

Humanities 2

Professor Stanley Chodorow

Spring 2017

Writing Assignment #2: Christianity

Note: Evidence for your essay must be based only on the assigned texts. Limit your evidence to specific passages or episodes in the text in order to analyze the text in detail.

1. In his letter to the Galatians, Paul explains how Christians are free of the Law. Compare or contrast Paul's view of the Christian's freedom from the Law with Mark's depiction of Jesus's attitude toward the Law.

Formulate a question about this topic and then answer it (your thesis). [The introduction to your paper should state and explain your question and state your thesis.](#) The body of your paper should be an argument, based on evidence from the texts, supporting your thesis. In this paper, and in those that follow in the Humanities courses, **you must include a counterargument.** See below for an explanation of a counterargument.

2. In his Confessions, Augustine focuses on how a person can be saved given man's sinful nature. Jesus's teachings frequently focus on sin and sinners in the Gospels of Mark and John. Paul, too, offers his views on the nature of sin in his letters. Compare or contrast Augustine's view of sin with that of Mark, John, or Paul (**choose only one**).

Formulate a question about this topic and then answer it (your thesis). [The introduction to your paper should state and explain your question and state your thesis.](#) The body of your paper should be an argument, based on evidence from the texts, supporting your thesis. In this paper, and in those that follow in the Humanities courses, **you must include a counterargument.** See below for an explanation of a counterargument.

Thesis: Make sure that your thesis meets the standards outlined in the "Thesis" handout.

4 tests for a good thesis:

1. Is it an explanation, not a fact?
2. Is it precise?
3. Can someone argue against it?

4. Is it too obvious to be worth arguing?

Note: In a compare OR contrast essay, you must do the following in the introductory paragraph:

- A. Introduce the question and thesis.
- B. Establish the authors' views on the theme.
- C. Assert your own argument about the differences OR the similarities between the two texts/authors on the given theme.

Counterargument: A counterargument is an alternative interpretation of some of the evidence you use to support your thesis. It is not an argument for an alternative thesis.

Length: 4-5 pages.

Due: In lecture, 16 May, Tuesday. Please hand your essay to your section teacher after lecture. You will also need to turn in an electronic copy to Turnitin.com.