

RES 104: Research Writing

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This course is an outgrowth of the Mission of the University of Dubuque [\[here,\]](#) especially our commitment to excellence in academic inquiry and professional preparation.

Course Description: Students will conduct introductory research and write in multiple academic disciplines, including the social sciences, the humanities, and the natural and applied sciences. Students will work closely with their professor and a librarian as they frame research questions, differentiate among various disciplines? research techniques, explore and analyze scholarly and professional resources, organize and write clear, effective research-based essays.

Geographic Focus: The region of the United States encompassed by the Mississippi River drainage basin, about 43% of the contiguous U.S.A. All topics will reflect this region. Because I have lived 15 years in New Orleans and 14 years in Dubuque, frequently travelling between the two with stops in Memphis, I hope to make this class a lot of fun, exploring a region I love.

Prerequisite: ENG 101: Comp and Rhetoric with a grade of C or above. Successful completion of Research Writing 104 includes passing the class with a grade of C or better.

Required Textbooks: Howard, R, and Taggart, A. (2012) Research Matters. 2/e New York: McGraw-Hill (available in the bookstore)

Course Objectives: By the end of the semester students should be able to:

- Access appropriate information in the library, both electronically and physically.
- Identify and use appropriately various scholarly and professional sources, including journals, databases, reference sources, and film.
- Frame an interesting and focused research question.
- Write a thesis statement as an answer to a research question based on evidence from sources.
- Analyze a large research project by breaking it down into a series of smaller, manageable tasks.
- Define plagiarism and understand its consequences.
- Cite sources appropriately in two documentation styles: MLA and APA.
- Identify multiple perspectives of academic inquiry.

Class Policies

Assignments: Assignment dates and class presentations will be at <http://daleeasley.com>. Moodle use will be limited to submission of assignments.

Attendance Policy: Attend all class sessions. Arrive on time. Regular and punctual attendance and participation (for example, having assigned work completed) are expectations of this course. Absences with reasonable medical excuses, those validated by another instructor, or the Athletic Department will be accepted and recorded as excused absences. Act like a professional, and I will treat you that way. If you miss class, contact a classmate for notes, reading assignments, and handouts.

Student Expectations and Deadlines: Assignments should be submitted in a timely manner. Assignments submitted on or before the due date/time will receive consideration for full credit. Assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized 10% per day.

Cell phone policy: Silence your phone when you enter the classroom. If you are expecting an important call (regarding life or death or imminent birth), please speak with me before class and excuse yourself to take the call. I expect your attention for the full time the class meets.

Moodle and Grading: Most, though not all, assignments will be submitted through Moodle. I generally don't use the Moodle gradebook, but I do give you assignments back.

Submission of Work: Follow directions for all assignments. Most work should be submitted to Moodle. I reserve the right to reject your assignment if it does not follow directions.

Course Requirements

This course is divided into three main sections:

- social sciences
- humanities
- natural sciences

Each section will count for 30% of your grade. The additional 10% will come from daily assignments or quizzes, generally announced in advance. Opportunities for extra credit will be announced in class and made available on the course web site. Within each section, the assignment will be broken down into the following:

- topic choice and thesis statement (10%)
- annotated bibliography (20%)
- paper draft (20%)
- revised final draft (50%)

Attendance is expected, so don't expect credit for it. However, missing class with no reasonable excuse will lower your grade.

In addition, turning things in on time is expected. If late, your grade on the assignment drops 10% per day.

The key in all things is clear and early communication. we'll talk about this more in class.

University Policies

UD Policy on Reasonable Accommodations for Qualified Students with Disabilities: The University of Dubuque prohibits unlawful discrimination against qualified students with disabilities and encourages their full participation within the University community. All faculty, staff, and administrators will actively support qualified students with disabilities in all the University's educational programs, services, and activities. The University will consider individual needs in determining any assistance it may provide to a qualified student upon official admission to the University.

Academic Dishonesty: From the UD Handbook: The intentional misrepresentation of another person's work as one's own work. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication of information. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: use of knowingly supplying any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; or the acquisition without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the University faculty or staff.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase, summary, or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of material prepared by another person or agency engaged in selling of term papers or other academic materials.

Grades: Final grades will be awarded based on the following scale:

A	94-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-93	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
B	83-86	C-	70-72	F	below 60

The Writing Center: The Writing Center (WC) is located in the Academic Success Center on the second floor of the Charles C. Myers Library. The center is open 8 a.m.–8 p.m. Monday–Thursday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Friday, and 4 p.m.–8 p.m. on Sundays. Appointments should be made at <http://dbq.mywconline.com>. While the WC provides writing support and guidance to all students, please note that UD's Writing Center is not a proofreading service. The consultants are focused on helping produce better writers, not just better essays. Consultants can assist at any stage of the writing process from brainstorming topics, to working with sources, to helping put the final touches on documents. For more information, visit the WC's website at <http://www.dbq.edu/academics/academicsupportsuccess/academicsuccesscenter/writingcenter/>