

LAS 377 Common Assignment (fall 2014)

Overview:

The LAS 377 Common Assignment is intended to be a cumulative measure of your thinking about the common text, *Laborem Exercens*, as well as other texts (including LAS 377 texts and those in your current courses), and your own lived experiences. It should be written as an argument in which you integrate **ample evidence** in response to the seminar guiding questions and in support of your claim, also known as your essay's thesis (the conclusion you have drawn from your own thinking, our class discussions, and the evidence you are considering). The common assignment will be graded according to how well you use evidence to support your own central idea or claim.

You must use ample evidence from our common text, *Laborem Exercens*

In particular, the common assignment encourages integration, and it should directly address the junior-level guiding questions, as well as the LAS seminars' goal two and at least one of its three outcomes: for this assignment, please address outcomes 1 and 2, listed below **in red**.

LAS Seminars Goal Two Outcomes: (See the related rubric, page 3.)

- draw on relevant examples of personal experience to explore the guiding questions under consideration at each seminar level;
- demonstrate an awareness of diverse responses to the guiding questions for each seminar level;
- make connections across disciplines in ways that illuminate the guiding questions at each seminar level

As you will see on page two ("What to Do"), you will also be asked to consider one of the following junior-level guiding questions, highlighted **in red**, below:

- What is the place of work in the life of the individual and in society?
- How do technology and leisure shape our lives?
- What part does making a living play in making a life?

A Note on Integration: The integrative skill you are practicing in this assignment is called "synthesis," your ability to infer and make explicit how your chosen sources relate to your thesis. Remember that a good synthesis essay revolves around *your own* thoughts but also exhibits a thorough familiarity with the sources used. As college students, the majority of you will be asked to write papers in which you synthesize source information to support your conclusions. Therefore, this essay assignment is also intended to contribute to the goal of improving your argumentative synthesis skills and your critical reading skills. Your challenge in writing this synthesis essay is to make connections, to show

relationships between and among various text sources, and to explain those connections for your reader.

What to Do:

For this particular essay you are asked to present your unique focused claim in response to the following question.

What is the place of work in the life of the individual and society?

Your response should be based on your understanding of the course's common text, as well as our class discussions and readings, your own experiences, and your own thinking about the theme of this seminar: "Making a Buck vs. Making a Difference." Be sure to support your response with ample relevant examples from the common text. Fully explain your examples, and cite them using in-text parenthetical citation format.

Your essay should be fully developed, **five typed pages** in length (approximately, 1500 words, double-spaced, 12 point font). Include a Works Cited page.

Grading:

Your essay's final grade (200 pts.) will be determined by the following criteria:

- 1) your ability to organize, develop, and support your original argument by **integrating evidence** from various texts and your own experiences, as well as negotiating (i.e., acknowledging, accommodating, or refuting) opposing views/counter argument—consider, in other words, **"diverse responses"** to the question you are addressing (60 points);
- 2) your ability to **carefully read**, comprehend, and evaluate the common text (60 points);
- 3) your ability to **write clearly**, correctly, and logically while citing sources properly (60 points);
- 4) your ability to avoid errors that could be caught by a spell checker and to avoid grammatical mistakes and confusing sentences (20 points)

Superficial, underdeveloped, and unsupported responses will be graded down. Use text evidence and other sources that you deem relevant. Please proofread your essay very carefully. Consider asking someone else to proofread your essay.

Please attach a Works Cited page.

Due Date: Last day of class at 11:59 pm. However, you have until **December 9 at 4 PM to submit without penalty.**

Description of this seminar:

A large part of how we define ourselves has always been by what we "do for a living;" however, we also maintain a "personal life" outside of the work environment. In today's fast-paced business environment and society, this compartmentalization/separation can lead to tension and conflict as we seek to achieve a "work-life balance." Is it a matter of "balance" or one of

"integration?" Must we separate making a living from making a difference? How can we find our true place in an increasingly depersonalized, technological world? These are among the questions that this course will explore -- leveraging a wide range of perspectives on this subject

LAS Seminars—Common Assignment Scoring Rubric for 2014-15

Student is...	Accomplished	Mastering	Emerging	Beginning
Outcome 1 draws on relevant examples of personal experience to explore the guiding questions under consideration	Accurate, highly detailed, including varying and relevant examples of personal experiences to explore the guiding questions under consideration	Accurate and somewhat detailed, including relevant examples of personal experiences to explore the guiding questions under consideration	For the most part accurate but lacking detail and/or relevant examples of personal experiences to explore the guiding questions under consideration	Inaccurate, very little detail or no relevant examples of personal experiences to explore the guiding questions under consideration
Outcome 2 demonstrates an awareness of diverse responses to the guiding questions	Clear, informed, and insightful response demonstrating an awareness of diverse responses to the guiding questions	Mostly clear and informed, with elements of insightful awareness of diverse responses to the guiding questions	Somewhat clear and informed but not necessarily clear awareness of diverse responses to the guiding questions	Unclear or uninformed lacking awareness of diverse responses to the guiding questions
Outcome 3 makes connections across disciplines in ways that illuminate the guiding questions	Accurate, highly detailed in making multiple connections across various disciplines in ways that illuminate the guiding questions	Accurate and somewhat detailed in making connections across disciplines in ways that illuminate the guiding questions	For the most part accurate but lacking detail in making connections across disciplines in ways that illuminate the guiding questions	Inaccurate, very little detail or evidence of making connections across disciplines in ways that illuminate the guiding questions

