

TH 421: EARLY CHRISTIAN AND MEDIEVAL POLITICAL THEOLOGY

Spring, 1991

Instructor: E. Fortin

Carney 411

Ext. 3887

Office hours: Mon., 1:15-2:00

Wed., 2:00-3:00

Thu., 2:30-3:30

Or by appointment: 923.1226

The course deals with the problem of the relationship between Christianity and civil society in antiquity and during the Middle Ages. It focuses on the adaptation of Christianity as a universal religion to the requirements of the political order as well as on the transformation of society itself in accordance with the norms of the Christian faith. Primary sources are favored throughout. Particular attention is given to Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, and Dante, all three of whom provide a convenient vantage point from which to survey the alternative solutions that have been proposed to the problem at hand over the centuries. The course also includes a study of parallel developments in Islam and Judaism. A study of this kind is meant to be of more than purely historical or antiquarian interest. Its purpose is to shed light on issues that still confront us and that are as vital today as they were at other moments in the past. The relevance that it bears to our time is amply attested to by the resurgence of radical politics within Christianity and the demand for a new political theology on the part of a growing number of religious thinkers.

SCHEDULE

Jan. 14: General Introduction: subject matter and method of procedure. Judaism and Christianity. Christianity as a nonpolitical religion.

READINGS: Paul, Letter to the Galatians; Ephesians, ch. 3.

Suggested: Lerner and Mahdi, *Medieval Political*

Philosophy: A Sourcebook, Introduction, 1-20.

READINGS: S. Westerholm, "Torah, nomos, and law: A question of 'meaning'," *Studies in Religion* 15 (1986). 327-36.

Jan. 28: The "political teaching" of the New Testament. Christianity and the political order. Early Christian apologetics and the Roman Empire.

READINGS: Paul, Romans, ch. 9-13, and I Cor., ch. 7.
I Peter, 2:11-15
Revelation, ch. 13 and 17-18.
Pliny the Younger, *Letter to Trajan*.
The so-called *Letter to Diognetus*.
The Edict of Milan.

Suggested: E. Barker, *From Alexander to Constantine*, 392-460.

Feb. 4: The Philosophical Background of the *City of God*.

READINGS: Cicero, *On the Commonwealth*.

Suggested: J.E. Holton, "Marcus Tullius Cicero," in Strauss-Cropsey, *History of Political Philosophy*.

Feb. 11: The Augustinian Critique of Roman Religion and Society

READINGS: Augustine, *City of God*, Bks. I-II, and IV-VI.

Suggested: E.L. Fortin, "Augustine and Roman Civil Religion: Some Critical Reflections," in *Revue des Etudes Augustiniennes* 26 (1980), 238-56.

Feb. 25: Christianity and the Problem of Citizenship

READINGS: Augustine, *City of God*, Bk. XIX.
Id., *Letters* 91 and 138.
Id., *Reply to Faustus the Manichaean*, XXII, 72-79.

Suggested: E.L. Fortin, "St. Augustine," in Strauss-Cropsey, *History of Political Philosophy*.

Mar. 11: The "Two Cities"

READINGS: Augustine, *City of God*, Bk. XIV, 1-4; Bk. XVIII.
Orosius, *The Seven Books of Histories vs. the Pagans*, VII, 27.

- Apr. Suggested: T.E. Mommsen, "St. Augustine and the Christian Idea of Progress," in *Medieval and Renaissance Studies*, 265-98.
 R.A. Markus, *Saeculum: History and Society in the Theology of St. Augustine*, ch. 3, 45-71.
 E.L. Fortin, "Augustine's *City of God* and the Modern Historical Consciousness," in *Review of Politics* 41 (1979), 323-43.

Mar. 18: Religion and Politics in Islam

- READINGS: Alfarabi, *Enumeration of the Sciences*, Lerner and Mahdi, 22-30.
 Id., *The Attainment of Happiness*, ibid, 58-82.
 Id., *Plato's Laws*, Introduction, ibid., 83-85.
 Averroes, *The Decisive Treatise*, ibid., 163-86.

- Suggested: M. Mahdi, "Alfarabi," in Strauss-Cropsey.

Mar. 25: Religion and Politics in Judaism

- READINGS: Maimonides, *Guide of the Perplexed*, I, 71; II, 32-40, 45; III, 27-28, 34 in L. and Mahdi, 191-226.

- Suggested: R. Lerner, "Moses Maimonides," in Strauss-Cropsey.

Apr. 1: Christianity, Politics, and Love in the Middle Ages

- READINGS: J. Bedier, ed., *The Romance of Tristan and Iseult*.

Apr. 8: Papal Theocracy in the Middle Ages

- READINGS: Gelasius I, *Letter to Emp. Anastasius* and *On the Bond of Anathema*. Tierney, 13-15.
The Forged Donation of Constantine. Tierney, 21-2.
 Bernard of Clairvaux, *Treatise on Consideration*. Tierney, 92-94.
 Hugh of St. Victor, *De Sacramentis Christianae Fidei*, Tierney, 94-95.
 Innocent IV and Hostiensis. Tierney, 153-157.
 Boniface VIII, *Unam Sanctam*. Tierney, 188-89.

Apr. 22: Thomas Aquinas and the rise of Christian Aristotelianism.
The crisis of Christendom

READINGS: Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on the Politics of Aristotle*, Prooemium.
Id., *On Kingship and Commentary on the Sentences*, Tierney, 165-71.
Condemnation of 219 Propositions (1277)

Suggested: E.L. Fortin, "Thomas Aquinas," Strauss-Cropsey, 223-50.

Apr. 29: The Rediscovery of Political Philosophy: Dante and Marsilius. The Reformation and the "political vacuum" theory

READINGS: Dante, *On World Government*
Dante, Letters 6 and 12
Marsilius of Padua, *The Defender of the Peace*, Lerner and Mahdi, 439-91.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Graduate students: one term paper. 12-15 pp.
Undergraduates: final exam; optional term paper.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following books, from which most of the assigned readings are taken, may be purchased at the Boston College Bookstore:

Cicero, *On the Commonwealth*. Macmillan, paper.
St. Augustine, *The City of God*. Pelican Classics.
J. Bedier, ed., *The Romance of Tristan and Iseult*.
B. Tierney, *The Crisis of Church and State: 1050-1300*. Prentice Hall, paper..
Dante, *On World Government*. Macmillan, paper.

The following is a list of standard works which may be consulted in connection with various problems to be discussed in the course of the semester:

- Bainton, R.H., *Christian Attitudes Toward War and Peace: A Historical and Critical Evaluation*. Abingdon, 1960.
- Barker, E., *From Alexander to Constantine: Passages and Documents Illustrating the History of Social and Political Ideas, 336 B.C. -337 A.D.* Oxford, 1956.
- Id., *Church, State, and Education*. Ann Arbor, 1957.
- Brown, Peter, *Augustine of Hippo: A Biography*. Univ. of California Pr., 1967.
- Id., *Religion and Society in the Age of St. Augustine*. Faber, 1971.
- Carlyle, R.W. and A.J., *A History of Mediaeval Political Theory in the West*. 6 vols. Edinburgh and London, 1903-36.
- Chodorow, S., *Christian Political Theory and Church Politics in the Mid-Twelfth Century: The Ecclesiology of Gratian's Decretum*. Univ. of California Pr., 1972.
- Cullmann, O., *The State in the New Testament*. Scribner, 1956. *Lesson*
- Cullman, O., *Jesus and the Revolutionaries*. Harper, 1970. *B52545.255 28*
- Cochrane, C.N., *Christianity and Classical Culture: A Study of Thought and Action from Augustus to Augustine*. Oxford, Galaxy, 1957.
- Deane, H.A., *The Political and Social Ideas of St. Augustine*. Columbia U. Pr., 1963.
- D'Entreves, A.P., *Aquinas: Selected Political Writings*. Blackwell, 1959.
- De Rougemont, D., *Love in the Western World*. Rev. ed., 1956.
- Dvornik, F., *Early Christian and Byzantine Political Philosophy*. 2 vols. Dumbarton Oaks, 1966.
- Eadie, J.W., *The Conversion of Constantine*. Holt Rinehart, 1971.
- Gero, S., "Miles Gloriosus: The Christian and Military Service According to Tertullian," *Church History* 39 (1970), 285-98
- Gierke, O., *Political Theories of the Middle Ages*. Boston, Beacon Press, 1958.
- ✓ Gilson, E., *History of Christian Philosophy in the Middle Ages*. Sheed & Ward, 1958.
- Id., *Dante the Philosopher*. Gloucester, 1968.
- Goerner, E.O., *Peter and Caesar*. Herder, 1965.
- Hengel, M., *Was Jesus a Revolutionist?* Fortress, 1971.
- ✓ Kantorowicz, E., *The King's Two Bodies: A Study in Mediaeval Political Theology*. Princeton, 1957.

JC 385, K25

- Knowles, D., *The Evolution of Medieval Thought*. Helicon, 1962.
- Lander, G.B., *The Idea of Reform: Its Impact on Christian Thought and Action in the Age of the Fathers*. Harper TB.
- Lerner, R. and Mahdi, M., *Medieval Political Philosophy: A Sourcebook*. Cornell Univ. Pr., 1972.
- Markus, R.A., *Saeculum: History and Society in the Theology of St. Augustine*. Cambridge, 1970.
- McIlwain, Ch., *The Growth of Political Thought in the West from the Greeks to the End of the Middle Ages*. N. Y., 1932.
- Mommsen, T.E., *Medieval and Renaissance Studies*. Cornell Univ. Press, 1959.
- ✓ Morrall, J.B., *Political Thought in Medieval Times*. Harper Torchbook, 1962. *not in lib*
- Niebuhr, R., *Christ and Culture*. Harper TB, 1962.
- Southern, R.W., *Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages*. Penguin, 1970.
- Strauss, L., *Natural Right and History*. Chicago, 1953.
- Strauss, L. and Cropsey, J., *History of Political Philosophy*. U. of Chicago.
- Swift, L.J., *The Early Fathers on War and Military Service*. Michael Glazier, 1983.
- ✓ Ullmann, W., *A History of Political Thought in the Middle Ages*. Pelican. *JA82.04*
- ✓ Id., *Law and Politics in the Middle Ages*. Cornell U. Pr., 1975. *✓ LC 95.6304*
- Von Campenhausen, H., *Tradition and Life in the Early Church*. Fortress, 1968.
- Weinberg, J., *A Short History of Mediaeval Philosophy*. Princeton, 1964.
- Yoder, J., *The Politics of Jesus*. Grand Rapids, 1962.

Augustine = 13765.T5947

Agustinas = *Steven Gaghan* 13765.T59572
Gilbert (Edmund) PQ4390.645