

Course Information:

Title: HNRS 331—The World of Augustine
Time: MW 2:30-3:50
Location: IPJ 220

Instructor Information:

Dr. Jonathan Conant (History)
conant@sandiego.edu
Office: IPJ 278
Office Hours: 10-11, MWF; 4-5, MW
Office Phone: 260.4041

Dr. Kevin Timpe (Philosophy)
ktimpe@sandiego.edu
www.sandiego.edu/~ktimpe
Office: Founders 165A
Office Hours: 8:30-11:00, MW
Office Phone: 260.7768

Course Description:

St. Augustine has been called “one of the greatest thinkers of all time” and “the most important Christian philosopher” prior to the thirteenth century; he has been described as “having the greatest influence on Christian doctrine of anyone other than St. Paul”; and he is unquestionably one of the most significant theologians, bishops, philosophers, and writers within the Catholic tradition. To gain a deeper insight into Augustine’s thought, though, we must also seek to understand Augustine himself in his late Roman context. The central aim of this course is to examine in detail the political and social developments that shaped Augustine’s world, as well as the cultural and intellectual influences on his life and thought, and to explore how these affected the central strands of the great bishop’s philosophical and theological writings. The course will thus explore the interactions between the cultural, political, philosophical and theological dimensions of life in fourth and fifth century North Africa in an attempt to give us a greater appreciation of St. Augustine and his lasting influence on the West.

Texts:Required:

Augustine. *Confessions*, trans. Henry Chadwick (Oxford: Oxford UP, 1991).
Matthews, Gareth. *Augustine* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2005).
Tilley, Maureen A. *Donatist Martyr Stories*. (Liverpool: Liverpool UP, 1996).

Recommended:

Brown, Peter. *The World of Late Antiquity* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1971).

Additional readings will also be distributed via E-reserve (**ER**) in the library. The **ER** password for this course is ‘**Hippo**’. Students are expected to print out and bring to class the readings from **ER**.

Course Expectations:

Students are to keep up with the reading and have read closely and thoroughly enough to participate in class discussion. Students will bring the reading materials to class and be prepared to discuss those readings. Failure to participate on a *regular* basis will result in the lowering of the student’s course grade.

There will be two exams for the course. Tests will primarily be a combination of primarily multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions. There are *no* makeup exams, including rescheduled final exams.

Students will write *two* papers during the course of the semester on topics. The first of these, approximately 5 pages, will be a further study of a significant historical, political, or intellectual influence on Augustine and the development of his thought. The long paper, approximately 15 pages, will be a research-based argumentative paper on a topic related to the course materials chosen by the student and approved by the instructors. Papers will be docked 1 full letter grade for every day, or part thereof, they are late.

Course Grade:

Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	20%
Short Paper	15%
Long Paper	30%
Class participation and discussion	15%

Grading Scale:

A	> 93%
A-	90-92%
B+	88-89%
B	83-87%
B-	80-82%
C+	78-79%
C	73-77%
C-	70-72%
D	60-69%
F	< 60%

Academic honesty:

As a course in the Honors Program, academic dishonesty in *any* form (e.g., plagiarism, copying reading questions, cheating on a test) will *not* be tolerated. The University of San Diego's policy on academic honest reads, in part, as follows:

Academic dishonesty, and allegations of academic dishonesty, are matters of University-wide concern in the same way that academic integrity is a matter of University-wide concern. Students bear the responsibility not only for their own academic integrity but also for bringing instances of suspected academic dishonesty to the attention of the proper authorities.... Penalties imposed by the instructor or supervisor with respect to a course or academic exercise may include: reduction in grade of the affected person in the course or exercise; the requirement that the affected person withdraw from the course or exercise; the requirement that all or part of the course or exercise be retaken; the requirement that the person engage in additional work in connection with the course or exercise.

Cheating on an assignment is grounds for failure of the course. We *will not* hesitate to fail you if you cheat.

Rough Course Schedule (Subject to Change):

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading to be Discussed</u>
5 September	Syllabus/Introduction	—
10 September	The Roman World in Crisis	Nagle, <i>Ancient World</i> , 403-414 (ER) Pliny, <i>Letters</i> 10.96-97 (ER) <i>Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas</i> (ER) <i>Acts of Cyprian</i> (ER) Diocletian's <i>Edicts of Persecution against the Christians</i> (ER) Recommended: Brown, 7-33
12 September	Constantine and the Conversion of the Empire	Eusebius, <i>Life of Constantine</i> (ER) Julian the Apostate, <i>Against the Galileans</i> (ER) Recommended: Brown, 49-95
17 September	Late Roman Intellectual Climate	Brown, <i>Christianity and Western Thought</i> , chapter 6 (ER) "Neoplatonism," <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> , http://www.iep.utm.edu/n/neoplato.htm Recommended: Brown, 96-112
19 September	First-Person Perspective and Auto-Biography	<i>Confessions</i> , introduction Matthews, chapters 1 and 2
24 September	Childhood in North Africa	<i>Confessions</i> , book I Recommended: Brown, 34-48
26 September	Adolescence and Akrasia	<i>Confessions</i> , book II Matthews, chapter 13
1 October	Influences: Cicero and the City	<i>Confessions</i> , book III Clover, "Carthage in the Age of Augustine" (ER)
3 October	Sexuality and Sin	<i>Confessions</i> , book IV Matthews, chapters 8 and 15
8 October	Manicheanism	<i>Confessions</i> , book V
10 October	Faith and Reason	<i>Confessions</i> , book VI Matthews, chapter 10 Short Paper Due
15 October	Evil	<i>Confessions</i> , book VII Matthews, chapter 12
17 October	Crisis and Conversion	<i>Confessions</i> , book VIII Topic Due
22 October	Make-Up	
24 October	Midterm Exam	
29 October	Confessions	<i>Confessions</i> , books IX and X
31 October	Memory	<i>Confessions</i> , book XI Sources Due
5 November	Time and Creation	<i>Confessions</i> , XII and XIII Matthews, chapter 9
7 November	Arianism and Christological Controversies	Feenstra, "Incarnation" (ER) TBD
12 November	North African Countryside	Shaw, "Fear and Loathing" (ER) Hitchner, "The Organization of Rural Settlement" (ER)

14 November	Donatism	<i>Donatist Martyr Stories</i> , vii-xix, 13-50, and 77-88
19 November	The Fall of the West	Thesis Due Augustine, selected sermons (ER) Recommended: Brown, 115-125 and 137-149
21 November	No Class (Thanksgiving)	
26 November	<i>City of God</i> I	<i>City of God</i> , book XIV (ER)
28 November	<i>City of God</i> II	<i>City of God</i> , book XIX (ER)
3 December	Free Will	Outline Due <i>On Free Choice of the Will</i> , book I (ER)
5 December	Pelagianism and Grace	<i>On Nature and Grace</i> (ER)
10 December	What are We Doing Here?	O'Donnell, <i>Augustine: A New Biography</i> , chapter 12 and epilogue (ER)
12 December	Closing Discussion	—
17 December	Final Exam (2:00-4:00 pm)	Long Paper Due