

Assigned: January 23, 2007
Draft Due: January 30, 2007
Final Version Due: April 12, 2007

Purpose

One of the primary objectives of the course is “to study the fundamental structure of human personhood, the grounding of moral action, and the development of moral character as the precondition of integral performance in a profession” (ECE/Philosophy 316 Course Syllabus, Objective #5). Throughout the semester, we will study many different texts, but one of the most important texts each of you will study is yourself.

Focus

The task of self-knowledge is extraordinarily complex and is an essential component within the university curriculum. 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. The goal of writing a personal mission statement is to study the uniqueness of who you are as a human being.

Who are you? What are your fundamental gifts and abilities? What are the events in your historical narrative 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 future vocation as a context for bringing a greater good into this world?

These and other questions related to the theme of human personhood you are free to explore in your paper. We will grade your Mission Statement primarily on the clarity of your exposition, focusing on your use of English grammar and your skill in composition, but we will also evaluate the substance of your analysis.

Format

Your paper should be a minimum of three pages in length, double-spaced in 12-point type, with one-inch margins. Include an opening page, with your name, submission date, and a descriptive title that provides for the reader a window into your work. Remember to include your draft along with your final version.

GRADING CRITERIA
10 Points Total

Substantive Analysis

- 3: Foundational and systematic self-understanding.
- 2: Beginning analysis 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. Title page with name and submission date. Complete draft submitted on time. Draft included with final version.