

Humanities 2

Spring 2017

Professor Lerer

Paper 2

Essays are due at the end of lecture on **Thursday, May 18**. They should be four to five pages long in the usual Humanities format. Your paper should address the plausible counterargument(s) to your thesis.

Respond to one of the following prompts:

1. How effective are Jesus' parables as teaching devices? In writing about this topic, you might consider the parables' effect on their immediate audience, their ability to teach a wider audience of readers, and the question of why Jesus tells such seemingly indirect stories instead of delivering his message more straightforwardly.
2. First sentences are important. Pick a single Book of Augustine's *Confessions* (remember we are reading Books 1-8). How effective is the first sentence in setting the stage for the ideas, images, and narrative presented in the rest of that Book? Does the Book you have chosen fulfill its first sentence, and how does it do so?
3. The early Christian texts that we are reading often discuss the human body in its physical, social, spiritual, and political senses. Is the human body a good thing or a bad thing in these writings? In writing about the body, you might consider some of the following: How is it praised; how is it denigrated? Is it a site for teaching and learning or a place of temptation and loss? Make your argument with reference to two out of the following three sets of texts: the Gospels (Mark and Luke); Paul's epistles (1 Corinthians and Romans); Augustine's *Confessions* (Books 1-8).

Before submitting a paper copy to your teaching assistant, you must submit an electronic copy to the anti-plagiarism website Turnitin.com.

Late essays will be penalized one-third of a letter grade *per day of lateness*.