

*In Dialogue with Augustine*

20-24 July 2009

**"Augustine in the World"**

Prof. Eric Gregory and Charles Mathewes

Course Description:

A concise overview of Augustine's ethics and politics within the broader context of his theological vision of the Christian life. The focus of this seminar will be a close reading of primary texts, including selections of major treatises, but also some very revealing sermons and letters. Attention also will be given to a variety of contemporary interpreters who either lay claim to Augustine and/or wrestle with his influence and legacy. Topics to be addressed include political authority and citizenship, virtue and grace, sexuality and marriage, war and peace, coercion, lying, and capital punishment.

Texts to be purchased:

Augustine. *The Augustine Catechism (Enchiridion)*, translated by Bruce Harbert. New City Press 2008.

Augustine. *Augustine: Political Writings*, edited by E.M. Atkins and R.J. Dodaro. Cambridge 2001.

Augustine. *City of God*, translated by R.W. Dyson. Cambridge 1998.

Recommended:

Peter Brown. *Augustine of Hippo: A Biography*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. California 2000.

Eugene TeSelle. *Augustine*. Abingdon 2006.

All other texts will be distributed in hard copy or made available in PDF format.

**Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**

Morning Session: Introduction: Two Cities

*City of God*, XIV.28; XV.1-2, 22; XVI, 4-5; XVIII.1-2, 54; XIX; XXII.29-30

Sermon, "The Sacking of the city of Rome," *Political Writings*: 205-214

Rowan Williams, "Politics and the Soul: A Reading of the *City of God*," *Milltown Studies* 19/20 (1987): 55-72.

Afternoon Session: Judgment and Capital Punishment

Sermon 13, "On the words of Psalm 2.10," *Political Writings*: 119-126

Commentary on the gospel of John, 33, *Political Writings*: 101-107

*City of God*, I.21

Letter 10\* (to Alypius 428) *Political Writings*: 43-47

Letter 153 (to Macedonius 413/414) *Political Writings*: 71-88

Avery Cardinal Dulles, "Catholicism & Capital Punishment" *First Things* (April 2001)

**Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>**

Morning Session: Virtue and Grace

*Enchiridion*, I.1-XIV.55

*De moribus ecclesiae catholicae*, 11-28

*City of God*, V.12-21, IX.5

Jennifer A. Herdt, "Augustine: Disordered Loves and the Problem of Pride," in *Putting on Virtue: The Legacy of the Splendid Vices* (Chicago 2008), 45-71.

Afternoon Session: Virtue and Grace (continued)

*Enchiridion* XV.56-XXXIII.122

*Seventh Homily on 1 John*

*Eighth Homily on 1 John*

*City of God*, XV.22

**Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Morning Session: War and Peace

*City of God*, V.17

Letter 189 (to Boniface 417), *Political Writings*: 214-218

Reinhold Niebuhr, "Augustine's Political Realism" in *Christian Realism and Political Problems* (Scribner's 1953), 119-146.

Afternoon Session: Coercion and Torture

Letter 100 (to Donatus 408), *Political Writings*: 134-136

Letter 87 (to Emeritus 405/411), *Political Writings*: 136-143

John Bowlin, "Augustine on Justifying Coercion," *Annual of the Society of Christian Ethics* 17 (1997): 49-70.

Jean Bethke Elshtain, "Reflection on the Problem of 'Dirty Hands'" in *Torture: A Collection* (Oxford 2004)

**Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Morning Session: Sexuality and Marriage

*City of God*, XIV.1-26; XXII.17

*Of the Good of Marriage*

John C. Cavadini, "Feeling Right: Augustine on the Passions and Sexual Desire," *Augustinian Studies* 36:1 (2005): 195-217.

Recommended: Kate Cooper and Conrad Leyser, "The Gender of Grace: Impotence, Servitude, and Manliness in the Fifth-Century West," *Gender & History* 12:3 (November 2000): 536-551.

Recommended: Jana Marguerite Bennett, "Marriage in Creation, Fall, and Redemption," in *Water is Thicker Than Blood: An Augustinian Theology of Marriage and Singleness* (Oxford 2008), 55-82.

Afternoon Session: Lying

On Lying (*De Mendacio*), 1-5; 42-43

Gilbert Meilaender, "Augustine on the Wrong of Lying," in *The Way that Leads There: Augustinian Reflections on the Christian Life* (Eerdmans 2006), 50-76.

**Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>**

Morning Session: Civic Action

*City of God*, V.24-26 XIX.6

Letter 136 (from Marcellinus 411/412) and Letter 138 (to Marcellinus 411/412),  
*Political Writings*: 28-43

Oliver O'Donovan, "The Political Thought of *City of God* 19," in *Bonds of Imperfection: Christian Politics, Past and Present* (Eerdmans 2004), 48-72.

Recommended: Robert Dodaro, O.S.A., "Between the Two Cities: Political Action in Augustine of Hippo," in *Augustine and Politics* (Lexington 2005), 99-115.

Afternoon Session: Conclusion

*City of God*, Praef. (preface)

Barack Obama, "Call to Renewal" Address (June 2006)

Benedict XVI, "Deus Caritas Est"