

ST. AUGUSTINE'S ANTHROPOLOGY, ETHICS, AND POLITICS

Instructor: Onsi A. Kamel

Course Description:

This course is a graduate-level introduction to St. Augustine's anthropology, and secondarily to his ethics and politics. Making use of the Stoic and Neoplatonic traditions, St. Augustine's mature and thoroughly Pauline anthropology is foundational not only to the West's understanding of the human person, but also to the West's understanding of the fall, grace, and salvation. Moreover, it exerted extraordinary influence upon the development of Western ethical thought and political theology. A firm grounding in St. Augustine's doctrine on this point, in other words, will equip students to engage and understand the subsequent Western tradition in theology and in much of philosophy. We will begin with an early work of St. Augustine, then move into his *Confessions*, and from there into his mature works, to investigate the continuity and development of his thought. Texts have been selected because of their pertinence and with an eye toward affordability.

Course Requirements:

Chiefly, students should study carefully and reflect upon St. Augustine's anthropological commitments and then (and only then) ask how these connect to other doctrines in Augustine's system—especially his ethics and politics. This requirement entails a number of sub-requirements:

1. Students will complete all readings prior to the date given on the syllabus (the dates given on the syllabus reflect the date of discussion). Reading length ranges from roughly 40-80pp./wk.
2. To demonstrate mastery and synthesis of the material, students will submit two papers, a mid-term (1,500-2,800 words) and a final (4,000-6,000 words); the final can be—and, given the time constraints of this course, should be—an expansion of the mid-term paper. Papers should be double-spaced, 12pt. Times New Roman font, with one-inch margins. Note: there may be an alternative mid-term assignment available to students who choose it. More information will be forthcoming.
3. The class will be run as a seminar. Each session will feature 10-40 minutes of lecture followed by in-depth discussion of the readings for the day. Students should always be reading to contribute to class discussion and should be able to appeal to the text to support their arguments.

Evaluation:

1. Class participation—20%
2. Mid-term—30%
3. Final—50%

Required Texts:

Students must purchase: (Note: alternative translations are generally fine, although the Chadwick translation of the Confessions, listed below, is superb, and the Ruden translation ought to be avoided, unless you already have another translation of the Confessions; many of these texts should also be free to read online. Look at New Advent for reliable, if old, translations).

Augustine, Saint. *Confessions*. Translated by Henry Chadwick. 1st edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009. ISBN: 0199537828

Hippo, Saint Augustine of, and Thomas Williams. *On Free Choice of the Will*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 1993. ISBN: 0872201880

The City of God (any reputable will suffice)

Burnaby, John, ed. *Augustine: Later Works*. ISBN: 1258207400

Augustine. *Augustine: Political Writings*. Edited by E. M. Atkins and R. J. Dodaro. 1st edition. Cambridge, U.K. ; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001. ISBN: 052144697X

Schedule:

Week	Dates	Reading
1	Jan. 10-Jan. 16	<i>On Free Choice of the Will</i> , Introduction and Bk. 1
2	Jan. 17-Jan. 23	<i>Confessions</i> , Bks. 1-4
3	Jan. 24-Jan. 30	<i>Confessions</i> , Bks. 5-9
4	Jan. 31-Feb. 6	<i>On Marriage and Concupiscence I</i>
5	Feb. 7-Feb. 13	<i>De Trinitate</i> , Bks. 8-9
6	Feb. 14-Feb. 20	<i>De Trinitate</i> Bks. 12-13
7	Feb. 21-Feb. 27	<i>De Trinitate</i> , Bk. 14
8	Feb. 28-March 6	<i>City of God</i> , Bks. 1-2
9	March 7-March 13	<i>City of God</i> , Bks. 14, 19
10	March 14-March 20	<i>Letter 155</i> (To Macedonius)