“The synthesis devised by Saint Augustine remained for centuries the most exalted form of philosophical and theological speculation known to the West. Reinforced by his personal story and sustained by a wonderful holiness of life, he could also introduce into his works a range of material which, drawing on experience, was a prelude to future developments in different currents of philosophy.” --- John Paul II Fides et ratio §40

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will provide an opportunity for the student to explore both philosophical and theological aspects of the thought of St. Augustine: topics such as faith and reason, nature and grace, freedom of will, the nature of character and virtue, faith and reason; proofs for the existence of God; time and eternity; eschatology; social, political and historical development; just war theory; and philosophy of religion. Close reading of Confessions and The City of God

Objectives
This course is designed to:
1. Reinforce the student’s understanding of philosophy as a search for wisdom and deepen the appreciation of philosophy’s continuing contribution to education and culture;
2. Foster an understanding of the special character of Christian philosophy, especially with respect to the critique and appropriation of ancient philosophy;
3. Enable students to recognize and critically understand Augustinian philosophical themes and concerns, including: the restless heart; the presence of sin in human affairs; the weight of love and the pull of beauty; the reflective turn and the discovery of truth; the role of rhetoric and ambition in human affairs; the blend of political realism and idealism; the dynamic interplay between faith and reason; the concept of the two cities; the limits of human reason and will; the importance of peace;
4. Afford students an opportunity to extend their skills in reading philosophical works and analyzing philosophical views and arguments. This includes the ability to state the principle themes of such works; to recognize the major contentions and the evidence given in support of them; and to understand the relationship between the parts that make up a philosophical work and a philosophic/theological vision.

Required Texts


Readings for each class meeting will be assigned from these books and will be the basis for class lectures and discussions; additional readings may be assigned from photocopied materials and posted on Blackboard. Lectures will assume completion of reading assignments — as listed in the Calendar of Assignments, to be provided as separate handout — prior to class.
Course Requirements

1. Participation: 20% Includes attendance, questions and discussion in class.
2. Presentations: (2x10) 20% Presentations in class -- brief summaries/analysis of assigned sections of the texts. A handout will be provided to the class and then posted on Blackboard.
3. Paper, 12-15 pages in length: 30% Develop a philosophical/theological theme in Augustine based on the Confessions and City of God. Due April 17. (A list of suggested themes to be provided later)
4. Final examination: 30% (Wednesday May 13, 6:00-8:30pm)

Grading Scale
Numerical and letter grades in this course are correlated according to the following percentage scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>78-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>68-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Policy on Attendance and Absences
Regular attendance is strongly encouraged. Absences are likely to impair a student’s ability to do well on exams. And participation does demand presence in the classroom.

Make-up Exams
Permission and provision for making up a missed exam is at the sole discretion of the professor. Make-up exams must be scheduled no later than two class meetings after the day originally scheduled for the exam. Exams will not be rescheduled in advance, except for documented and serious medical reasons—again, at the discretion of the professor.

Academic Honesty
Students are expected and required to conform to the highest standards of academic honesty, truthfulness, and integrity in taking exams and quizzes. See UST Catalog for details. Cheating in the case of an exam or quiz will result in a zero for the item in question and a report sent to the registrar. More than one instance of cheating will result in a failing grade for the course. Cheating will be understood to constitute possessing and using, during the time the student is taking an exam or quiz, written materials relevant to and other than those comprising the exam.

Policy On Laptops
The use of a laptop in class is a distraction to the student, the professor and other students. I suggest you seriously think about leaving your laptop in your backpack. I provide study guides and outlines to help you keep track of what we do in the classroom, so this class is not like your other classes where a steady stream of lecture requires constant note-taking. So do not assume you need to use a computer. You may ask to use the laptop if you really need it to take notes. I may grant the request if you promise not to use the computer for web-surfing, text-messaging, and Facebook. You must promise to turn off the Airport connection at the beginning of each class. Further you may not use the computer for games or for any activity not related to class. The privilege will be revoked if these promises are not kept.