



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 of Augustine's personal, political and theological writings.
- Critically use primary material from the Augustinian corpus in academic discussions and written texts.
- Relate Augustine's thought and writings to his late-antique context.
- Show knowledge of the reception history of Augustine in the Western intellectual tradition.
- Relate Augustine's philosophical and theological concepts to contemporary discussions in these subjects.

Course content

Augustine of Hippo (354–430 CE) was the most prominent Church Father who wrote in Latin and his works profoundly influenced medieval and reformation era thought. Western Christianity displays many Augustinian patterns, and traces of Augustinianism can be found in surprising places also in contemporary philosophy. This course approaches his legacy from a variety of perspectives through close readings of selections from his works, particularly *The Confessions*, *The City of God*, *On Christian Doctrine* and *On the Trinity*.

Teaching and examination

Teaching will take place in the form of seminars where primary sources are discussed. Students are expected to read and bring notes of 1-2 pages for each seminar. The course will be examined through written assignments and an oral exam. The written assignments will take the form of two shorter essays, each of 5-6 pages (together 60%) of the final grade. The oral exam covers all the material of the course and counts 30% of the final grade.

Bibliography

Brown, Peter. *Augustine of Hippo: A Biography*. University of California, 2013.

The following works by Augustine of Hippo:

City of God. London: Penguin Classics, 2003.

Confessions. London: Penguin Classics, 2003.

Letter 118 to Dioscorus (pdf.)

On Christian Teaching. Oxford World Classics. Oxford: OUP, 2008.

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. Cambridge: CUP 2010.

On the Psalms (selection, ca. 50 pp.)

On the Trinity. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

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

All of the texts can be read in the language of choice.

Swedish translations:

Bekännelser. Skellefteå: Artos, 2003.

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

Reference literature:

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

Fox, Robin Lane. *Augustine: Conversions and Confessions*. London: Penguin, 2015.

Pollman, Karla, ed., *The Oxford Guide to the Historical Reception of Augustine*, 3 vols. Oxford, 2013.

Toom, Tarmo ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Augustine Confessions*. Cambridge: CUP, 2020.

Vessey, Mark, ed., *A Companion to Augustine*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2012.

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

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Valid as 2022-12-15