

HT749 Theology of Augustine
Fall 2024

FACULTY INFORMATION

Dr. Jerry Andrews

Office: TBD

Phone: TBD

Email: jandrews@dbq.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Email responded to regularly on weekdays 8:00-5:00, Tuesday-Friday.

OVERVIEW/COURSE DESCRIPTION

Augustine of Hippo, a bishop at the turn of the fifth century, guided the Christian church of his day through grave internal crises and the crumbling of Roman civilization. His writings have been among the most influential in Western Christendom down to the present day. This seminar acquaints students with the major contours of Augustine's life and thought through a close reading of selected primary texts and biographical literature. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the main outlines of Augustine's theology and be able to analyze and evaluate the influence of this theology in contemporary churches, particularly those in the Reformed tradition.

Three Credits. Letter grade only. Prerequisites: HT500 or HT520 or equivalent or permission of instructor.

This course includes optional in-person learning at Providence Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, from Sept. 23–27, which will also be available through live-stream or by recording for those unable to attend.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By participating fully in this class, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the main themes of Augustine's theology
2. Analyze a major aspect of Augustine's theology and evaluate its coherence and historical influence
3. Apply Augustine's theology to issues and/or situations in the contemporary church

M.Div. Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course

- Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer, and reflection that increase their love of God and neighbor and shape their personal and professional lives.
- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the Church.
- Interpret the Christian Scriptures through faithful exegesis and in light of the Christian tradition.

- Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.

M.A.M.D. Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course

- Articulate and reflect critically and constructively on the biblical and theological foundations of God's mission to the world.
- Develop, implement, and assess strategies for missional living in a specific cultural context.
- Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness.

M.A.R.T. Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course

- Identify and articulate the core commitments of the Christian tradition with a focus on the Reformed tradition.
- Analyze how key theological terms and concepts emerged and function within the Christian tradition, and, more specifically, the Reformed tradition.
Describe and evaluate the core commitments of the catholic and Reformed traditions in conversation with historic and contemporary critics.
- Explain how key theological terms and concepts have been understood and applied in Christian congregations of various times and places, and, more specifically, congregations of the Reformed tradition.

M.A.M. Curricular Goal Fulfilled by This Course:

- Articulate key theological affirmations of the church's theological tradition.

Course Requirements (1000 points total)

1. Conscientious attendance, reading, and participation in discussions. (480 points)
2. Book review (100 points)
3. Research paper (420 points)

REQUIRED TEXTS (You must have a print copy unless the pagination on the digital copy is identical to the print copy.):

Augustine, *The Essential Letters*. New City Press.
Augustine, *On Christian Belief*. New City Press.
Augustine, *Teaching Christianity*. New City Press.
Augustine, *Confessions*. New City Press.
Brown, Peter. *Augustine of Hippo*. U of California.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Augustine, *City of God*. New City Press. 2 volumes.
Augustine, *On the Trinity*. New City Press (2nd edition).

Rist, John. *Augustine: Ancient Thought Baptized*. Cambridge.

Levering, Matthew. *The Theology of Augustine: Introductory Guide to His Most Important Works*. Baker.