IDS 206W Introduction to Research  
Doane College Omaha Campus  
Spring 2014

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   Monday-Thursday   10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
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IDS 206W:  
This course is included in “Writing Across the Curriculum.” Therefore, the quality of writing is a graded component of each assignment.


Course Description: This course is a general introduction to basic research methodology and the tools of research applicable to all disciplines. Students are introduced to the concepts and skills necessary for data collection, analysis, and problem solving. Students will develop a critical lens with which they can evaluate the accuracy and legitimacy of research, becoming good consumers of information in both their professional and personal lives.

Course Objectives:  
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:  
• Have an awareness of research methodology  
• Be familiar with research tactics and terminology  
• Understand the value in using credible sources  
• Improve critical thinking and evaluation skills  
• Demonstrate an improvement in writing skills

Learning Strategies:  
• Students will read, discuss, and analyze the required text.  
• Students will learn how to cite sources and create a reference page.  
• Students will learn how to utilize peer-reviewed journals.  
• Students will utilize available resources on Doane's online library website.  
• Students will evaluate “real world” stories and articles that cite research.  
• Students will work in teams to argue opposing sides of a current issue using research.  
• Students will follow the process to write a research question and proposal.
Academic Integrity:
When writing any research paper it is critical to cite your sources. Always show respect for the ideas or words of others by giving them the credit. This course will show you the correct ways to cite any ideas and words that are not your own. We will talk about the definition of plagiarism as part of the course. Failure to use what you have learned in class by not citing sources or showing respect will result in failing the course. See more on academic integrity in the Student Handbook.

Course Requirements:
Students can earn up to 500 points in this class, and grades will be posted in Blackboard. The point distribution for this course will be:
- Group Work and Class Participation: 50 points
- Mini Reports on News Articles: 50 points
- Research Problem/Question Assignment: 50 points
- Annotated Bibliography/Reference Assignment: 50 points
- Reflection Journals: 50 points
- Written Research Proposal (First Draft): 50 points
- Quizzes: 50 points
- Final Research Presentation: 50 points
- Final Research Proposal: 100 points

A full schedule of assignments will be shared the first class meeting.

Attendance:
This class is participative, collaborative, and hands-on. We are all working together. Absences are felt by all in the class in regards to group assignments, so please plan to attend all class sessions. The course also builds upon itself each week, so missing a class session will impact the sequence in the writing process. If you need to miss a class, contact me prior to the class.

Late Assignments:
Assignments turned in after the due date will be accepted IF the student contacts the instructor prior to the assignment due date. An assignment is considered late if it is emailed or handed in after class has begun on the day it is due.

Use of Technology:
The course is highly interactive and your participation is vital to its success, the use of personal laptops, cell phones, or any other electronic device during class is prohibited. We will be using the computer lab during parts of class, so access to technology will be provided.

Students with Disabilities:
Doane seeks to maintain a supportive academic environment for students with disabilities. To ensure your equal access to all educational programs, activities, and services, federal law requires students with disabilities notify the college, provide documentation, and request reasonable accommodations. If you need accommodations in this course, please notify me immediately so that I can verify that the required documentation is filed and that your accommodation plan is in place.