I. Course Description.

The purpose of this class is to provide a basic knowledge of Augustinian theology. The course will study St. Augustine’s main theological doctrines—theology, sin and grace, Christology, trinity, anthropology, Christian spirituality, church, preaching, and other theological teachings—which have profoundly influenced theological thinking in Western tradition. At the same time the course will try to connect the Augustine’s theology to the later intellectual life of antiquity and contemporary Christian church ministry.

Three distinct sets of questions will guide the readings of Augustine’s texts; 1) how is a particular doctrinal understanding formulated—its language, content and intent, and its rhetoric? 2) what were the factors influencing this formulation—the intellectual frameworks, the social and cultural movements and the theological controversies? 3) what kind of resonance did this doctrine formulation find among Augustine’s contemporaries and those that followed?

Class discussion will be organized around reading and studying Augustine’s own text, less depending on the secondary sources on Augustinian theology. The goal of class will be either to let Augustine himself teach us what we can do in our current church ministry or to reconceptualize the Augustinian teachings in our own contemporary church contexts.

II. Required Text.


St. Augustine Texts from Internet Web site: http://www.ccel.org/fathers2/


III. Recommended Texts.


IV. Course Requirements. Students are required to:

1) complete all required reading assignments prior to each class and actively participate in class discussion (20%)

2) present one page weekly personal reading reflection. (4X10=40%)

3) write an academic semester paper of 10-12 pages (typed and double-spaced) long. A one-
page statement containing the topic, issues, problems of the paper should be submitted no later than April 13 and approved by the instructor. Topics should be sufficiently focused so as to permit helpful analysis and a clearly developed argument. Papers should define an important theological or ethical issue in the Christian church, show careful reading of relevant original sources, state and give reasons for your own present position on the issue in light of your study, and indicate the wide significance of the discussion for church and ministry today. The paper is due by the last day of class of the semester. There will be no final examination. (40%)

* Plagiarism
Anyone who plagiarizes (i.e., presents as one’s own work something which has been taken from someone else) will receive an automatic zero on that piece of work and a warning. A second like offence will result in an “F” for the final course grade.

* Students With Disabilities:
Any student in this course who has a disability that might prevent him/her from fully demonstrating his/her abilities should meet with an advisor in the Learning Enrichment Center (LEC) as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure your full participation in the successful completion of course requirements. (The LEC does not provide assessment for students who have a suspected learning disability. Students are required to obtain this information from an outside source such as a license psychologist or qualified educational therapist.

V. Course Schedule (Revised)
1: Introduction

2: Religious and Philosophical Background of Augustine

3: The Role of Rhetoric: Confessions: Book I-III; Brown, 1-45

4: The Quests for Truth among the Manichees and Platonists: IV-VII; Brown 46-131

5: Conversion, Death, Memory, Eternity, Heaven, Creation: VIII-XIII; Brown 132-181
   City of God, Book XI, 5, 6


7: Church: On Baptism, Book I, 1-11; City of God, Book XVIII 49, XIX; Brown 184-339

8: Hermeneutics: On Christian Doctrine, Book I, IV; Brown 340-375

9: Homily I; Sermons on The Mount, Sermons on the Gospels; Brown 378-397

10: Homily II: Sermons on The Gospel of John, The First John, Psalms


12: Moral Teachings I: On Continence, On Lying, Against Lying, Of Holy Virginity, On the Good of Marriage

13: Moral Teaching II: On Patience, Of the Work of Monks, On Care to Be Had for the Dead

Final Paper Due!