**3rd Essay Prompt**

Option 1:

Augustine's reaction to the death of his unnamed friend is one of the most moving and challenging episodes in the *Confessions*. **Based on your reading of Book IV.4-12, what does Augustine think was *wrong* with how he loved his friend?**

In order to fully answer this prompt, your essay will have to address the key Augustinian theme of the *hierarchy of loves* in some depth. You may also choose to discuss the *role of friendship* in Augustine's *Confessions*.

Option 2:

Augustine is very much a man of faith, but he is also a man of reason who draws extensively on philosophy in order to clarify and defend Christian doctrine. **Based on your reading of the *Confessions*, how does Augustine understanding the relationship between faith and reason?**

In order to fully answer this prompt, your essay will have to address *the following passages* from the *Confessions*.

> Book III.4: In his discussion of Cicero's *Hortensius*, Augustine implies that faith and reason share a common goal. *What is this common goal?*

> Book VI.5: Augustine offers *two arguments that faith can be reasonable*. Discuss both of these arguments in some depth.

You may also choose to touch upon how *Platonism* influences Augustine's approach to Christianity in Book VII.9 and 20-21.

General Instructions:

This essay should be ***3-4 PAGES LONG!*** It is due ***MONDAY, DECEMBER 11!*** Follow all formatting guidelines provided on the "Essay Instructions" document on Blackboard. Use the "Structuring Your Thoughts" section and the "Outline Template" document to help you write your paper.

For this prompt, you are *not allowed* to use or cite any materials apart from those we have read in class. You can draw on what you have learned from our class discussions in a general way, but your essay must be *based on your own thoughts* in response to the texts indicated above.