



LEADERSHIP LEARNING COMMUNITY

If you wish to be heard, first learn to listen. If you seek to lead others, first learn to lead yourself. Rev. Peter Donohue
O.S.A., President, Villanova University

Augustine and Culture Seminar 1000 V02, V04
Traditions in Conversation
Fall 2009, Immerwahr, Campbell, Powers

Syllabus (Draft)

Instructor:

John Immerwahr, Professor, Department of Philosophy, 173 St. Augustine Center, tel. 610 519 5356, e-mail: .edu. Office hours: Monday 3:00 to 4:30, Thursday: 3:00 to 4:30. Home phone: (610) xxx xxxx (call before 11:00 p.m.). You should also be in a section of the one-credit leadership course. The instructors are Ms. Chrissy Quisenberry (for the 10:30 section) and Mr. Phil O'Neill (for the 1:30 class). They will give you their contact information when you meet them.

Teaching Interns:

Each of my two sections will have a teaching intern who will work with you to help your learning in the seminar. Both are senior honors students and writing center consultants. .

Tolle Lege:

St. Augustine recounts in his *Confessions* that, just before his conversion, he heard a child singing, "*Tolle lege, tolle lege*," "Take up and read, take up and read." Augustine did so, and by reading was transformed: after much personal and spiritual struggle, he was at last able to change his life. The Augustine and Culture Seminar (ACS) introduces students to great works of literature and thought that have much to teach us not only about the cultures and time periods in which they were written, but also about our own cultural heritage and ourselves, here and now. The basic idea is that by reading great works, perhaps we too can be transformed; perhaps we too can move more deeply into ourselves, and from there move more compassionately out into our communities.

ACS seeks to help students develop a richer inner life and an appreciation for community. The seminar is founded on the belief that seeking the truth (*veritas*) with respect and love (*caritas*) toward one another leads to deep and lasting community (*unitas*). ACS thus tries to help students live the values so important to Villanova that they are on its seal: *veritas, unitas, caritas*.

One way or the other, Augustine is our model. ACS students take this course not only to learn about Augustine, but more important to learn to be like him in his passionate engagement with "the higher things": literature, history, and politics; truth and moral

values; the gods and God. In the *Confessions*, Augustine speaks of himself as committed to the truth “heart and voice and pen.” The ACS faculty believe that thinking deeply about what we care about, learning to articulate our thoughts clearly and persuasively, and working to write with insight not only will serve as excellent preparation for future careers, but will help us come to terms with life emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually, both in the university and beyond.

Course theme:

A primary theme of this section is leadership and community. We will explore questions of the meaning of leadership and its implications for the community through reading texts and authors including: the Bible; Plato; Euripides; St. Augustine; Dante; and Shakespeare. We will study approaches to leadership in these ancient texts and then ask how they are relevant to our own experience here at Villanova.

Goals:

Goal		Method of assessment
Read and think critically:	Analyze and bring critical understanding to difficult and important classical texts and develop an appreciation of how much these texts have to teach us	Participation in class discussion, short assignments, papers, course project
Write well:	Write clearly and persuasively, supporting your positions with argumentation and evidence	Papers, short assignments, course project
Communicate effectively orally:	Articulate your own views based on your reading and in response to the contributions of other students	Participation in class discussion, course project, in-class group work, oral exam
Master cooperative learning skills:	Work with and learn from other members of the learning community in a climate of mutual respect and support	In-class group work, course project
Apply new perspectives, make connections:	Test, refine, and make connections between your own ideas and values and the texts, and between the texts themselves.	Papers, course project, short writing assignments

Texts:

Please purchase all of the texts right away, you will definitely be using them.

St. Augustine, *Confessions*, New City Press. ISBN 13: 978-1565480841

Dante, *The Divine Comedy: Purgatorio*, trans. Allen Mandelbaum, ISBN: 0-553-21344-x

Euripides V, University of Chicago Press, ISBN 13: 978-0226307848

Kelley, Nancy, ed. *Leadership Learning Community Readings and Course Materials*, Villanova University, 2009.

Lunsford, Andrea, *Easy Writer 3rd Edition*. Bedford/St. Martin’s ISBN-13 978-

Assignments:

All of your assignments (as well as a copy of this syllabus) will be on WebCT Vista. You will find a link to this on your “My Classroom” page. Please make yourself familiar with this program immediately. When you log into this course you should see a link for the Genesis Learning Module. It will have your assignments for the first few weeks.

Expectations:

Five major elements will go into computing your grade. Detailed guidelines will be distributed for each of these areas.

- Mid-term and final examination. These will be oral examinations that will focus on your detailed understanding of the assigned texts.
- Graded projects before mid-term
- Graded projects after midterm
- Participation in seminar and grades on short assignments. You will also have frequent short written assignments.

Course Policies:

We won't go over these in class, but please read them carefully:

- Attendance: We will take regular attendance. Students with more than six unexcused absences will fail the course. Obviously, you do not receive positive grades for class participation if you aren't in class on a particular day.
- Ask questions. If you don't understand something, or if you have concerns, ask one of us.
- Catholic and Christian perspectives. At Villanova University, and in the Augustine and Culture Seminar, one of our main goals is to help students understand how Christian and specifically Catholic traditions have shaped western thought in the past and are important voices in the modern world. Readings in the Bible and in the work of St. Augustine are a central part of the course, but the course does not assume any previous background in Christian and Catholic thinking. Although these works may, in fact, challenge and help you refine your own personal beliefs, the course will be taught from a strictly academic perspective and does not require or presuppose any religious commitment.
- Late Papers. Talk to me if you are having trouble completing a paper on time. Unexcused late papers will lose one letter grade for each weekday that they are late.
- You will also be required to attend several events on campus. More details on those later.
- Comfort zone. Some of the material may be new and different, and may touch on sensitive subjects such as religion, politics, and sexuality. If you are in any way uncomfortable reading or discussing any of the material, please let me know or speak confidentially to another member of the staff. Sometimes in seminar discussions we may use outrageous examples to clarify points; if you are offended by something that is said, please accept our apologies in advance.

Please express your concern to me or to the teaching intern. Your concerns will be held confidential, and we'll try to avoid that situation in the future.

- Concerns about grades. When graded material is returned to you, it is your responsibility to make sure you understand exactly why you received the grade that you were given. If you do not understand, please resubmit your work to me, with a written explanation of your concern or question. I will reread your work, change your grade upwards (if necessary), and return it to you with additional comments. Under no circumstances will your grade be lowered as a result of this process. If you still have concerns or questions, please make an appointment to meet with me in person to discuss the work. Do not discuss the work with me until after you have resubmitted it and it has been returned to you.
- Copies of work. Please keep copies of all the work that you submit for the entire semester. A lot of paperwork will be flying around and we may lose copies of some of your assignments. You will be responsible for producing a new copy if necessary.
- Academic Integrity. We will be holding students in this class to the strictest standards of academic integrity for all work, including drafts, web postings, and short assignments. All of your assignments can, and should be done, without using outside sources other than the assigned texts. However, **if you use any sources other than the assigned texts you must have scrupulous documentation for any sources you use, following the MLA format.** You must use footnotes to indicate any passages that you have quoted or paraphrased from other sources. You must also footnote ideas that are taken from other sources, even if the words are your own. You must also indicate any other sources that you have consulted, even if you don't rely on the specifically. If we have concerns about your paper, we will submit it to a subscription data base service that checks papers extensively for web sources. You also are expected to follow all other rules regarding acceptable and unacceptable collaboration on every assignment including drafts, reaction papers and web-postings. Violations of the academic integrity code will typically result in a failure for the course, so be extremely careful in this area.
- Disabilities. Villanova seeks to make reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability, please contact me outside of class. If you have a learning disability please register with the Learning Support Office (x 9 5636; nancy.mott@villanova.edu).
- Laptops in Class. Please do not use laptops in class without express permission, since the use of laptops often distracts other students (especially if the student is using the laptop for non-classroom related activities). If using a laptop is extremely important to you, please contact me and request permission.
- Teaching Interns. The teaching interns are with us to assist your learning. They will not be grading your work or teaching in the absence of the instructor.