PPE Colloquium

Spring 2018

*Augustine on Politics, Philosophy, and the Problem of Pride*

Tuesdays 5:10-6:00 PM

O’Shaughnessy Hall 209

Professor Mary Keys

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Office hours: Thursdays 2:00-3:00 PM and by appointment

This colloquium focuses on a classic work of political thought, Augustine of Hippo’s *City of God*, specifically on its defense of humility (*humilitas*) in political and intellectual life, against an imperial political-cultural background tending to glorify forms of pride (*superbia*). We review recent treatments of Augustine’s thought on these themes in contemporary political theory and history of political thought, and read and comment on Professor Keys’ book manuscript on this topic, together with selections from *The City of God* itself.

**Required text** and edition, available in the university bookstore: **Augustine, *The City of God*, Dyson translation (Cambridge University Press)**

**Colloquium requirements:** Careful reading of assigned texts by Augustine and Professor Keys, consistent attendance, thoughtful participation in class discussion, and one oral presentation

**Grading**: S/U (pass/fail)

**Credits:** One credit. If anyone would like to earn two credits (e.g., if you are studying abroad and concerned about completing the PPE minor requirements), this is a possibility, with the addition of a paper to the requirements: please let Professor Keys know as soon as possible if you are interested in a two-credit option.

**Schedule**

T, 1/23: Introductory meeting

T, 1/30: Augustine, *City of God* [book] I, Preface and [chapters] 1-3 (pp. 3-8), III (94-142), and VI, Preface and chapters 1-6 (237-251)

T, 2/13: *City of God* XIX (909-964), and XXII.30 (1178-1182)

T, 2/20: Keys’ book manuscript, chapter 1

T, 2/27: Keys’ manuscript, chapter 2; **Group Presentation 1**

T, 3/6: Keys’ manuscript, chapter 3; **Group Presentation 2**

*Spring Break, 3/10-3/18*

T, 3/20: No class meeting

T, 3/27: Keys’ manuscript, chapter 4; **Group Presentation 3**

T, 4/3: Keys’ manuscript, chapter 5; **Group Presentation 4**

T, 4/10: Keys’ manuscript, chapter 6; **Group Presentation 5**

T, 4/17: No class meeting

T, 4/24: Keys’ manuscript, chapter 7; **Group Presentation 6**

T, 5/1: **Double-class meeting, 5:10-6:50 PM, including class dinner:**

Keys’ manuscript, chapter 8; **Group Presentation 7**

*City of God*, selections (III); Professor Keys’ “response to critics” and conclusion