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Introduction:

In this course we will explore the writings of four of the most influential thinkers in the history of Christianity. The course seeks to fulfill several aims. Students will be made familiar with the roots and development of several pivotal ideas in the Christian tradition; we will discuss the continuing importance of the ideas discussed, and we will gain insight into some of the foundational ideas underlying Western culture. Furthermore, the class is intended to facilitate the development of mental capacities by allowing students and instructors to engage the ideas of some of the most profound thinkers in the Western tradition at a detailed level. It is the intention of this class to provide a context in which students' reasoning skills are exercised as well as providing provocative material for reflection.

Attendance and Late Submissions:

Attendance at all class meetings is expected, and role will be taken near the beginning of each class session. Students are expected to come to class having completed the readings and to take an active role in class discussions. Late assignments will be penalized at my discretion depending on the circumstances with penalties up to and including receiving a zero on the assignment in question.

Student Conduct and Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is conducive to learning; behavior that is disruptive of the class or disrespectful to me or to other students will not be tolerated. Students guilty of such behavior may be asked to leave the class, and if such behavior persists will be dropped from the course. All work submitted for this class must be the student's own work; any student who presents another person's work as his or her own, who acquires or attempts to acquire the answers to an exam, or who provides such answers to others will be considered guilty of cheating. Action will be taken against any student guilty of cheating ranging from receiving a zero on the assignment in question to receiving a grade of F for the course. The student's behavior may also be brought to the attention of the Dean of Students, who will take action that may result in the expulsion of the student from the University.

Assignments:

Grades will be assigned on the basis of two exams, a research paper, and quizzes/class participation. Pluses and minuses will be used in grading.

Exams: Exams will be made up of short answer and/or essay questions and will include a mid-term worth 30% of the student's final grade and a final worth 30% of the student's final grade.

Research paper: For the research paper, students will be asked to choose a topic in Christian ethics or theology that interests them (suggestions include the origin of life/human beings, sexual ethics, God's omniscience, the relationship between faith and reason, epistemology, the nature of the church) and explore what one of our authors has to say about the topic or compare two authors on the topic. I encourage you to start on your paper early and to discuss your topic with me in advance of writing. The research paper will be 10-15 pages in length and will be due in early December. The paper will be worth 25% of the student's final grade.

Quizzes/Class Participation: Students will be expected to come to class having read and reflected on the reading assignments and prepared to discuss them. In addition to being ready to answer questions from the material that I will raise in class, students are also encouraged to raise questions for discussion and will be rewarded for doing so. On occasion I may also begin class with a short quiz over the reading assignment due that day. This portion of the grade will also take into account attendance; a student's score will suffer if s/he has more than two unexcused absences. (Absences will be considered excused only if for a documented illness or family emergency or for a school sponsored activity.) This portion will be worth 15% of the student's final grade.

Reading Schedule

Introduction

Augustine, [Christian Doctrine](#), I

Augustine, [Christian Doctrine](#), II, chaps 6, 40-41; III, chaps 1-30

Augustine, [Confessions](#), VII; VIII, chaps vi-xii

Augustine, [Confessions](#), X, chaps xxii-xxiii, xxvii-xxix; XI, chaps i-xv, xxvi-xxxi

Augustine, [The Trinity](#), Book VIII

Augustine, [The Trinity](#), Book XIV

Augustine, [The Spirit and the Letter](#), chap. 1-42

Augustine, [The Spirit and the Letter](#), chap. 43-66; [Homilies on First John](#), #7

Anselm, [Proslogion](#) (pp. 82-104)

Anselm, [Pro Insipiente and Reply to Gaunilo](#) (pp. 105-122)

Anselm, [Why God Became Man](#), I

Anselm, [Why God Became Man](#), II

Aquinas, [ST](#), I.1.i-ii, iv-v, vii-x

Aquinas, [ST](#), I.2.i-iii; I.3.preface, i-iii; I.5.iii; I.10.i

Aquinas, [ST](#), I.4.iii; I.12.xii; I.13.i-iii, v-vi; I.23.iv-v

Aquinas, [ST](#), I-II.55.iv; I-II.58.iii; I-II.61.i; I-II.62.i-iii; I-II.65.ii-iii; I-II.85.i, iii, v

Aquinas, [ST](#), I-II.90.iv; I-II.91.i-vi; I-II.93.ii-iii, vi

Aquinas, [ST](#), I-II.94.ii-vi; I-II.95.i-ii; I-II.96.iv; I-II.98.i-ii

Aquinas, [ST](#), I-II.106.i-ii; I-II.109.ii, iv-vi; I-II.114.ii-iii, v

Luther, [95 Theses](#); [Bondage of the Will](#), Introduction

Luther, [Bondage of the Will](#), Introduction

Luther, [Bondage of the Will](#), I.§51-52; II.§76-77, 79, 82-84, 88, 91-92, 106-107

Luther, [Bondage of the Will](#), III.§135-137, 145-154, 164-166

Luther, [Freedom of a Christian](#) (Including Luther's Letter to Pope Leo X)

Luther, [Two Kinds of Righteousness](#); [Sermon for the Afternoon of Christmas Day](#)