Syllabus

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. Students should finish the second book of The Confession by the Thursday of next week.

Students will write an autobiographical essay, that will include first impressions: of the place, family, or whatever they feel is most important. These, I imagine will prove interesting six weeks later when the students write a more comprehensive paper on their nearly completed experience.

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, the specific subject to be discussed individually.


**Week Three:**
Students will write a first profile, based on an interview, preferably of a member of the host family, if available. And willing. 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 The Confessions.

**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 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 to be announced.

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.
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.