

Instructions: Answer any **two** of the following three questions. Read the questions carefully and answer all parts of the selected questions for full credit. Support your general claims with specific facts, details, and references from the course readings and class discussion. Good luck.

1. "The theology of the period from Augustine through Luther was shaped by Christianity's response to a series of crises. In each case, the response offered to the particular crisis inevitably raised new questions and problems for subsequent generations of Christians, in some ways paving the way for the next theological crisis to emerge."

Discuss this quotation as it applies to any *one* of the following crises: the Fall of Rome; the faith/reason divide; the practice of indulgences.

For the topic you select, you should discuss; a) the nature of the threat posed to Christianity; b) the nature of the response offered by figure(s) considered in the course; and c) new theological questions and problems raised by this response.

2. "Since Augustine, the free will debate emerges as the central one in Christian thought, with a thinker's stance on this issue shaping his or her entire theology."

Comment on this quotation as it applies to any *two* course figures from among Augustine, Aquinas, and Luther. Be sure to pay attention to not only what the figure says about free will but how this stance serves to shape other aspects of the thinker's theology.

3. "The profound theological differences between Thomas Aquinas, on the one hand, and Augustine and Luther, on the other, can be traced to their contrasting conceptions on the basic nature of human beings. Aquinas was the optimist; Augustine and Luther the pessimists."

Using the three author's views on morality and/or politics as an example, discuss how each thinker's view of human nature served to shape the specific political proposals and descriptions that he offers.