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**WBUonline**

**School of Christian Studies**

**UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT**

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success and service to God and humankind.

# COURSE NUMBER & NAME: THST 5160 Readings in Christian Spirituality: Augustine

## TERM: Summer, 2022 – Directed Study

## INSTRUCTOR: Stephen M. Stookey, Ph.D.

## CONTACT INFORMATION: Office phone: 806-291-1165

WBU Email: [stookeys@wbu.edu](mailto:stookeys@wbu.edu); Office Fax: 806-291-1969

## OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION:

Office: Flores Bible Building (FBB) 104

Hours by appointment: M 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM; W 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM; Th 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM; F 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

## COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION: WBUonlline—with scheduled conversations

## CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to one or more classic texts of Christian devotional and/or contemplative spirituality, with focus on deepening the devotional life through reflection, contemplation, and practice within a weekly spiritual formation small group. Note: May be repeated when content varies. Prerequisite(s): MNST5301 Spiritual Formation or THST5301 Christian Spirituality or similar undergraduate courses.

Summer 2022 Directed Study will focus on selected writings by Augustine of Hippo (354-430).

## PREREQUISITE:

MNST5301 Spiritual Formation or THST5301 Christian Spirituality or similar undergraduate courses.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Editor/Author** | **Publisher** | **Ed** | **Year** | **ISBN** |
| *Augustine of Hippo: Selected Writings* | Augustine  Trans. By Mary T. Clark | Paulist Press | 1 | 1984 | 978-0809125739 |

Additional reading assignments as posted in Blackboard

## OPTIONAL MATERIALS

Augustine. *City of God*.

Augustine. *Confessions*.

Ayers, Robert H. *Language, Logic, and Reason in the Church Fathers: A Study of Tertullian, Augustine, and Aquinas*. Georg Olms Verlag. 1979

Brown, Peter. *Augustine of Hippo*. London and Berkeley: Faber and Faber/University of California Press, 1967.

Caputo, John D. and Michael J. Scanlon, eds. *Augustine and Postmodernism: Confessions and Circumfession*. Indiana University Press. 2005.

Evans, G. R. *Augustine on Evil*. Cambridge University Press. 1990

Frend, W.H.C. *The Donatist Church*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1952.

## COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:

*Students will:*

1. *Describe the spiritual significance and benefits to the Christian faith of devotional and/or contemplative spirituality, focused on the text examined for the term.*
2. *Demonstrate an appreciation that Christianity is a way of life, not merely a set of beliefs or values, by the sharing of practical examples of the impact of devotional and/or contemplative reflection upon daily life.*
3. *Reflect on how the practices and concepts within the assigned text impact their lives in their daily decisions and relationships.*

## ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

As stated in the Wayland Catalog, students enrolled at one of the University’s external campuses should make every effort to attend all class meetings. All absences must be explained to the instructor, who will then determine whether the omitted work may be made up. When a student reaches that number of absences considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will so advise the student and file an unsatisfactory progress report with the campus executive director. Any student who misses 25 percent or more of the regularly scheduled class meetings may receive a grade of F in the course. Additional attendance policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the University’s attendance policy.

This course will meet via Blackboard to engage in discussions and learning tasks related to the assigned reading material and projects for that week. Students are expected to have read the assigned materials to be involved in the online learning environment. Students will be expected to facilitate and engage in these discussions around papers and projects that are assigned to them. Non-participation is treated like absences in a traditional class.

## STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

<http://catalog.wbu.edu/content.php?catoid=7&navoid=446>

## DISABILITY STATEMENT:

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291-3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS and GRADING CRITERIA:

1. The course will be composed of reading assignments, historical context summaries, corresponding exercises/projects, and interaction with colleagues via Blackboard discussion forums.
2. Participation (100 points): Our interaction will be through Blackboard Discussion Board forums (six). Optional Collaborate Sessions may be scheduled per course consensus. Effort will be made to record Collaborate sessions for those who wish to access the content at a later [point within the course. Discussion Board participation is measured by posting as scheduled at least three substantial comments per forum—1 response to the week’s topic and 2 replies interacting with class colleagues.
3. Journal (100 points): Throughout the course, students will write an analytical journal entry related to assigned readings. Journal entries (five journal entries of 250 to 500 words) will be guided by posted prompts or topics. Each assigned journal entry should be typed per School of Christian Studies/Turabian guidelines and submitted to the Assignments link in the course site. All assignments are to be submitted as either a WORD or PDF document—no other formats will be accepted.
4. Late assignments will be heavily penalized, per specific assignment instructions posted within Blackboard. Late assignments include documents submitted in unreadable or inaccessible formats.

***All time deadlines correspond to the Central Time Zone in Plainview, TX. The assignments are due at 11:59 PM on the Due Date.***

Course Evaluation: University Grading System

A 90-100 I INCOMPLETE\*\*

B 80-89 Cr FOR CREDIT

C 70-79 NCr NO CREDIT

D 60-69 WP WITHDRAWAL PASSING

F BELOW 60 WF WITHDRAWAL FAILING

W WITHDRAWAL

\*\* A grade of incomplete is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long (10-15 weeks) term, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion. If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to a grade of F (No Credit). An incomplete notation cannot remain on the student’s permanent record and must be replaced by the qualitative grade (A-F or Credit/No-Credit) by the date specified in the official University calendar of the next regular term. An incomplete turned to a qualitative grade will be indicated by the notation I/grade on the student transcript.

**Procedure for computations of final grade**

Final grading for this one-hour course is credit/no-credit. *To receive credit for the class students must earn a 70% (140 points) or higher*. Additionally, students who exceed allowed absences will receive a grade of No Credit. No grades will be given except credit or no-credit.

Students will have the opportunity to accumulate up to 200 points during the semester:

* Discussion Board = 100 points possible
* Journal = 100 points possible

**Include Grade Appeal Statement**: “Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Vice President of Academic Affairs/Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.”

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Week | Readings | Assignments |
| Week 1 – 5/30/22  Introduction &  Augustine’s *Confessions* | * Augustine Reader: xi-54 & 55-79 * Huggard, [“Take & Read”](https://issuu.com/christianhistory/docs/ch-116) | Augustine: Introduction  Discussion Board--Week 1 |
| Week 2 - 6/6/22  Augustine’s *Confessions* | * Augustine Reader: 80-162 * Additional Readings as posted in Blackboard | Augustine: Historical Context  Journal Entry #1 |
| Week 3 – 6/13/22  The Happy Life | * Augustine Reader: 163-193 * Additional Readings as posted in Blackboard | Ambrose, Augustine & Patristic Understandings of Happiness: Historical Context  Discussion Board-- Week 3 |
| Week 4 \* - 6/20/22  Homilies: Psalms  Or  Homilies: Johannine Literature | * Augustine Reader: 195-261 or 263-307\* * Additional Readings as posted in Blackboard   \*Week 4 Reading assignment (Psalms or Johannine Lit) will be assigned in consultation w/ instructor | Augustine & Preaching: Historical Context  Discussion Board-- Week 4 |
| Week 5 – 6/27/2022  Augustine’s *On the Trinity* | * Augustine Reader: 311-359 * Additional Readings as posted in Blackboard | Journal Entry #2 |
| Week 6 -7/4/22  Augustine on the Life of Faith | * Augustine Reader: 363-425 * Additional Readings as posted in Blackboard | Discussion Board – Week 6 |
| Week 7 – 7/11/22  Augustine’s *The City of God* | * Augustine Reader: 429-478 * Additional Readings as posted in Blackboard | Journal Entry #3 |
| Week 8 - 7/18/22  *Rule of St. Augustine*  Final Thoughts on Augustine & Reading Christian Classics | * Augustine Reader: 481-493 * Additional Readings as posted in Blackboard | Journal Entry #4 |