

INDS/SPIR 547: REORDERING DESIRE AUGUSTINE, QUEER THEORY, AND CHRISTIAN SEXUAL ETHICS

Wesley Hill

June 28 – July 2; 1:30 – 4:30 pm

1 or 2 graduate credit hours; or 1 audit hour

Live online & Recorded

COURSE DESCRIPTION

One of the unlikely convergences between contemporary "queer theory" and the Christian theology of St. Augustine is how they each interrogate the meaning of what is "natural." Exploring this surprising point of connection, this course aims to work out a biblical and pastoral theology of the reordering of wayward desires, showing how the insights of Augustine might speak afresh to contemporary debates in the churches and the wider culture.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should have a clearer understanding of:

1. Understand the place of fallen desire and its reordering in the theology of Augustine of Hippo.
2. Articulate some of the aims and strategies of the contemporary academic discipline of Queer theory and assess that discipline theologically.
3. Understand and describe some pastoral implications of Augustine's theology of desire, with the goal of helping to communicate a Christian sexual ethic for today's churches.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1 June 28 Current Challenges in Evangelical Sexual Ethics

Day 2 June 29 What Is "Queer"? Introducing Queer Theory

Day 3 June 30 "Queer Hippo": St. Augustine and Michel Foucault in Conversation

Day 4 July 1 An Augustinian Theology of Sex and Marriage for Contemporary Evangelical Christians

Day 5 July 2 Practicing Asceticism: Where Do We Go From Here?

REQUIRED TEXTS

For 1 & 2 credit students there is a list of articles in the full syllabus.

In addition, the following books are required for those taking the course for 2 credits:

Hanne Blank, *Straight: The Surprisingly Short History of Heterosexuality* (Boston: Beacon, 2012).

Sarah Coakley, *The New Asceticism: Sexuality, Gender and the Quest for God* (London: Bloomsbury, 2016).

Looking for textbooks? Please [contact](#) the Regent Bookstore, or check out their [direct-fulfillment website, Aerio](#).

Note: Aerio prices are in USD.

Please Note: This Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle for registered students: moodle.regent-college.edu/login

