

Pursuing Beauty, Love & Wisdom

A Summer Seminar: Augustine's Confessions



Samuel + Erasmus institute

ideas • conversation • friendship

a co-sponsored seminar for college students

With pleasure, we invite you to attend a unique and limited summer seminar co-sponsored by the Houston Institute and the Samuel & Erasmus institute. The seminar will engage the timeless work by Augustine of Hippo: *Confessions*.

Touching some of those questions and mysteries relevant for any time and for every person, Augustine probes the depths of the human heart, the will, and reason's ways of apprehending reality.

Despite our past, present, and future failings, can we achieve a kind of interior peace, an interior unity, or are we hopelessly divided by irreconcilable differences on the inside? Is there meaning to suffering—especially to the kind that appears so random and indifferent? What about the sorrow that follows our own failings? Are our hearts restless until we reach a communion, a contemplative and heart connection, with the transcendent...not a *transcendent* in the abstract, but in a particular *Other*, maybe even in a *Person*?

Full of questions like those above and beautifully written, this work is sure to leave a mark, one way or another. It may also prove to be one of those "works" that continues to quietly converse with us throughout our lifetime.

Please RSVP as soon as possible--no later than June 1.

Sincerely yours,

Jeff Presberg (Samuel & Erasmus institute) and Paul Fortunato (Houston Institute)



HOUSTON INSTITUTE

But where was I when I looked for you? You were there before my eyes, but I had deserted even my own self. I could not find myself, much less find you.

(Augustine's *Confessions*)



Where then is evil? What is its origin? How did it steal into the world?...Where then does evil come from, if God made all things and, because he is good, made them good too?

(Augustine's *Confessions*)

Above painting: *The Conversion of Saint Augustine*, Fra Angelico

Top painting: *Saint Augustine*, Philippe de Champaigne

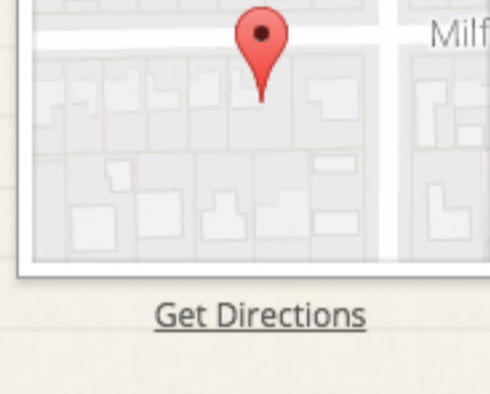
SEi & HI June Seminar III

WHEN

Tuesday, June 20th, 4:45pm to Friday, June 23rd, 9:45pm

WHERE

**1707 Milford Street
Houston, TX**



[Get Directions](#)

First Name

Last Name

Email Address

Attend (RSVP)

A Plan

Attendees: for college students

Dates & Hours: June 20, 22: 4:45 pm ~ 7:45 pm June 23: 4:30 pm ~ 9:45 pm

Schedule:

June 20 and 22:

4:45 hospitality and conversation (informal but on seminar topics and issues)

5:30 *Confessions* seminar (with supplemental material)

7:00 hospitality and conversation

7:45 finish

June 23:

4:30 hospitality, conversation, and bocce

5:30 *Confessions* seminar (with supplemental material)

7:00 dinner

8:00 *Story and discussion*

9:45 finis

Cost:

- sponsored

Attire & Things:

- elegant casual (collared shirt for regular days; sport coat and pants for dinner)

Materials:

- books and reading materials supplied

- bring a pen and journal

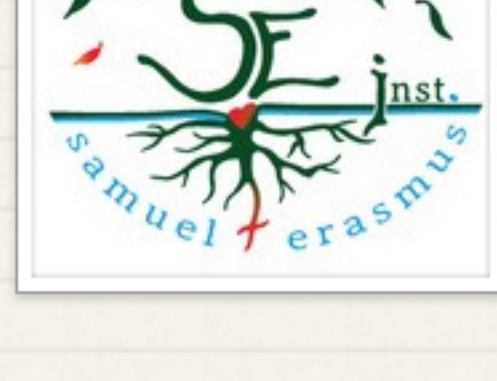


The Vision of Saint Augustine, Garofalo

How to apply

Compose a brief essay, 1-2 paragraphs, explaining why you would like to attend this seminar. Submit your essay to Jeff Presberg by email and before May 25. (see contact information below). Submit your full contact information, including a mailing address.

Note: once application is accepted, arrangements will be made to deliver books and readings to attendees.



Samuel & Erasmus institute

Give light, and the darkness will disappear of itself.

~ Erasmus

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THE LITTLE KNOTS OF FRIENDS WHO TURN THEIR BACKS ON THE "WORLD" ARE THOSE WHO REALLY TRANSFORM IT. ~ C.S. LEWIS