MMW 121 - Writing Assignment Overview  
Fall 2014

UCSD is a research university that values the role of original research in creating knowledge and improving learning. In fact, research reported in writing by others is the source of much of what we consider to be “truth.” In MMW, you will learn how to evaluate written academic arguments that are grounded in scholarship.

Writing Assignment Outcomes:
In three writing assignments, you will:
- refine your critical reading and analytic reasoning skills by assessing scholarly arguments in scholarly sources (journal articles, book chapters, and/or essays). You will identify, summarize, paraphrase, and analyze the major components of academic arguments: research question, thesis, claims, evidence, counter-arguments, rebuttals, and significance.
- refine your research skills by using university and on-line scholarship to locate journal articles, book chapters, and academic essays relevant to a given topic. You will identify, read and evaluate reliable academic sources.
- learn the standards and expectations for academic integrity in scholarship.
- demonstrate increased global literacy by engaging relevant scholarship about a historical period and its contemporary relevance.

Next quarter, in MMW 122, you will engage in a research project where you will identify a conceptual or historical problem, design a significant research question to help you solve the problem, search for scholarly material to help you answer the question, advance an answer (thesis) to the question, and explain its significance to your reader. To prepare you for this assignment next quarter, the MMW 121 writing assignments will help you build your skills in writing academic argument essays by moving you step by step through a series of assignments that become gradually more challenging. All three stages of the following MMW 121 Writing Assignment must be completed and submitted in order to pass the course:

5%  **Paper #1 - Critical Reading Assignment (CRA)**  
In this assignment you will read, annotate, and summarize one assigned journal article that has been posted to the UCSD Library Course Reserves for your class. You will identify all of the components of the argument and submit an original written summary of the argument.
Length: Annotations plus two (2) pages of summary  
Due date: Beginning of section during Week 3. Late papers are subject to penalties (see MMW Style Sheet and the CRA prompt). Submit CRA to Turnitin.com by midnight on the day you submit your paper copy to your TA.

10%  **Paper #2 - Comparative Source Analysis (CSA)**  
In this assignment you will read two (2) secondary sources on a common topic assigned by your professor. In 4-5 pages, you will summarize the argument in each of the sources and explain how the two sources relate to each other in their approach to the common topic. In this summary, you will address areas of commonality and difference regarding: approach,
problem, method, sources, thesis, claims, evidence, and/or conclusions. Finally, you will advance a single research question that both sources answer.

Length: 5-6 pages
Due date: Beginning of section during Week 6. Late papers are subject to penalties (see MMW Style Sheet and the CRA prompt). Submit your graded Critical Reading Assignment with your Comparative Source Analysis, and submit your Comparative Source Analysis to Turnitin.com by midnight on the day you submit your paper copy to your TA.

20% Paper #3 – Analytical Essay (AE)
In this assignment you will pose a conceptual problem, research topic and research question of your choice (limited to course-related topics). You will search for two new academic sources that provide different answers to the question and use these sources to write an analytical essay that develops an argument with a clear thesis that answers your question and addresses the problem.
Length: 5-6 pages
Due date: Beginning of section during Week 10. Late papers are subject to penalties (see MMW Style Sheet and the CRA prompt). Submit your graded Critical Reading Assignment AND graded Comparative Source Analysis along with your final Analytical Essay. Submit your final Analytical Essay to Turnitin.com by midnight on the day you submit your paper copy to your TA.

All writing assignments must be original work, and all borrowed ideas, writing, fact or structure must be cited.

NOTE: The portfolio of three 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.

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