CATH 310  Catholic Intellectual Traditions
F2021 TR 11:35–12:55
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General Description

This seminar explores foundational texts and concepts in Latin Christianity and the civilization shaped by it. It is open to any student with sufficient background who has not done an equivalent course. Students who have already taken CATH 310 in another configuration may enrol under RELG 334.

Selected Topic

Augustine’s treatment of the two cities, one shaped by *amor dei* and love for the neighbour, the other by *amor sui* and the lust for domination; in his description of these cities appears his understanding of time, history, providence, human nature, sex, death, religion, final destiny, and a host of other crucial topics.

Primary Text

Augustine, *The City of God*, Abridged Study Edition (ed. B. Ramsey, trans. W. Babcock, abr. J. Kelley, New City Press 2018). Though the work is available online in other translations, a paper copy of this version is required for class and can be obtained at Paragraph Books; the unabridged two-volume set is available in the library.

Assessment

1. Participation: 10%
   - based on attendance, ability to answer questions, and quality of contributions
   - more than three absences may result in loss of participation marks

2. Examinations: 50%
   - two written tests demonstrating familiarity with the text
   - the first will be on 15 October (20%) and the second on 30 November (30%)

3. Research Paper: 5% and 35%
   - Option A: Examine the study questions attached by the editor to each book of *The City of God*. Pick one (or more) and write a paper that either answers the question or demonstrates from Augustine that the question is misguided.
   - Option B: The two cities have distinct destinies. Show how *The City of God* can serve as an effective critique of globalism and/or universalism.
• Option C: *The City of God* has influenced countless works of theology, philosophy, political or social theory, and more than a few works of fiction. Find one that interests you and set to work showing how that influence is displayed.

• Option D: Read Solovyov’s *War, Progress, and the End of History* and attempt a comparison of Augustine and Solovyov on the problem of “progress.”

• A prospectus of one or two pages, making clear your research plans and providing a working bibliography, is due on **20 October** (5%)

• The paper of 3500–4000 words is due no later than **22 November**; earlier submissions are welcome (35%); lateness will be penalized by one mark *per diem*.

• Papers will be graded according to the seriousness of their engagement with Augustine and with their secondary sources; the quality of those sources will also be taken into account, along with clarity of presentation and citation.

**Provisional Schedule**

For each book, consult in advance the topics listed in the table of contents and the relevant introductory remarks at *xiii–xlix*. This will assist reading and note-taking.

**Orientation** Sept. 2

**Week 1** Sept. 7 & 9

A. Babcock *xi–xvii, l–lix; Civ. 1a [1–8]*

B. *Civ. 1b [8–25]*

**Week 2** Sept. 14 & 16

A. *Civ. 2–3 [27–67]*

B. *Civ. 4–5 [69–118]*

**Week 3** Sept. 21 & 23

A. *Civ. 6–7 [119–146]*

B. *Civ. 8–9 [147–85]*

**Week 4** Sept. 28 & 30

A. *Civ. 10 [187–213]*

B. *Civ. 11 [215–238]*

**Week 5** Oct. 5 & 7

A. *Civ. 12 [239–261]*

B. *Civ. 13 [263–282]*

**Week 6** Oct. 15

**TEST 1**
Week 7  Oct. 19 & 21     
A.  Civ. 14 [283–311] 
B.  Civ. 15 [313–328] 

October 19,
prospectus due on Wednesday

Week 8  Oct. 26 & 28
A.  Civ. 16 [329–63] 
B.  Civ. 17 [365–384] 

Week 9  Nov. 2 & 4
A.  Civ. 18 [385–410] 
B.  Civ. 19a [411–429] 

Week 10  Nov. 9 & 11
A.  Civ. 19b [429–455] 
B.  Civ.20a [457–472] 

Week 11  Nov. 16 & 18
A.  Civ. 20b [472–486] 
B.  Civ. 21a [487–501] 

Week 12  Nov. 23 & 25     paper due on Monday
A.  Civ. 21b [501–515] 
B.  Civ. 22a [517–531] 

Week 13  Nov. 30 & Dec. 2  test on Tuesday
A.  TEST 2 
B.  Civ. 22b [531–555] 

Resources

- Augustine: Political Writings (Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought, ed. E. M. Atkins and R. J. Dodaro)  R
- Peter Brown, Augustine of Hippo: a Biography (updated ed. 2000)
- Peter Brown, Religion and Society in the Age of Saint Augustine
- Michael Bruno, Political Augustinianism
- Henry Chadwick, Augustine
- G. K. Chesterton, The Everlasting Man
- Mary T. Clark, Augustine (Outstanding Christian Thinkers)
- Christopher Dawson, Enquiries into Religion and Culture
- Robert Dodaro, Christ and the Just Society in the Thought of Augustine  R
D. F. Donnelly, *Augustine’s De Civitate Dei: An Annotated Bibliography of Modern Criticism, 1960-90*
Douglas Farrow, *Ascension Theology* (chap. 6) and *Desiring a Better Country*
Allan Farrow, ed., *Augustine through the Ages: an Encyclopedia*  
Carol Harrison, *Augustine: Christian Truth and Fractured Humanity*
John von Heyking, *Augustine and Politics as Longing in the World*
Matthew Levering, *The Theology of Augustine: An Introductory Guide to his Most Important Works*
Robert Markus, *Saeculum: History and Society in the Theology of Augustine*
Gerald O’Daly, *Augustine’s City of God: A Reader’s Guide*
Oliver O’Donovan, *The Desire of the Nations: Rediscovering the Roots of Political Theology*  
Oliver and Joan O’Donovan, *Irenaeus to Grotius: Sourcebook in Christian Political Thought*
Johannes van Oort, *Jerusalem and Babylon: a Study into Augustine’s City of God and the Sources of His Doctrine of the Two Cities*
John M. Rist, *Augustine: Ancient Thought Baptized*
John Edward Sullivan, *The Image of God*
www.pdcnet.org/augstudies/Augustinian-Studies
www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf102.toc.html
www.augustinus.it/links/inglese/index.htm
www.augustinus.it/latino/cdd/index2.htm

**Additional information**

- Schedule and weekly reading assignments are subject to revision (with due notice).
- Notes will be taken by hand. No computers or electronic devices may be used in the classroom except in cases of disability.
- Consultation is available after class or T/R by appointment in Birks 208.
- The instructor is fully committed to academic freedom. No one is required to adopt views, claims, or linguistic forms with which they disagree. All are bound by the obligations of the syllabus and by traditional standards of civility.
- McGill University values academic integrity. *Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.* For more information, see ‘Keeping it Honest’: www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/
- In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. English is preferred by the instructor.