

# **The Academic Manifesto**

## **MMW 121 Writing Assignment Overview**

### **Fall 2016**

During this quarter you will write an original 8-10 page manifesto on what it means to be fully human in the modern world, drawing from global, historical traditions of the pre-modern world and making a case for their significance in your (or your fellow humans') growth and development in the modern world.

A **manifesto** is a public declaration of the purpose, principles or plan of action of a group or individual. It declares one's intentions, goals, ideals, and motives, and it is a call to action; it can challenge assumptions, foster commitment, and provoke change. In other words, it identifies a problem, offers a solution, declares an intention, goal, or ideal and gives explicit directions for carrying out an action plan to solve the problem.

Your **academic manifesto** will be structured as an analytical essay that will include the required components of argumentation. In your manifesto you will:

- identify a personal/ interpersonal problem/issue that keeps you or others from living more fully human
- advance a thesis (declare an intention) and action plan to solve that problem
- support your declaration and action plan with evidence (from in-class and outside scholarly sources)
- address alternative approaches to the problem (or counter-arguments)
- discuss significance/implications of your declaration

You will develop your manifesto in several, related steps as outlined in the schedule below.

#### **Assignment Schedule**

##### **5% Assignment #1 - Critical Reading Assignment (CRA)**

In this assignment you will read, annotate, and summarize one assigned academic essay published in a scholarly journal. This essay has been posted to your professor's TritonEd site. You will annotate the essay, identifying all of the components of the argumentation, and you will submit your own written summary of the argument. To assist you in your summary, you will also complete the required On-line Plagiarism Module.

Length: Annotations plus 2 pages of summary

Due date: Beginning of lecture on Tuesday, October 11 (Week 3). Late submissions are subject to penalties (see Guidelines for MMW Papers and the assignment prompt). Submit your CRA to Assignment Submissions on your Section TritonEd site (including Turnitin.com) by the due date/time.

##### **10% Assignment #2 – Manifesto Preparation Draft**

In prose, you will develop ideas for your manifesto using the Guidelines for Preparing Your Manifesto handout in TritonEd. You will be assigned to a peer review group of classmates who will review your Manifesto Preparation Draft and provide feedback.

Length: 4-5 pages

Due date: Beginning of lecture on Tuesday, Nov. 8 (Week 7). Late submissions are subject to penalties.

##### **5% Assignment #3 – Peer Review**

With the guidance of a rubric and peer review instructions, your group members will provide

written feedback on your Manifesto Preparations. They will comment on the strength of your declaration (thesis) and action plan, your analytical use of primary and secondary source material to support these, and the strength of your discussion or implications/significance, among other variables. You, in turn, will comment on your group members' drafts.

Due date: Beginning of lecture on Tuesday, Nov. 15 (Week 8). Late submissions are subject to penalties.

**15% Assignment #4 - To Be Human: An Academic Manifesto**

Write a manifesto write an original 8-10 page manifesto on what it means to be fully human, drawing from global, historical traditions of the pre-modern and making a case for their significance in human personal or interpersonal growth and development in the modern world.

Length: 8-10 pages

Due Date: Beginning of lecture on Tuesday, November 29 (Week 10). Late submissions are subject to penalties; your manifesto will be submitted to Turnitin.com.

**NOTES:**

- All writing assignments are subject to the regulations and policies detailed in the Guidelines for MMW Papers posted on your class TritonEd site.
- You must complete and submit all four writing assignments in order to pass the course.
- All writing assignments must be original work completed for class during this quarter. All borrowed ideas, writing, fact or structure must be cited.
- The portfolio of two original papers in MMW 121 may fulfill the UCSD Upper-Division Writing Requirement (Option B); see <http://roosevelt.ucsd.edu/academics/gen-ed/udw.html> for details.

