

## 02DM8360 Augustine and the City of God

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### Course Description

In this course we explore the life and theology of Augustine of Hippo, reflecting particularly on his *City of God* and the long, varied reception history of this work. We consider how it serves as a guide to engaging in apologetic discussion with non-Christians, whether in antiquity or in contemporary form. We also consider how it guides our public theology and engagement of a host of pastoral challenges. Through exploring this classic text, students grow in their confidence and competence to engage Augustine's works on their own as a prompt and resource for pastoral theology and leadership today.

3 Credit Hours.

### Learning Objectives

In this reading course students will grow in the following ways:

- Ability to read Augustine's texts, mindful of their context, genres, sources, structure, and literary character.
- Awareness of the broad lineaments of Augustine's life and theology.
- Appreciation of Augustine's approach to theological wisdom: exegetically, apologetically, historically, and pastorally.
- Attentiveness to the varied reception history of Augustine's theology in its breadth, from the medieval through the modern periods in the Roman Catholic and Protestant worlds.
- Analogous facility to respond to contemporary apologetic challenges to Christianity.

### Textbooks

There are four required books:

Augustine, *The City of God*.

For a combination of price and quality, I recommend Augustine, *The City of God* (trans. Marcus Dods; New York: Modern Library Edition; 1994). Available in both HB and PB versions [here](#). I will be using this edition myself in class and in my lecture notes.

Several translations and editions exist. There are a few that are acceptable, while one is especially recommended. First, the best available version would be the two-volume edition translated by William Babcock and published in the Works of St. Augustine for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by New City Press. Unfortunately, it is very expensive. Second, the Modern Library edition translated by Marcus Dods is also an excellent option and includes a strong preface

by Thomas Merton; it is very affordable in both hardback and paperback. Third, the Penguin Classics version includes a decent translation from Henry Bettenson. The key is to use one of these three editions in unabridged form. Do not use any other translation beyond these three.

David Vincent Meconi (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Augustine's City of God* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021).

Oliver O'Donovan, *The Problem of Self-Love in St. Augustine* (repr. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2006).

Charles Matthewes, *The Republic of Grace: Augustinian Thoughts for Dark Times* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010).

There is one recommended book: if you have not already read Augustine's *Confessions*, I suggest that you do so. *Confessions* and *The City of God* are intimately connected, such that understanding the one shapes the other.

For reading *Confessions*, three translations are acceptable for use in class: by Henry Chadwick (in the Oxford World's Classics edition), by Maria Boulding (in the New City Press Works of St. Augustine for the 21st Century edition), or by Sarah Ruden (in the Modern Library edition). Each has its strengths and weaknesses, but they are all good to use. Do not use any other translation.

## Requirements

### 1. Read

Students will read all assigned texts in their entirety prior to our week of class.

### 2. Reading Briefs

Students are expected to prepare a brief on each book from *The City of God*, so 22 briefs in total. The purpose of the brief is to summarize the thesis, outline, and argument of the relevant chapters, as well as to state one's own analysis of it (in the form of questions, confirmations, objections, etc.). Briefs may include quotations from various points in the chapter (so long as page numbers are referenced).

Briefs should be no more than 350 words. They are due by January 9. Bring them to class and submit them for grading online.

### 3. Participate in Discussions

Most of the course will function as a reading seminar where the professor guides discussion of the text we have all read. Students are expected to bring questions and thoughts (in their reading briefs) and to interact appropriately throughout each session.

### 4. Final Research Paper

Students will write a final paper on some theme that appears within Augustine's *City of God*. Depending on the topic, they may also involve significant interaction with other works by Augustine or by earlier and later theologians. Papers should be 4000-5000 words. They ought to engage in careful exposition of his text in its own terms, to be sure, but they also need to draw on appropriate research regarding his theology. In so doing they will engage both primary and secondary sources.

Papers due April 30.

### Further Bibliography

For the works of Augustine in Latin, see the relevant volumes in the Corpus Christianorum, Series Latina. For English translation, see the Works of Saint Augustine: A Translation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century series published by New City Press.

For biography, see Peter Brown, *Augustine of Hippo: A Biography*, new edition (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2000); Carol Harrison, *Augustine: Christian Truth and Fractured Humanity* (Christian Theology in Context; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000); and Miles Hollingworth, *Saint Augustine of Hippo: An Intellectual Biography* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013).

For reference, see David Vincent Meconi and Eleonore Stump (eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to Augustine* (2nd edition; Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014); Allan D. Fitzgerald (gen. ed.), *Augustine through the Ages: An Encyclopedia* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999); David Vincent Meconi (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Augustine's City of God* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021); Tarmo Toom (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Augustine's 'Confessions'* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020); and C. C. Pecknold and Tarmo Toom (eds.), *The T & T Clark Companion to Augustine and Modern Theology* (London: T & T Clark, 2016).

For significant monographs or books on aspects of his thought, see:

- a. Rowan Williams, *On Augustine* (London: Bloomsbury, 2016).
- b. John Cavadini, *Visioning Augustine* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2019).
- c. John Burnaby, *Amor Dei: A Study in the Religion of St. Augustine* (repr. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2007).
- d. Oliver O'Donovan, *The Problem of Self-Love in St. Augustine* (repr. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2006).
- e. Han-Luen Kantzer Komline, *Augustine on the Will: A Theological Account* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019).
- f. Luigi Gioia, *The Theological Epistemology of Augustine's De Trinitate* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009).
- g. Jason Byassee, *Praise Seeking Understanding: Reading the Psalms with Augustine* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007).
- h. Matthew Drever, *Image, Identity, and the Forming of the Augustinian Soul* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013).
- i. Carol Harrison, *Rethinking Augustine's Early Theology: An Argument for Continuity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008).

- j. Gerald Boersma, *Augustine's Early Theology of Image: A Study in the Development of Pro-Nicene Theology* (Oxford Studies in Historical Theology; New York: Oxford University Press, 2016).
- k. Robert Dodaro and George Lawless (eds.), *Augustine and His Critics* (London: Routledge, 2000).
- l. Arnoud Visser, *Reading Augustine in the Reformation: The Flexibility of Intellectual Authority in Europe, 1500-1620* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011).
- m. Miles Hollingworth, *The Pilgrim City: St. Augustine of Hippo and His Innovation in Political Thought* (London: T & T Clark, 2010).
- n. R. A. Markus, *Saeculum: History and Society in the Theology of St. Augustine* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1970).
- o. Michael Bruno, *Political Augustinianism: Modern Interpretations of Augustine's Political Thought* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2014).



### Course Objectives Related to DMin Student Learning Outcomes

Course: DM 8360: Augustine and the City of God  
 Professor: Allen  
 Campus: Orlando  
 Date: Winter 2023

<b><u>DMin* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b>	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the DMin curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the DMin outcomes.</i></p> <p><u>NOTE:</u> DMin Emphases are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reformed Expository Preaching (REP), and</li> <li>2. Reformed Theology and Ministry (RTM)</li> </ol>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Strong</li> <li>➤ Moderate</li> <li>➤ Minimal</li> <li>➤ None</li> </ul>	
<b>Biblical/Theological Foundations:</b>	<p>Significant knowledge of biblical and theological foundations for pastoral ministry. (This includes interaction with Biblical texts, as well as awareness of Reformed Theology.)</p> <p><i>For meets: REP= Significant</i>  <i>For meets: RTM= Significant</i></p>	Strong	Lengthy interaction with his exegetical survey of the two cities.
<b>Historical/Contemporary Practices:</b>	<p>Significant knowledge of historical and contemporary practices of pastoral ministry.</p> <p><i>For meets: REP= Minimal</i>  <i>For meets: RTM= Significant</i></p>	Strong	Detailed focus on his pastoral/apologetic response to critics of Christianity and his doctrinal instruction on biblical teaching.

<b>Integration:</b>	Ability to reflect upon and integrate theology and practice, as well as implementation in a contemporary pastoral setting.	Strong	Lectures and discussions will focus on his public theology in its biblical and theological roots.
<b>Sanctification:</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids in the student's sanctification.	Minimal	City of God fixes upon the question of idolatry, of ordered loves, and of communal formation.
<b>Hermeneutical/ Homiletical Analysis</b>	Demonstrates ability to interpret a text and apply homiletical principles to the text.  <i>For meets: REP= Significant</i> <i>For meets: RTM= Minimal</i>	None	N/A