ENG 10 Preliminary Syllabus
Talloires, France
Summer 2015
Prof. Michael Ullman

In class, we will read student papers aloud and criticize them, and discuss the readings and their relevance to student writing. On alternate days, I will have picked passages from student papers with common errors (and sometimes strengths) and we will discuss those problems. We will discuss ways of finding topics in Talloires-Annecy, techniques of interviewing, etc.

English 1 and 2 or an exemption from English 1 and 2 are pre-requisites.

Reading List:
J-J Rousseau, Confessions, Books One -6,

Syllabus: Each week, students will be asked to write two short papers. One will be on a topic that varies from week to week, starting with an autobiographical essay. The second will be about The Confessions.

You will be responsible for one book a week of The Confessions, and for a paper on that book. The specific assignments will come later.

Approximate syllabus:

Week ½: For Thursday, the first full day of class, write a 3 page autobiographical paper. Read the beginning of The Confessions. I am hoping you will finish the second book of The Confession by the Thursday of next week.

Students will write an autobiographical essay. Or alternatively, one might write a paper that will include first impressions: of the place, family, or whatever they feel is most important.

Discussion of that paper. Students will also write a summary of Book One of The Confessions.

Week Two:
Students will write a piece with some extended description. We will discuss this assignment in class.

Discussion of that paper. Reading of Book Two of Confessions.
some discussion of his techniques for argument. Paper on the ribbon incident.

Week Three:
Students will write a first profile, based on an interview, preferably of a member of the host family, and definitely of a French person.

We will discuss those papers, and talk about any surprising/particularly interesting discoveries. We will look for ways of deepening the understanding of the person involved, and of improving the characterization.
Book Three of Confessions. Students will write a paper comparing three characters in that book in order to get at Rousseau’s sense of the difficulties of making one’s way socially and economically in his world.

Week Four:
Paper on a topic of each student’s choice. Paper on Rousseau may be on an ethical problem he presents in Emile.

Discussion of those papers.
Week Five:

Second profile, this one (I hope) much better. Alternately a piece specifically contrasting some aspect of American and French life, as it strikes them. Book Five of Confessions, and paper topic will include several options, including an analysis of Rousseau’s description of Mme de Warens.

Discussion of that writing, and of final papers.

Week Six +1/2: Paper topics to be announced, but one will be on Book Six of Confessions: you will be asked to discuss the endings of each of the six chapters to find a pattern, if possible.
Last day of class: six page paper due on some aspect of the Talloires experience or a topic of the student’s choice.

Grading: The grades will be based primarily on the writing, and on participation in class. Missed classes and late papers past a reasonable point will be held against you.