

HT749 Theology of Augustine
Fall 2025

FACULTY INFORMATION

Dr. Jerry Andrews

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Office Hours: by appointment

Email responded to regularly weekdays 8:00-5:00.

Three Credits. Letter grade only.

Prerequisites: HT500 or HT520 or equivalent or permission of instructor.

OVERVIEW/COURSE DESCRIPTION

Augustine of Hippo, a bishop at the turn of the fifth century, guided the Christian church of his day through internal intellectual and ecclesial crises and the crumbling of the Roman Empire. His writings, among the most influential in Western Christendom, have guided churches ever since and now. This seminar acquaints students with Augustine's life and thought through a broad reading of his major works, close reading of many of the most significant passages, and a biography. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the core of Augustine's thinking and be able to analyze and evaluate the influence of his theology in contemporary churches, particularly those in the Reformed tradition.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the broad themes of Augustine's thinking
2. Articulate the contribution of Augustine to both catholic and Reformed thought and practice
3. Apply Augustine's life and thought to matters 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.M. Curricular Goal Fulfilled by This Course:

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

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (1000 points total)

1. Listening to weekly lectures, reading the assigned texts, and engaging them both in a meaningful way in weekly discussion forums with other classmates. (400 points)
2. Three short essays (500 words each; 100 points each)
3. One longer essay (2000 words; 300 points)

REQUIRED TEXTS (You must have a print copy unless the pagination on the digital copy is identical to the print copy. All texts are available in paperback on Amazon; all but Brown also from New City Press):

Augustine, *Confessions*. New City Press. ISBN: 978-1-56548-154-1

Augustine, *City of God, abridged, study edition*. New City Press. 978-1-56548-660-7

Augustine, *The Augustine Catechism (The Enchiridion)*. New City Press. 978-1-56548-298-2

Augustine, *Essential Letters*. New City Press. 978-1-56548-508-2

Augustine, *Selected Writings on Grace and Predestination*. New City Press. 978-1-56548-372-9

Brown, Peter. *Augustine of Hippo: A Biography; New Edition w. Epilogue*. 978-0-520-22757-6

RECOMMENDED READING OF AUGUSTINE

Augustine, *On the Trinity*. New City Press (2nd edition). 978-1-56548-446-7

Most profound sustained theological work.

Augustine, *On Christian Belief*. New City Press. 978-1-56548-234-0

Seven essays: *True Religion, The Advantage of Believing, Faith and the Creed, Faith in the Unseen, Demonic Divination, Faith and Works, Enchiridion*.

Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine (On Christian Teaching)*. New City Press. 978-1-56548-049-0
How to study and teach the Bible.

RECOMMENDED READING ON AUGUSTINE

Rist, John. *Augustine: Ancient Thought Baptized*. Cambridge. 978-0-52146-084-2

Best on how Augustine's philosophical thinking formed his ecclesial theology.

TeSelle, Eugene. *Augustine the Theologian*. Burns and Oates. 978-0-22397-728-0

Augustine's intellectual project as model for our own.

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

Baker. Best introductory reference. 978-0-80104-848-7

Fitzgerald, Allan D. editor. *Augustine through the Ages: An Encyclopedia*. Eerdmans.

Best exhaustive reference. 978-0-8028-6479-6