



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 V09, V10
Traditions in Conversation
Fall 2008, Immerwahr, Kemp, Miraglia

NOTE TO TEACHPHILOSOPHY101 readers. This is the final project in a simulation exercise. This particular project integrates art images from Villanova’s campus with the students’ reading of Augustine’s *Confessions*. I am currently producing more generic projects for my Intro Philosophy students. The general idea is that each group of three students is assigned to a text or a part of a text that we have read this semester. The students have to make a page of a website that talks about the implications of that philosopher for their own lives. I create the websites using a program called TaskStream, which is extremely easy to use. For more info, contact me directly. I find that group projects only work if students have done an individual project first, so their task as a group is to combine and synthesize their individual projects. I also find that it is necessary to give them class time to coordinate. In the oral presentations, I tell the students that I will decide who does what part of the presentation, so all need to be familiar with all parts of it (otherwise, each will do his/her part separately, and put it together at the presentation itself). The most challenging part of the project for the students was taking the considerable amount of material each group had done individually and synthesizing it to a 750 word webpage. The students also told me that no teacher had ever told them that they had to make something shorter.

**LEVEL FIVE PROJECT:
VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY ~ IMAGES OF ST. AUGUSTINE**

Relationship to Course Goals:

Goal		This assignment:
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	Requires detailed reading and analysis of Augustine’s <i>Confessions</i>
Write well:	Write clearly and persuasively, supporting your positions with argumentation and evidence	Blends integration of discussion of difficult primary text (<i>Confessions</i>), with discussion of personal reflections, and narrative on Villanova. (A very tricky writing assignment!)

Communicate effectively orally:	Articulate your own views based on your reading and in response to the contributions of other students	Involves oral presentation of preliminary findings
Master co-operative learning skills:	Work with and learn from other members of the learning community in a climate of mutual respect and support	Requires close coordination with team members
Apply new perspectives, make connections:	Test, refine, and make connections between your own ideas and values and the texts, and between the texts themselves.	Requires connecting art images, contemporary life at Villanova to Augustine's <i>Confessions</i> , and application to personal values

Project Description:

BWD is sending you and a group of other Interns who are Villanova students to do a consulting project for Villanova University. As you know, Villanova is an Augustinian university and prides itself on its Augustinian mission and heritage. Villanova has asked BWD to produce a website, using some of the artistic images on campus as a way to link Villanova's Augustinian roots to the meaning of Augustine for the life on campus today. The website will be tentatively called: *Villanova University – In the Spirit of St. Augustine*. You will work in a team of three (or two), using a specific artistic image.

Sources:

Your final project chapter should rely on these sources:

- The artistic images or symbols themselves (see below). Each team of three is assigned one image.
- Your reading and analysis of relevant passages from *Confessions*.
- We will have an in-class discussion with one or more Augustinians, providing you with an opportunity to ask some of Villanova's Augustinians friars about their understanding of the meaning of your themes for Villanova today. BWD will arrange the panel discussion during one of our class sessions, so all you will need to do is prepare questions.
- Interviews with at least three Villanova students or staff members (who are not interns for this project), about the themes you will be writing about. At least two members of the group should be present at each interview. (Your leadership instructors and student facilitators are certainly appropriate subjects for interviews, as are your RAs. However, no one should be interviewed by more than one project team in a class, so check with them if they have already been interviewed by someone else).
- Your own personal reflections and the reflections of your team members about the meaning of the symbols for your own lives.

Here are the images and related themes.

Image or campus symbol	Themes	Students
10:30 class		
Augustine the Rhetor (painting in SAC)	Death of friend in Book IV, comparison to death of Monica in book IX, Augustine's life before conversion	George, Mikee, Kara,
<i>Tolle Lege</i> window in St. Thomas Church	<i>Tolle lege</i> , conversion, also reading of Hortensius	Dane, Kara, Gerry
Baptism window in St. Thomas Church	Three discussions of Baptism in Confessions, meaning of Baptism	Jackie, Mike I.
Vision at Ostia (with Monica) window in St. Thomas Church	Mystical vision at Ostia, comparison with Platonic vision in Book VII, Monica's spirituality	Paul, Ricardo, Amanda
Burning Heart in VU seal (mosaic in lobby of SAC)	Love in St. Augustine, theme of heart, and restless heart	Tom, Lindsey, Samuel
1:30 class		
Health Center Quote	Augustine as teenager and college student (Books II and III), restlessness	Katie V., Richard, Grace
<i>Tolle Lege</i> grotto	<i>Tolle lege</i> , conversion	Allie, Rong, Helene
Baptismal tiles in St. Thomas church, Baptismal font in Milan Cathedral	Three discussions of Baptism in Confessions, meaning of Baptism	Pat, Kelly, Jared
St. Monica Hall	Monica life and death, book IX and other references	Matt, Sean, Paola
Original Sin Window in St. Thomas Church, snake in tree, other fruit tree images in windows	Genesis in Confessions, original sin, Pelagianism	Kevin, Janay, Kathryn S.

Please note: web images for St. Thomas Church stained glass windows are at: www.homepage.villanova.edu/john.immerwahr/StAugWin/tolle%20lege.htm
 You'll need to produce your own digital photos of the other images.

There are three major parts of this project:

1. Individual Background Paper. Your individual background paper should be done, as much as possible, in isolation from the work of your project team mates. Please share as much as possible, however, with other interns (or interns from the other class). Here is what you need to do.

- November 10 (in class). Hand in thesis statement. This is a paragraph about your thesis, with four or five quotes that you will be using as evidence. All quotes should be cited in official Augustine style, so the *Tolle Lege* passage would be: *Conf.* 8.12.29.

- November 13 (e-mail by 9:00 a.m.) Thesis paper. This should be a free- standing formal academic paper about with a thesis related to your image or passage. This paper should focus on the text of *Confessions*, rather than the image. Be sure you revisit the paper rubrics (posted in the Course Project Module) before you do the paper. Four pages maximum (shorter is better). Also add an appendix about your personal reflections on the meaning of the theme for you and for other first year Villanova students. One page maximum, can be written in informal style but must be perfectly clear to someone who is familiar with the image, St. Augustine, and Villanova generally (assume that Immer, Jacki and Erica are the audience).

2. Group Presentation, Nov 19th. This will be a presentation by your group to the rest of the class, outlining your preliminary direction and ideas. By this time you should have completed the interviews and also studied your image so you are completely familiar with it.

- Prepare ten minute maximum oral presentation, outlining main ideas in your chapter. PowerPoint is fine. By this time you should have a draft of your group paper.
- Follow rubrics on oral presentations (included in course project module)
- Purpose of oral presentations is so that other groups can look for common themes, areas of overlap, in order to help integrate the entire project.
- All members of the group should be totally familiar with the oral presentation. **Please bring in a hard copy of the slides for me.** I'll ask one student to start the presentation, and then ask others to take over.

3. Text for website. Due in class, November 21th. Bring enough copies for everyone in the class to get one, plus one for Immer and one for Jacki or Erica. You may single space and print on both sides of the paper. Not necessary to include pictures in this version.

- Follow guidelines for group projects (in course project module), assign roles, be prepared to fill out surveys at the end of the project; these surveys will ask you to describe your own work and evaluate the contributions of the other members of your group.
- Coherent essay, integrating thoughts about the image, its role at Villanova, its sources in the text of St. Augustine, and its meaning for Villanova students.
- For now, maximum length, **750 words**, so you will have to synthesize and shorten the material from your individual projects.
- Should also include information from at least one of your interviews with Villanova students, faculty members or staff
- Written in one voice with three co-authors.

Integration of all materials:

Eventually, all materials will be integrated into a single website (more about the mechanics of that later), and turned over for use of the client (Villanova University).