

Assigned: January 19, 2012
Draft Due: January 31, 2012
Final Version: April 26, 2012

Purpose

As stated in the course syllabus, one of the primary objectives in our journey together this semester is for us “to study the fundamental structure of human personhood, the grounding of moral action, and the development of moral character as the precondition of all integral work in a profession” (ECE/Philosophy 316 Course Syllabus, Objective #5). In the course of our journey, we will study many different texts, but one of the most important texts you will study is yourself.

Focus

The task of self-knowledge is extraordinarily complex, it is one of the most difficult of all forms of knowledge, and it is at the very heart of the university curriculum (see the opening diagram of volume one of the course materials: Introduction, “The Universe of the University”). The task is indeed a life-long project. Yet we will endeavor to take at least a step forward in this important field of study. One of the goals in writing a personal mission statement is for you to study the uniqueness, the complexity, and the potential of who you are as a human being.

Who are you? What are your fundamental gifts and abilities? What are the events in your life that have shaped you into the person you are? What are your life goals? What are your dreams and aspirations? In what capacity do you envision yourself working in society and actualizing your potential as a human being? How do you see your career and vocation as a context for bringing a greater good into this world? How will you achieve your goals? What are the essential next steps now before you? These and other questions related to the theme of human personhood you are free to explore in your paper.

In short, your mission statement is a probing, fundamental, and focused reflection on yourself and your life journey. Your work should address three important questions: Who are you? Where are you going? And how will you arrive at your destination? We will evaluate your essay looking at the *substance* of your analysis and the *clarity* of your exposition.

Format

Your paper should be a minimum of three pages in length, double-spaced in 12-point type, with one-inch margins. Check your page settings to insure that the margins are set correctly. Include an opening cover page with your name and the submission date, the course and the professor, together with a descriptive title that provides for the reader a window into your work. The draft of your mission statement must be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word format before class begins on January 31. A hard-copy of the final version, along with a printed copy of the evaluated initial draft, will be due in class on April 26.

GRADING CRITERIA

10 Points Total

Substantive Analysis

- 3: Demonstrates substantive exploration and self-understanding.
- 2: Beginning exploration of fundamental questions.
- 1: Lack of sustained substantive analysis.

Clarity and Organization

- 3: Organization of the paper is well-structured, with appropriate transitions. Paragraphs are coherent and ideas are clear.
- 2: Most paragraphs have a clear purpose, but more carefully constructed transitions between paragraphs and a more tightly knit thematic development of ideas would strengthen the paper.
- 1: Lack of organizational structure interferes with the clarity of the paper.

Grammar and Composition

- 3: Graceful sentences. Words are chosen precisely. Writing is vigorous and engaging.
- 2: Occasionally awkward or vague. Active verbs are used, with few superfluous or poorly chosen words. Some pronouns without clear referents.
- 1: Several cumbersome and unclear sentences. Writing is at times wordy, with excessive nominalizations and weak verbs.

Format:

- 1: Double-spaced, in 12-point type, with one-inch margins. Three pages minimum in length, introductory page including your name and submission date, the course and the professor, with an engaging and descriptive title. Complete draft submitted electronically. A hard copy of the final version submitted at the end of the semester, together with a printed copy of the original evaluated draft.