Patristic Thought and the Emotions TRS721A
Susan Wessel, assistant professor
Wednesday 9:30-11:30 am
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username: students721a
password: emotions

Description: A consideration of the role and function of the emotions in the human person according to such authors as Gregory of Nyssa, Augustine, Nemesios of Emesa, John Cassian, Boethius, and Maximus the Confessor. Contemporary theories of the emotions will also be examined.

Readings: Most of the reading for this class can be found on Blackboard. Please note that you need to get copies of Augustine’s Confessions, Boethius’ On the Consolation of Philosophy, both of which are available in Loeb Library editions and in many other translations, and Gregory of Nyssa’s On the Soul and Resurrection. These texts are available at www.ccel.org.

This is a Blackboard course: The reading packet, syllabus, and websites are available on blackboard.

Course Requirements:
(1) a research paper (10 pages), to be presented in class, due April 29
(2) short presentations in class of assigned readings
(3) required readings
(4) regular attendance in class and participation

Grading: Your final grade will be based on your participation in the seminar and on your research paper. The final paper should be a serious research paper that is based on the primary texts, preferably in the original language, and that makes use of the relevant secondary literature.

Course Goals: To help students learn to write a research paper in the field of patristics and historical theology. The class will be conducted as a seminar, which means that students will come prepared to discuss the readings for that class session. This is not a lecture course, and my role will be to facilitate discussion and to teach students the research skills they need to write a research paper.

Goals for Student Learning: At the conclusion of the course the student will be able to articulate an appropriate topic for a research paper and then to write a coherent and properly argued research paper.
Academic honesty: Academic honesty is expected of all CUA students. Faculty are required to initiate the imposition of sanctions when they find violations of academic honesty, such as plagiarism, improper use of a student’s own work, cheating, and fabrication.

Additional policies and expectations: Regular attendance is required. If a student is absent more than two times without an excuse, then the matter will be brought to the attention of the associate dean for Graduate studies. Papers should be submitted on time and in hard copy. Late papers will not be accepted.

Schedule of Classes:

**Ancient and Contemporary Theories of the Emotions:**
January 14: Introduction to the course
January 21: Contemporary ways of thinking about the emotions

January 28: Overview of Ancient Philosophical and Christian Understanding of the Emotions

**Patristic Authors on the Emotions:**
February 4: Augustine, *Confessions*, books 1-6

February 11: Augustine, *Confessions*, books 7-12

February 18: Augustine
   2. R. Canning, “Augustine on the Identity of the Neighbour and the Meaning of True Love for Him “as ourselves” (Matt. 22:39) and “as Christ has loved us” (John 13:34),” *Augustiniana* 36, pp. 161-239.

March 11: John Cassian

March 18: Boethius
March 25: Nemesios of Emesa

April 1: Gregory of Nyssa
   1. Gregory of Nyssa, On the Soul and Resurrection, all.

April 8: Maximus the Confessor
   1. Maximus the Confessor, Four Hundred Chapters On Love, pp. 35-98.

Student Presentations of Research:
April 15: Student presentations
April 22: Student presentations
April 29: Student presentations; papers due