in the spring semester of 2018 by Paul J. Griffiths – office 056L in the Divinity School; email [pgriffit@gmail.com](mailto:pgriffit@gmail.com); telephone 312-282-6155. Class meets Wednesdays, 5:30-8:00pm, in <room tbd>. Paul's office hours are by appointment only; please email him.

This course has a single goal: to read Augustine's *De civitate dei/City of God* (*City*, for short) in its entirety, with attention to both its sweep and its particulars. We'll generally stay close to the text, but we'll also, as time permits and occasion demands, engage (not solve) some of the broad theological and philosophical questions on which Augustine takes positions. I'll encourage you to argue with Augustine as well as to provide exegesis of him.

We'll use Babcock's recent English rendering of the *City* as our text of reference – details in the reading list below. You should feel free to have and use other English versions as well (the most useful are those by G. Walsh <1958>, H. Bettenson <1972>, and R. Dyson <1998>) – it's sometimes illuminating to have more than one English rendering in front of you, especially if you're not able to consult Augustine's Latin. But be warned: there are many incomplete/partial English versions of the *City*, some of which don't clearly advertise that fact. Make sure that whatever you use in addition to the Babcock version is complete.

As to the Latin: I'll have it with me for each class, and we'll consult it at need. I'll sometimes comment on issues provoked by it. If you can read Latin, you should make sure to have it with you for class. Means of accessing it are given below, under 'reading'.

### Procedure

- There's reading from (Babcock's rendering of the) *City* given below, following each class date. You should have done that reading, and made the appropriate notes, before the class on that day.
- The *City* comprises 22 books (*libri*), each of which is subdivided into varying numbers of chapters (*capitulae*). These book/chapter divisions are standard, and they therefore provide an edition-neutral method of citation (with occasional minor difficulties about chapter-division). Reference to the *City* thus ordinarily has the following form: 10.12 (book ten, chapter 12). Be aware that the sectional headings provided in Babcock's translation are his, not Augustine's.
- Taking the *City* a book at a time, your notes should have the following form: (a) a chapter-by-chapter summary, noting the argument and points of difficulty of each chapter; (b) a book-schema, made when you've read a particular book through and made your chapter-by-chapter summaries – the point of this is to elucidate the structure of the book taken as a whole; (c) a brief statement about the relation of the book's argument to that of the entire *City*; (d) identification of points of difficulty—that is, matter you don't understand, or matter you do understand but think is erroneous or otherwise problematic. I don't need to see these notes, but you should have made them and should have them with you so that you can, at a moment's notice, say something intelligent in answer to requests like, 'Please provide an overview of the argument of Book Two', and, 'Summarize 10.1-5.' I'll

initiate discussion by asking questions like this, and you should be ready to respond.

- All participants in the course, whether for credit or not, will be expected to contribute to the oral proceedings just described. Those taking it for credit will be asked to write a paper (4-6K words) on one or another aspect of the *City*. The topic for this should be discussed and cleared with the instructor by the time of the fall break.

### Reading

The works mentioned below are of particular use in studying the *City*. That by Babcock is our translation of reference. No books have been ordered for purchase: it's up to you to get what you need.

- Babcock, William. (transl.) *Saint Augustine: The City of God (De civitate dei)*. Two vols.: Part One, vols. 6-7, of *The Works of Saint Augustine: A Translation for the Twenty-First Century*. Hyde Park, New York: New City Press, 2012-2013. ISBNs 9781565484559 & 9781565484818 (paper).
- Wetzel, James. (ed) *Augustine's City of God: A Critical Guide*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- O'Daly, Gerard. *Augustine's City of God: A Reader's Guide*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- Walsh, P. G. *Augustine: De Civitate Dei*. This is an edition, English translation, and commentary on the Latin text of the *City*, in progress; it's published in the Aris & Phillips series of classical texts, and had progressed as far as Book Five of the *City* by 2009.

A serviceable, though not critical, edition of the Latin text of the *City* can be had at <http://www.augustinus.it/latino/cdd/index.htm>. You might also look at: <http://www.thelatinlibrary.com/august.html>, though I've not examined that text closely. The Loeb Classical Library publishes a seven-volume facing-page Latin/English text of the entire *City*, with the English renderings done by various people. The price is reasonable enough (\$26 per volume new, and with used copies easy to find), and the format is handy if you want to improve your Latin while reading in English. Duke's library system also subscribes to the Loeb Classics online, so you can use this edition/version freely in that way. The closest thing to a critical edition of the Latin text of the *City* is that done by H. Dombart & B. Kalb in 1928-29: *Sancti Aurelii Augustini episcopi De civitate Dei libri XXII*—in the *Corpus Christianorum Latinorum* series. This edition has been occasionally reprinted during the ninety years since its appearance, with some improvements.

### Schedule

- 17 January: book 1 (Babcock, vol. 1, pp. 1-36)
- 24 January: book 2 (Babcock, vol. 1, pp. 37-70)
- 31 January: books 3-4 (Babcock, vol. 1, pp. 71-142)
- 7 February: books 5-6 (Babcock, vol. 1, pp. 143-205)
- 14 February: books 7-8 (Babcock, vol. 1, pp. 206-278)

- 21 February: books 9-10 (Babcock, vol. 1, pp. 279-348)
- 28 February: books 11-12 (Babcock, vol. 2, pp. 1-67)
- 7 March: books 13-14 (Babcock, vol. 2, pp. 68-137)
- 14 March: no class — spring break
- 21 March: books 15-16 (Babcock, vol. 2, pp. 138-236)
- 28 March: books 17-18 (Babcock, vol. 2, pp. 237-345)
- 4 April: books 19-20 (Babcock, vol. 2, pp. 346-446)
- 11 April: books 21-22 (Babcock, vol. 2, pp. 447-554)