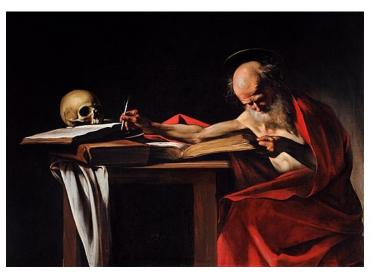
Jesse W. Torgerson College of Letters

Self and Text in Roman North Africa: Augustine's Confessions

The native North African Augustine of Hippo wrote the most influential autobiographical text in (so-called) Western Literature. It remains the most brilliant text I have ever read: a mind-bendingly complex and yet fully coherent literary self. Let's read it together.



Set between Carthage and Rome in 400, Augustine wrote just ten years before the Eternal City would be sacked by the disaffected former legions of the empire (the /Goths/). Split between conqueror and conquered, civilization and apocalypse, Augustine wove humanity's existential and epistemological questions into a literary tapestry for the ages: Who am I? How do you speak? Who are you? How do I listen? Who are we? How do we know?

At once memoir, critique of empire, philosophy, psychology, theology, personal history, criticism, and a letter, these CONFESSIONS require close, careful, focused, attentive readings from a diverse group of interpreters. Join our learning community and spend three snowbound weeks at Wesleyan with a book you will never forget.

Required Text (this translation only): Augustine, *Confessions*, translated by H. Chadwick (Oxford University Press: Oxford, 1991) ISBN: 9780199537822

Course Plan

Please complete readings before the designated class meeting & come to the first meeting prepared to discuss

Tu 1/9	Books 1-4	Student & Teacher
We 1/10	Books 5-8	Friend & Lover
Th 1/11	Books 9-11	But What Am I?
Fr 1/12	Books 12-13	Being and the Text: Divinity & Community
Sunday 1/14, 6pm <u>Paper Draft</u> : What Self is Confessed? (3-4 pp)		
Mo 1/15	Re-read: Books 1-3	Childhood & Sorrow
Tu 1/16	Re-read: Books 4-6	Youth & Passion
We 1/17	Re-read: Books 7-9	Death & Eternity
Th 1/18	Re-read: Books 10-11	Self & Mind
Fr 1/19	Re-read: Books 12-13	Who I Am in You, & You All
Sunday 1/21, 6pm <u>Reflection Paper</u> : What Does It Mean to Remember? (3-4 pp)		
Mo 1/22 What do we think?		
Weds 1/24, 0	5pm <u>Final Paper</u> : What is	the Self Confessed? (12 pp)