Fall 9-1-2006

RELS 395.02: St. Augustine

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An introduction to the life and thought of St. Augustine in seminar format. The brilliant, just published short biography by Garry Wills will serve to begin our conversation. We will then read Peter Brown's classic, full biography in conjunction with four of Augustine's most important and influential works covering a variety of subjects and fields of inquiry: autobiography, rhetoric, biblical hermeneutics, trinitarian theology, social and political thought. Students will pursue a research project of their choice in consultation with instructor.

**Required Texts**

- Garry Wills, *Saint Augustine* (Viking/Penguin)
- Peter Brown, *Augustine of Hippo - A Biography* (California)
- St. Augustine, *The Confessions* (Vintage)
- St. Augustine, *On Christian Teaching* (Oxford)
- St. Augustine, *On the Trinity* (New City Press)
- St. Augustine, *The City of God* (Penguin)

**Course Syllabus**

- **Jan. 25** Introduction - Augustine's Life and Works  
  Garry Wills, *Saint Augustine*
- **Feb. 1** "The Young Man and His Pain" - *Confessions* I-V  
  Peter Brown, *Augustine of Hippo*, Part I
- **Feb. 8** *Confessions* VI-IX: Spiritual Autobiography, Epideictic Rhetoric, or Theological Anthropology?  
  Brown, Part II
- **Feb. 15** *Confessions* X-XIII: Memory, Time and Eternity; Hexaemeral Exegesis: Creation and the Trinity
- **Feb. 22** Augustine the Bishop Brown, Part III  
  On *Christian Teaching* I-II: Semiotics and Hermeneutics
- **Feb. 29** On *Christian Teaching* III-IV: Rhetoric and Persuasion
- **Mar. 7** On *the Trinity* I-VII: The Mystery of the Trinity - Biblical and Speculative Foundations
- **Mar. 14** On *the Trinity* VIII-XV: The Image of the Trinity - Psychological Analogies
- **Mar. 21** Spring Break - no class
- **Mar. 28** "The Finished Man Among His Enemies" Brown, Part IV  
  *The City of God*, Part One (I-X): The Refutation of Paganism
- **Apr. 4** *The City of God*, Part Two (XI-XXII): Exposition and Defense of Christian Doctrine - Origin, Course, and
Destinies of the Two Cities
Apr. 11 Magister nostra: Medieval, Reformation and Modern Legacies of Augustine
Apr. 18, 25, May 2 Student Presentations
May 9 Finals Week

Course Requirements

1. Timely completion of readings, class attendance and participation. Given the format of a weekly seminar, attendance, preparation and participation are crucial to its success.
2. Brief essay responses (4-5 pages) to two of the four works of Augustine.
3. Oral presentation (late April, early May) and research paper (due Finals week).

"Mentitur qui te totum legisse fatetur,
Aut quis cuncta tua lector habere potest?"

(Lines posted on shelf holding works of Augustine in medieval library of Seville.)