

Title and Code of Course: Augustine of Hippo our contemporary

Venue and Time of Course: Tuesday 14.00-15.30

Instructor's Name: Dr Habil. Gábor Kendeffy

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Credit Point Value: 4	Number of Lessons per Week: 2	Type of Course: Seminar	Method of Evaluation: Regular in-Class work, In-Class Presentation, Quiz at the end of the course
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Course Description:

The aim of the course is to give a portrait of (Saint) Augustine both as an outstanding figure of his age and a thinker whose ideas not only exercised great influence on the entire history of Medieval and modern philosophy, but also helps to formulate and answer to the questions of our time. The students read short excerpts from sources (see below) week by week and we comment on these text together. Each of the students presents a paper on one of the additional readings (the list will be shared by the first class).

The topics to be examined:

1. Antecedents in ancient pagan philosophy: Neoplatonism, Stoicism, Scepticism,
2. Christian precursors: Greek apologists, Irenaeus, Origen, Tertullian, Ambrosiaster, Pelagius.
3. Augustine's career as a rethor, a teacher, a pastor and a Church leader
4. What does one do when believing in Christ? Belief and faith, faith and reason.
5. Whether are we free or determined to do wrong or wright? Free will and Grace
6. Who am I? The question of the Self
7. Love of God and love for brethren. The theory of a *spiritual communism*
8. Is there something like Christian state? The two cities
9. Is it permitted to force someone to return tot he true faith?
10. Can or should we lie in certain cases?
11. Is sex sinful?
12. Quiz relating to the mandatory readings and their interpretation

Requirements:

The students are expected to

- a) attend not less than 9 of the 12 classes
- b) (off course) to read the mandatory texts,
- c) solving a quiz on the last class, relating to the mandatory readings and their interpretation
- d) to write and present a short paper of max. 5 pages on one of the texts in the list of additional readings

Bibliography:

Mandatory reading for the particular classes:

1. –
2. Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, book 4, 37-39. See:
<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/irenaeus-book4.html>
3. Possidius, *Life of Sant Augustine*, chs.1-5; 9-13; 18-19.
[Possidius, Life of St. Augustine \(1919\) pp.39-145. \(tertullian.org\)](#)
4. Augustine, *The Advantage of Believing* chs 10, 23-16,34.
[The Works of Saint Augustine: v. 1. The confessions - Saint Augustine \(of Hippo\) - Google Könyvek](#)
5. Augustine, *Confessions* book 8, ch.6,14–9.11.
[faculty.georgetown.edu/jod/augustine/Pusey/book08](#)
6. Augustine, *Sermon 96*, chs 1-4.
[Fathers of the Church | Catholic Culture](#)
7. Augustine, *On Christian Belief*, 46, 86 – 47, 92.
[On Christian Belief \(wesleyscholar.com\)](#)
8. Augustine, *The City of God b. 14, ch..28; b. 15, chs. 4 and 20; b. 19, chs 6; 17; 20-21.*
[CHURCH FATHERS: City of God, Book XIV \(St. Augustine\) \(newadvent.org\)](#)
[CHURCH FATHERS: City of God, Book XV \(St. Augustine\) \(newadvent.org\)](#)
[CHURCH FATHERS: City of God, Book XIX \(St. Augustine\) \(newadvent.org\)](#)
9. Augustine, Letter 93, chs 1-3.
[CHURCH FATHERS: Letter 93 \(St. Augustine\) \(newadvent.org\)](#)
10. Augustine, *Against Lying* 7, 18 – 9, 23.
[CHURCH FATHERS: To Consentius, Against Lying \(St. Augustine\) \(newadvent.org\)](#)
11. Augustin, *On Marriage and Concupiscence*, chs 1-8.
[On Marriage and Concupiscence | EWTN](#)

Additional reading eligible as subject of a short paper:

The list will be shared by the first class

Recommended literature:

E. Stump, Eleonore and Kretzman, Norman (eds.) (2001), **The Cambridge Companion to Augustine:** Cambridge: 2001.

http://www.google.hu/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=4&ved=0CEMQFjAD&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bdp.org.ar%2Ffacultad%2Fcatedras%2Fcp%2Ftpolitical%2Ftextos%2Fsan_agustin%2FCambridge_Companion_to_Augustine.pdf&ei=x-EIUa7oN6HI4ASQ9oDgAQ&usg=AFQjCNGz3Bhf11FF_kc974094l4QsC2vnA&sig2=XEsIMu7cg8sqthILweLBVw&bvm=bv.41642243,d.Yms

P. Brown, *Augustine of Hippo. A Biography.* (New edition with an epilogue) University of California Press: Berkely, Los Angeles: 2000.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=bJPY1dAZg8cC&printsec=frontcover&dq=inauthor:%22Peter+Robert+Lamont>

