

Title and Code of Course: Augustine of Hippo our contemporary

Venue and Time of Course: Thursday 14.00-16.00.

Instructor's Name: Dr Habil. Gábor Kendeffy

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Credit Point Value: 6	Number of Lessons per Week: 2	Type of Course: Seminar	Method of Evaluation: Regular reading at home, regular in-Class work
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Course description:

The course aims to present an overview of Augustine as both an outstanding figure of his time and a thinker whose ideas have had a significant impact on the history of medieval and modern philosophy. His work has also helped to formulate responses to contemporary issues. We will also examine how the founding figures of Protestantism were indebted to Augustine's works on the doctrine of grace. Students will read short excerpts from the sources listed below each week, which we will then discuss together.

Topics to be examined:

(This agenda is just a suggestion; some topics may take priority in accordance with the students' interests).

1. Antecedents in ancient pagan philosophy: Neoplatonism, Stoicism and scepticism.
2. Christian Precursors: The great apologists (Irenaeus, Origen, Tertullian, Ambrosiaster and Pelagius).
3. Augustine's career as a rhetorician, teacher, pastor and church leader.
4. What does one do when believing in Christ? Belief and faith; faith and reason.
5. Are we free or determined to do wrong or right? Free will and grace.
6. Who am I? The question of the self.
7. The love of God and the love of one's brethren. The theory of spiritual communism.
8. Is there such a thing as a Christian state? The Two Cities
9. Is it permissible to force someone to return to the true faith?
10. Can or should we lie in certain cases?
11. Is sex sinful?

Requirements:

Students are expected to:

- a) attend at least 9 out of 12 classes;
- b) read the compulsory texts.

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, *On the Predestination of the Saints*, chs 32-39. See:
<http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/15121.htm>)
6. Augustine, *Sermon 96*, chs 1-4.
[Fathers of the Church | Catholic Culture](#)
7. Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine*, b. 1, chs. 4–5; book 1, chs 21–29, 30.
[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](#)

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=AFQjCNGz3Bhf1FF_kc974094l4QsC2vnA&sig2=XEsIMu7cg8sqthILweLBVw&bvm=bv.41642243,d.Yms](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%20Companion%20to%20Augustine.pdf&ei=x-EIUa7oN6HI4ASQ9oDgAQ&usg=AFQjCNGz3Bhf1FF_kc974094l4QsC2vnA&sig2=XEsIMu7cg8sqthILweLBVw&bvm=bv.41642243,d.Yms)

Brown, P. *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>