

Inquiry into Confession

This course will explore the theme of confession as it develops in our culture. We will begin by examining ancient and medieval texts, such as Augustine's *Confessions* and the *Letters of Abelard and Heloise*, but the emphasis of our inquiry will focus on modern and contemporary writings in multiple genres. We will read Stephen Chbosky's *Perks of Being a Wallflower*, a novel in the spirit of *Catcher in the Rye*. We will also study the *PostSecret* blog, Frank Warren's online art project dealing with anonymous confessions. Students will be encouraged to incorporate their own experiences with confession into the course by drawing on references from pop culture in film, music, and television. We will keep track of this research in a course blog, along with individual student blogs. There will be a variety of informal, creative writing assignments, but three formal essays will also be required.