



Augustine: On the Trinity

Summer 2025

Term Dates:	June 30 – August 23, 2025
Department:	Theology
Instructor:	Dr. Wyatt Graham <w.grahama@davenanttrust.org>
Meeting Time:	Thursdays 7:00-9:30pm (Eastern Time)
Zoom & Recordings:	Populi > My Courses tab > course name > Conferences (left menu).
Delivery:	Populi is used for all course content & assignment submissions. Discord is used for additional community interaction.
Auditors:	No attendance requirement, but participation is greatly encouraged.

Course Description

The class will study chapter-by-chapter Augustine's magisterial *On the Trinity* to understand the biblical, theological, and historical rationale for the Christian doctrine of the triune God. In particular, this course will pay close attention to the order of missions and processions in God according to Scripture and Augustine's polemical contexts. In other words, this course will help you to know Augustine's view of the triune God and to understand the biblical reasoning for Augustine's trinitarian theology.

Lastly, this course aims to bring students into a pattern of thinking and spirituality that Augustine himself promoted through his reflective theological exegesis of Scripture to know God. The goal of this course, as in all of life, is to understand how to seek the face of God always.

Objectives

1. Understand Augustine's *On the Trinity* within its historical, biblical, and theological contexts.
2. Grasp the exegetical traditions and arguments that underlie Augustine's argument.
3. Articulate the philosophical and theological significance *On the Trinity*.
4. Read with understanding one of the key works of Western trinitarian theology.
5. Appreciate the profound theological influence of *On the Trinity*.
6. Consider and develop answers to major questions within *On the Trinity*, especially how Augustine sees various biblical texts as leading us to profound conclusions about the nature of God.

Texts

- Augustine *The Trinity*. Trans. Edmund Hill. New City Press, 1991
- Other PDF/online optional readings will be handed out during the semester.

Requirements

Late work: Grade reduction of -5% per calendar day upon instructor discretion. No assignments will be accepted after the last due date without an approved extension. [Instructor may adapt this or add it to instructions below]

1. Course Format & Attendance (10%)

Class sessions will involve a combination of lecture and seminar-style discussion on readings. Students are expected to read required texts before class and come ready for discussion. Readings will be 50–100 pages per week. One unexcused absence is permitted. Attendance is required for all students taking courses for credit. If the scheduled time does not work for a particular student, they may drop the course according to the Drop Policy.

2. Weekly Summaries (20%)

Students will submit weekly 200-word summaries of readings with 3 thoughtful questions for class discussion based on the texts. Summaries are due on Sunday night of each week. Students will choose 9 of 10 weeks to submit this assignment.

3. Written Exam (30%)

At the end of this course there will be a written exam to test basic comprehension of key themes. On the exam, students will choose 4 of 5 essay questions to answer and write a 200 word answer without the aid of notes, books, lecture materials, or any other outside content.

4. Term Paper (40%)

- **Length:** 3,000 – 4,000 words (12 – 15pp). [Required: \geq 3,000 words]
- **Sources:** 2 primary sources & 8 academic secondary sources.
- **Instructions:** Write an argumentative research paper on one of the topics covered in class. Your paper must interact with sources, including counter-arguments to your position.
- **Grading:** Papers should display academic style, clear and creative thesis, substantial source interaction, evidence in support of a cumulative argument (not overly descriptive), accurate understanding of important concepts and viewpoints, honest interaction with counter-arguments.
- **Formatting:** Times New Roman, double-spaced, 12-pt font, footnotes, Title page, Bibliography.

Research & Writing Guide

[The research and writing guide](#) is designed to help students navigate the expectations of graduate-level scholarship, including structuring papers, adhering to the Chicago Style Guide, and providing a sample grading rubric. This guide does not take the place of assignment requirements and may not be used by instructors.

Calendar

Week	Dates	Topics & Readings
1	July 3	Augustine's Life and Theological Setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • A Structure of Trinitarian Theology • Augustine's Ruled Reading of Scripture • Read: <i>On the Trinity</i> (Book 1)
2	July 10	Recorded Lecture (not live): Latin Economic Theology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: <i>On the Trinity</i> (Book 2)
3	July 17	Augustine on Missions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>On the Trinity</i> (Books 3 & 4)
	July 24	NO CLASS
4	July 31	Substance and Persons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>On the Trinity</i> (Book 5 & 6)
5	August 7	Substance and Persons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>On the Trinity</i> (Books 7)
6	August 14	Images that lead us to divine light <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>On the Trinity</i> (Books 8–11)
7	August 21	Participation in God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>On the Trinity</i> (Books 12–15)
8	August 28	The Holy Spirit Review <i>On the Trinity</i> (Book 15)

Institutional Policies

Drop Policy

The policies below apply to changes made after the registration deadline two weeks prior to term. To change registration before the term starts, please log on to Populi. To change registration after the term starts, email the registrar at registrar@davenportinstitute.org. See the Academic Calendar section for exact dates.

Drop Date (100% Refund): Before the term starts, students may drop with a 100% tuition refund. Registration fee is non-refundable.

Drop Date (50% Refund): Within the first two weeks of a term, students may drop the course with a 50% tuition refund. Registration fee is non-refundable. To drop, please email the registrar.

Withdrawal: Within weeks three and four of a term, students who drop a course will receive no refund and will earn a “W” on their transcript. Students cannot drop after this time will receive a letter grade. To drop, please email the registrar.

Extension Policy

All coursework and exams must be submitted no later than two weeks after the term end date. Before that time, homework extensions are at the discretion of the instructor. If a student requires more time, the student may submit a formal extension request by emailing the registrar at registrar@davenportinstitute.org. If approved, an extension will be granted to the student for a specific period of time agreed upon by the student and instructor. Extension requests will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and will generally be granted for medical and family emergencies only.

Minimum Grade Requirement for Degree Students

Students enrolled in one of our degrees must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 (B average). If the students' GPA falls below 3.0, Davenport will initiate conversation with the student to judge whether the student is ready for their program. If the student earns a grade lower than a “C” (2.0) on a course required for their degree, they must retake the course in order to graduate. Their new grade will replace their former grade. If a degree student earns a grade lower than a “C” (2.0) on an elective, they are not required to retake the course, but they may request to retake the course or a close equivalent as a substitute for their former grade.

Grading Scale

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
93	90	87	83	80	77	73	70	67	63	60	

For a complete list of policies, see the Academic Catalog at davenanthall.com