

Humanities 2
Professor Caciola
Spring 2017

Writing Assignment No. 2: Christianity

Write on one of the following topics. Evidence for your essay must be based only on the assigned texts.

1. Jesus seldom addresses sexual mores in the gospels, yet both Paul and Augustine wrote extensively about matters of sexual conduct. Paul opines that “it is well for a man not to touch a woman. . . . But if they cannot exercise self-control, it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion” (1 Corinthians 7:1, 9). Augustine expresses shame about his sexual drive and passionately bewails his proclivity toward lust. Using Augustine (*Confessions*) and Paul (1 Corinthians), write a thesis-based essay in which you compare or contrast the authors’ views about sexual morality.

2. According to Paul and Augustine, it is very difficult to lead an ideal spiritual life away from temptations and sin. What is Paul and Augustine’s view of the human nature that causes us to do evil? Do they have similar views on human nature? Using Paul and Augustine, write a thesis-based essay in which you compare or contrast their views on human nature.

As usual in Humanities, your paper should provide evidence and argument for a clear thesis. One test of an argument is its ability to withstand a plausible counter-argument. Your essay must take account of the most plausible counter-argument to your thesis and must respond adequately to it.

Length: Five pages.

Due: At the end of lecture on Monday, May 15. Provide the hard copy to your section instructor and submit an electronic copy to Turnitin.com.