



The Evergreen State College

September 14-20, 2016

John McLain

ESCEI Director and Faculty

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CANVAS site: <https://canvas.evergreen.edu/courses/1222>

## INSTITUTE FALL QUARTER ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

All assignments and activities are *required* to earn full credit.

1. **Participate fully in activities during the week of the Institute.**
2. **Meet with John McLain, Institute Director and Faculty, by October 21. (Group projects will come to the meeting as a group.) You will sign up for meeting times during the last day of the Institute.** At the meeting, you'll give a progress report about your fall project. Bring the following with you:
  - Your outline for your service project. For inspiration, reflect on who you met, what you read, and what you learned in our many sessions. Take a look at works in the bibliography for a deeper understanding of your own plans and approach. Then develop a project that's meaningful to you and doable with your course load and other commitments. Projects may take the form of any of the options below:
    - ♦ Option A – Community Service. Either utilize CCBLA resources to complete a community service project, or develop an alternate community service plan with director approval.
    - ♦ Option B – Write an article, host an event (film, discussion, speaker, etc.), use social media, create art, or develop another plan to bring increase awareness of a public issue that matters to you.
    - ♦ Option C – Create an event or provide a service related to the upcoming election. You might consider applying for a \$75 grant from Project Pericles for activities or events to help register eligible voters and encourage them to vote, inform others about candidates and issues, or share resources to help others learn more about the voting process. If you want to do this project, you should plan to apply soon. Find out more with this [flyer](#) and these [guidelines](#). Show John your grant proposal before you send it in. (He's a grant writer.)
    - ♦ Option D – Create your own project. With approval from the director, develop and carry out your own project. Use your imagination! Consider one or two important things you learned in ESCEI and figure out how to share the wisdom or approach broadly with the campus community.
  - Your journal with (if you like) pages bookmarked that you'd like to show. Be sure to write in your journal **regularly**. Use it to take notes during the Institute itself, write reflections on our work when we're not meeting, and keep track of your efforts to develop your service project. If all your thoughts are in one place, you'll have a useful record of the singular experience of this Institute. Consider the following suggestions for entries, and consider writing them in this order as you learn from and with each other during the week:
    - ♦ Describe your initial experience on campus, moving in to your room, meeting people, and participating in the first evening of ESCEI.
    - ♦ Take notes on specific texts you read; capture discussions that take place; record thoughts you find yourself thinking; explain activities that you participate in; describe people you meet.
    - ♦ Use it for writing exercises offered during the Institute.

- ◆ Toward the end of the week of the Institute, begin to reflect on the experience as a whole. Note specific moments of surprise or insight, tell a story that illustrates an important situation, and try to capture your sense of the group itself.
- ◆ After the Institute ends, continue to write in your journal at least every few days, or more often if you like, as you bring what you experience in ESCEI together with your Orientation to Evergreen when the other students arrive, and with your first experiences studying at the College.
- ◆ Write about anything else you'd like to have a record for.

**3. Complete your solo or group project by November 11 or earlier.**

**4. Participate in the ESCEI concluding coffee-and-dessert event on November 16 at 7:00 pm, Seminar 2 E1105.** The event will celebrate your projects and our collective work as an Institute. During the evening, you will:

- Bring one-page summary of your project to the Institute director on paper.
- Make a two-minute presentation about your project to fellow ESCEI participants and special guests. The length for a two-minute presentation is about one double-spaced page in 12-point type with 1" margins. Please **write notes or a narrative and practice your presentation with a timer.** If you are careful and focused, you can say a lot in two minutes. Practice with colleagues and help each other to do a good job. Tell the audience at least the following:
  - ◆ What your project was: who, what, when, where, why.
  - ◆ Possible topics include: what you learned from doing it, what was challenging about it, what worked and what didn't, and what was rewarding about it.

**5. Write a narrative self-evaluation of your work in ESCEI by November 18.** Evergreen's academic philosophy includes narrative evaluations instead of letter or number grades. Evaluations help you reflect on what you learned from your studies, and develop ways of describing and communicating your new knowledge to others. Evaluation writing can be a halting and challenging experience; doing it well takes *practice*. You may include your self-evaluations in your final Evergreen transcript at your own discretion. Whether you include some, all, or none of them, *writing them* will change your understanding of what you learn. They will help you immeasurably to write your annual version of your Academic Statement, and develop a final Academic Statement for your Evergreen transcript. Based on the advice of Evergreen's Mentor Council, your self-evaluation might include the following:

- Your objectives and preparation in joining ESCEI.
- Your evaluation of the quality of your participation and completed assignments.
- How you approached your work.
- How you worked with your fellow students.
- Highlights of skills and abilities that you gained as a result of your participation.

For more about evaluations, check out this site: [www.evergreen.edu/evaluations/home.htm](http://www.evergreen.edu/evaluations/home.htm).

**6. Write a concluding essay by November 18, 2016.** Write a 3-5 page narrative essay telling the story of your experience in ESCEI. Reflect on your experiences and what you learned. Which activities, texts, and speakers were most enlightening and useful? Give an example or two of particularly memorable activities, speakers, texts, or discussions that stayed with you. How has your ESCEI experience changed your approach—to your education, your chosen career path, or your personal life? Cite at least three different written sources that were among our required or recommended readings. Show us what it was like for you to participate in ESCEI this year.

*NOTE: Because our last meeting is our concluding coffee-and-dessert event where you'll present your work, you cannot finalize this essay until the Institute is really over. There are only two days to complete the essay after the event, however, so you are encouraged to **start** writing well before November 16!*

**7. Submit the following three items (all typed) on Canvas by 5 pm on November 18:**

- Your final 3-5 page essay.
- Your self-evaluation. (You may file your final copy through my.evergreen.edu during by the end of fall quarter evaluation week.)
- A clean written copy of your 1-page presentation from November 16. You may add additional documents or media to the presentation file if you like (flyers, posters, media links, etc.).

For you to receive full credit, you must turn in your written assignments!