

Advanced Reading Course: Augustine (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: THEOLOGY (historical theology, systematic theology) or PHILOSOPHY

Course ID: 2001

Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies. 60 ECTS credits in theology or religious studies.

Educational goals

After completing the course, the student is expected to be able to:

- Identify the main themes in Augustine's personal, political and theological writings on the basis of/having read a broad selection of primary sources and be able to write commentaries on these texts.
- Relate Augustine's thought and writings to his late-antique Latin and African contexts by articulating similarities and differences in approaching key topics (such as ethics and education).
- Appraise, criticize and reframe the understanding of Augustine across time through a close reading of his writings.
- Relate Augustine's fourth-century understanding of Catholic Christianity to contemporary views and issues.

Course content

Augustine (354–430 CE) was the most prominent Church Father who wrote in Latin and his works profoundly influenced medieval thought. Encountering him through his writings is an exciting, rewarding and challenging journey for every student of Christianity. This course approaches his legacy from a variety of perspectives through selections from his works, particularly *The Confessions*, *The City of God*, *On Christian Doctrine* and *On the Trinity*.

Teaching and examination

Teaching will be conducted over Zoom. 80% attendance at the Zoom meetings is a requirement. Examination will take the form of two shorter essays (30% of final grade each) and an oral examination over Zoom at the end of the course. All three parts of the examination must be taken to pass the course.

Bibliography

Augustine's Works:

For translations online in other languages, see:

<https://www.augustinus.de/einfuehrung/uebersetzungen-im-www>

Confessions

<https://ccel.org/ccel/augustine/confessions> (PDF download - Confessions and Enchiridion)
Bekännelser (Skellefteå: Artos, 2003).

Rule of Saint Augustine

The Rule of Saint Augustine, Darton, Longman & Todd, London, 1984.

Augustinus regel, i *Svenskt Patristiskt Bibliotek V: Asketer och Munkar* (Skellefteå: Artos, 2008), s. 59–69.

City of God

<https://ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf102.iv.ii.html>

(selection, ca. 150 pp.)

On Free Will

Augustine, *On the Free Choice of the Will, On Grace and Free Choice, and Other Writings*, ed. Peter King (Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy, CUP 2010).

Letter 118 to Dioscorus

PDF provided, but see also the New Advent link:

<https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/1102118.htm>

On the Trinity

Augustine, *On the Trinity* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002).

Augustine, "Sermon 52. The Trinity" in John E. Rotelle (ed.) *Sermons III (51–94) on the New Testament*, The Works of Saint Augustine, New City Press, Brooklyn NY, Year, p. 50–65. (PDF provided)

On Christian Doctrine

<https://ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf102/npnf102.v.html>

Augustinus, *Tolkning och retorik* (Skellefteå: Artos, 2006). [slutsåld]

On the Psalms

<https://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf108.ii.i.html>

(selection, ca. 50 pp.)

Reference works:

Dougherty, Richard J., ed. *Augustine's Political Thought*. Rochester Studies in Medieval Political Thought (Rochester: Boydell & Brewer, 2019).

Robin Lane Fox, *Augustine: Conversions and Confessions* (London: Penguin, 2015).
Karla Pollman, ed., *The Oxford Guide to the Historical Reception of Augustine*, 3 vols (Oxford, 2013).
Tarmo Toom, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Augustine Confessions* (Cambridge: CUP, 2020)
Mark Vessey, ed., *A Companion to Augustine* (2012); see
<https://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2013/2013.02.16/>

See also "Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser" (Course plans: General rules)

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