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Philosophy and the Experience of Loss in Hegel and Augustine

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30 3:30PM
MITCHELL HALL 195

A PRESENTATION ORGANIZED BY THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROGRAM AND THE PHILOSOPHY CLUB
ALL ARE WELCOME! REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.



Augustine, in Book IV of his *Confessions*, provides a classical description of the experience of devastating loss (the death of a dear friend), a description which serves (for me, anyway) as a template to help interpret a famous passage in GWF Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, in which Hegel describes the self-transformative experience of the fear of death. Hegel's description of this experience influences later existentialist thinkers (Kierkegaard, Heidegger, Sartre and others) in their understanding of the experiences of anxiety (Angst), dread, forlorn-ness, and despair, experiences or emotions that they take to be revealing of the human condition.

Some questions asked about both Augustine's and Hegel's classical depictions of the self-shattering experience of loss: How is the fundamental experience best described and what is the relation of this experience to being human? How do experiences of this sort change us, if they do? Do such experiences, despite their being prone to cast us into despair, also convey redeeming philosophical self-knowledge or wisdom, and, if so how? Are such experiences in some sense necessary for becoming fully what we are?



QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS EVENT? CONTACT DIVALERI@UWM.EDU