

University of the Republic

Pre-Core Course Assignment

Pre-Core Courses – There are 3 pre-core courses, of which there are 8 individual assignments to be completed. These courses require completion prior to beginning the program courses. There will not be any cost to the student. They will not generate any units for the students that can be attributed to the program or transferred. They can be completed prior to admission, or concurrently. Each assignment will be considered by the Instructor and returned to the student with remarks and or suggestions in regards to expectations of program assignments. The primary purpose of these courses is to allow the student to gain a familiarization with the processes of the program and assignments. These assignments are intended to be done without conducting a focused research, and can be completed in a fraction of the time that program assignments will require. These Core Courses will serve as the typical “Admission Essay” and “Orientation” to the program, and will establish the relationship between the student, administrative personnel and program instructors. This requirement can be completed as quick as the student can complete them.

Pre-Core Course # 1

MLA format – the student will access a text or website that delineates the standards of the MLA format. The student will then compose a 2 page paper describing the particulars of the MLA formatting styles, such as: what a title page should look like; how the body of the composition is constructed; and how to cite reference sources (texts, websites, etc.). The constructed composition will be completed in the MLA format, including the reference page, and submitted.

Recommended Resources: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Pre-Core Course # 2

Research – the student will access a text or website that delineates the particulars of conducting research for written compositions. The student will then compose a 2 page paper describing the particulars of conducting a research and how to reference a variety of sources. The constructed composition will be completed in the MLA format and submitted.

Recommended Resources: <http://www.wikihow.com/Conduct-Academic-Research>
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/8/>

Pre-Core Course # 3

Introductory Assignments – The purpose of these assignments is to provide the student with an idea of what the program assignments will consist of, and how to construct the composition. It will also provide the Instructor an idea where the student is in his / her abilities to compose. Each student will complete 5 assignments in the form of compositions. Each assignment will be approximately 2 pages in length and follow the MLA format. There will be no research required.

EDUC 500 – What are your thoughts on “education”? In this composition, you are free to elaborate on anything regarding “education.” The following may serve as some ideas, but you are not required to utilize them:

Should education stress certain disciplines (math, science, reading, writing, arts, etc.)?

Should education stress knowledge of national ideological founding ideas (Declaration of Independence, The United States Constitution, The Federalist Papers)?



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Should education be a product of the federal government or be state, or locally based?

Learning models – are they realistic, needed, universal, etc.?

LIT 500 – Consider a book that you are familiar with. In this composition, you are free to elaborate on anything regarding this book. The following may serve as some ideas, but you are not required to utilize them:

Author – is there anything about the author you can tie to the components of the book: background; socioeconomic status; race; gender; etc.

Plot – what is the book about. Why do you think the author felt the need to write it?

Main characters – who are they. Why did the author select them as the main characters.

Setting – what and where and why did the author select this setting?

Symbolism – what obvious, or subtle symbols were utilized, and why?

REL 500 – in this assignment you are free to discuss whatever you want to in regards to “religion.” It will be more meaningful if you address your true feelings in regards to your views. The following may serve as an example, but you are not required to utilize them:

Faith – what does it mean to you, and what will it get you?

Bible or other religious texts – how do you view them? Are they the infallible words of God, or the words of faithful men?

Sin – what is it? How does it relate to God and man?

Heaven – What, where and why? How do we know if we get to go?

Hell – What, where and why? How do we know if we get to go?

Church – What does it refer to? Are they required? Do they have a predesignated design?

HIST 500 – In this assignment you are free to discuss whatever you want to in regards to “history.” However, consider an important aspect of history (an event, an era, a person), make that your focus of the composition and reference it.

MUS 500 - In this assignment you are free to discuss whatever you want to in regards to “music.” However, you will focus on one musical piece and reference it. The following may serve as a guide but you are not required to utilize it:

What is it you enjoy about this particular composition?

Describe the components of the composition:

Instruments – identify each and describe it’s intended purpose.

Lyrics – what about them do you like?

Pace -

Voice – what about the voice is appealing to you, and why?

Intensity – What about the intensity do you enjoy? Where and why does it occur? What makes it intense?



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Key – what key is the musical composition in? Does it ever change?

Score - What does the written score look like? Can you follow the composition on the score? How does observing the score while listening to the musical composition change the way you listen to it?

How does it make you feel, and why?

PHIL 500 - In this assignment you are free to discuss whatever you want to in regards to “philosophy.” However, you will focus on one philosophical thought, idea, or person and then reference it. The following may serve as examples, but you are not obligated to use any of them.

Plato – how has his work(s) contributed to present day philosophy? Identify some of his contributions on political thought and literature?

How did the field of philosophy come about? What existed before philosophy?

What contributions did the Milesians make to the field of philosophy?

What does ethics and morality mean to you, and what do they include?

What is love, and how do you know it’s real?

What is your role as a citizen?

What does liberty mean to you, and how do you know you have it?

Important Note: One of the reasons you are pursuing an educational program is to be able to behave like an educated person. Writing is an important aspect that reflects this in people. Below are some hints to help you present great products for grading, in this program and in life:

Utilize your computer’s grammar and spelling check functions prior to sending in completed assignments.

Think about common mistakes

Overuse of unnecessary words (“that” and some other words are used when they don’t need to be).

Sound alike words (there and their, site and cite, etc.). Spell checks typically don’t discriminate, but grammar checks may.

Punctuation

When to use an apostrophe

It’s Jim’s car. (possession)

There are 3 apples. (representing quantity)

When to use a colon and a semi-colon.

Does the period occur inside the quotation marks, or outside? (...done.” Versus ...done”.)

Contractions – writing is different than speaking. Think about how and when you want to utilize contractions. (isn’t versus is not; does not versus doesn’t; won’t versus would not, etc.)

