

Introduction to Research

IDS 206-ONL, 3 credit hours

Summer Term 2018

(May 21-July 21)

Instructor Information

April Paschall

Doane University

Contact Information

Office: Padour Walker 126 (Arts & Sciences Campus)

Email Address: april.paschall@doane.edu

Phone: 402-826-6725 (office) 402-968-0685 (mobile)

NOTE: I prefer students contact me via email as I am not always near my office phone. I have included my cell phone number, and I do accept text messages. Please try not to call after 10:00 p.m. during the week.

Communicating With the Instructor

This course uses a “three before me” policy in regards to student to faculty communications. When questions arise during the course of this class, please remember to check these three sources for an answer before asking me to reply to your individual questions:

1. Course syllabus
2. Announcements in Blackboard
3. The “Question Center” discussion board

This policy will help you in potentially identifying answers before I can get back to you and it also helps your instructor from answering similar questions or concerns multiple times.

If you cannot find an answer to your question, please first post your question to the “Question Center” discussion board. Here your question can be answered to the benefit of all students by either your fellow students who know the answer to your question or the instructor. You are encouraged to answer questions from other students in the discussion forum when you know the answer to a question in order to help provide timely assistance.

If you have questions of a personal nature such as relating a personal emergency, questioning a grade on an assignment, or something else that needs to be communicated privately, you are welcome to contact me via email or phone. As noted previously, my preference is that you will try to email me first. Please allow 24 hours for me to respond to emails. If I won't be able to respond within 24 hours (holidays, breaks, etc) I will let the class know ahead of time in a Blackboard announcement.

If you have a question about the technology being used in the course, please contact the Doane University Help Desk for assistance (contact information is listed below).

Course Catalog Description

This course is a general introduction to basic research methodology and the tools of research applicable to all disciplines. Students are introduced to and will employ 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 their academic, professional, and personal lives. Students will appraise their own information literacy (the set of skills needed to understand, find, and use information); the skills critical to life in the digital age.

Course Overview

Students will recognize and defend that different types and sources of information work in different settings and that 'scholarly' sources aren't just a label, but a recognition of value in the construction of knowledge. Students will appraise research writing as a progressive, iterative process that is more than expelling information, but a way to build upon and extend past knowledge through the collection and synthesis of relevant, credible evidence.

Course Prerequisites

There are no course prerequisites.

Course Textbook and Materials

Required: No Text Required Books.

All required readings will be uploaded into Blackboard for you to read.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Course Objectives

As a result of this course, students will be able to:

- Assess the different types of research methods, tactics, and terminology.
- Explain the purpose of utilizing peer-reviewed journals in academic writing.
- Justify and value the use of credible sources.
- Formulate a research question and thesis statement.
- Design a research proposal based on research question.

Weekly Objectives

<u>Course Objectives</u>	<u>Aligned Weekly Objectives</u>
1.) Assess the different types of research methods, tactics, and terminology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Week 2: Define the different types, terms, and tactics of research methodology. ○ Week 2: Explain how to move from interest to research question to research design. ○ Week 3&4: Construct an annotated bibliography to explore research methods utilized and outlined in scholarly journals. ○ Week 5&6: Plan and propose a research design to incorporate research methodology and terminology. ○ Week 7&8: Evaluate the utilization of research methodology, tactics, and terminology in course writing assignments.
2.) Explain the purpose of utilizing peer-reviewed journals in academic writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Week 2: Compare and Contrast the different types and sources of information. ○ Week 3&4: Distinguish scholarly journal articles from other sources of information and determine when and why to use them. ○ Week 5&6: Interpret how peer-reviewed journal articles strengthen academic writing. ○ Week 7&8: Appraise utilization of scholarly journal articles in course writing assignments.
3.) Justify and value the use of credible sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Week 1: Define Information Literacy and Credible Sources. ○ Week 2: Explain the importance and application of information literacy and using credible sources in and out of the college classroom. ○ Week 3&4: Make use of the elements of information literacy to find and evaluate credible sources. ○ Week 5&6: Assess the use of credible sources and defend their value in academic writing. ○ Week 7&8: Justify the utilization of credible sources in course writing assignments and interpret the value towards a liberal education.
4.) Formulate a research question and thesis statement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Week 2: Choose a research topic, draft a research question around the topic. ○ Week 2: Identify sub-questions to narrow the scope of the broad research question. ○ Week 3&4: Develop a thesis statement to focus the direction of the research proposal.
5.) Design a research proposal based on research question.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Week 3&4: Analyze scholarly research articles to help build background knowledge on the refined research question and support the thesis statement. ○ Week 5&6: Construct a first draft of a research proposal to extend and build upon background knowledge analysis. ○ Week 7&8: Maximize suggestions in peer and instructor feedback to improve and finalize the research proposal.

Course Requirements

Attendance Policy

You should plan to work on this course everyday. You absolutely **must have a reliable and consistent internet connection** throughout the duration of the course. This is a condensed, fast-pace, writing intensive course and it would be extremely difficult to catch up after a prolonged absence. It is crucial for you to stay on top of assignment due dates as assignments build on each other from week to week.

Online Course

This is an online course and therefore there will not be any face-to-face class sessions. All assignments and course interactions will utilize internet technologies.

Computer Requirements

Minimum computer requirements for the successful use of Blackboard:

http://www.doane.edu/about-doane/offices/its/help-and-support#min_requirements

Minimum computer requirements for success in this course:

- Reliable computer and internet connection
- A web browser (Chrome or Mozilla Firefox)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (free)
- Adobe Flash Player (free)
- Word processing software—Microsoft Word or Google Docs
- Webcam and mic

You are responsible for having a reliable computer and internet connection throughout the course.

Email and Internet

You must have an active Doane University e-mail account and access to the Internet. *All instructor correspondence will be sent to your Doane University e-mail account.* Please plan on checking your Doane Gmail account regularly for course related messages.

This course uses Blackboard for the facilitation of communications between faculty and students, submission of assignments, and posting of grades.

The Blackboard Course Site can be accessed at <http://bb2.doane.edu>

Campus Network or Blackboard Outage

When access to Blackboard is not available for an extended period of time (greater than one entire evening - 6pm till 11pm) you can reasonably expect that the due date for assignments will be changed to the next day (assignment still due by midnight).

Attendance/Participation

Preparation for class means reading the assigned readings & reviewing all information required for that week. *Attendance* in an online course means logging into the Blackboard and on a regular basis and *participating* in all of activities that are posted in the course.

Studying and Preparation Time

The course requires you to spend time preparing and completing assignments. Just like an in-person course, a three-credit course requires 144 hours of student work. Therefore expect to spend approximately 18 hours a week preparing for and actively participating in this 8-week course.

Writing Guidelines

Always make sure your writing is free of grammar, punctuation, or spelling errors. Papers should adhere to the most recent citation style outlined by the American Psychological Association (APA).

Late or Missed Assignments

ALL assignments must be finished and turned in to complete the course. Unless the instructor is notified BEFORE the assignment is due, it is automatically docked 20% each day it is late.

Submitting Assignments

All assignments, unless otherwise announced by the instructor, MUST be submitted via Blackboard. Each assignment will have a designated place to submit the assignment.

Drop and Add dates

If you feel it is necessary to withdraw from the course, please contact your advisor for full details on the types of withdrawals that are available and their procedures.

Subject to change notice

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. It is your responsibility to stay in touch with your instructor, review the course site regularly, or communicate with other students, to adjust as needed if assignments or due dates change.

Academic Integrity

Doane University expects and requires all its students to act with honesty and integrity, and respect the rights of others in carrying out all academic assignments. Academic dishonesty, the act of knowingly and willingly attempting or assisting others to gain academic success by dishonest means, is manifested in various measures. Gehring, et al, (1986) suggests that four categories of academic dishonesty exist:

- a. Cheating
- b. Fabrication
- c. Facilitating academic dishonesty
- d. Plagiarism

For more information on academic integrity, please visit the website:

<http://catalog.doane.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=191>

Plagiarism Statement

In this course, you will submit written work in which you make use of information and ideas found in print or online sources. Whenever you use material from another writer, it is important that you quote or paraphrase appropriately and cite the source.

Never let it appear that ideas and information gleaned from other sources are your own. The Doane Academic Integrity policy defines plagiarism as "Intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise," (Gehring, et al, p. 6) in both oral and written projects.

Failure to cite sources appropriately is plagiarism, a serious academic offense. Plagiarized work will not be accepted. In this course you will improve your skills in proper citation and understand how to avoid plagiarism.

Course Grading

Grades, Grading Scale, Feedback

Assignment of letter grades is based on a percentage of points earned. The letter grade will correspond with the following percentages achieved. All course requirements must be completed before a grade is assigned.

A	100 – 90
B	89 – 80
C	79 – 70
D	69 – 60
E	59 and below

See the requirements for the specific Assignments on Blackboard.

IDS 206 Points Values for Assignments					
					TOTALS
Week 1	DB: Self Intro	DB: Where do we get our information?	Reflection Journal		
	60	60	100		220
Week 2	DB: What is Research, Really?	Research Methods Quiz	Pre-Search Assignment	Research Question Development	
	60	60	100	200	420
Week 3	DB: But is it SCHOLARLY?	Article/Journal Review	Thesis Statement Creation		
	60	150	100		310
Week 4	Reflection Journal	Annotated Bibliography			
	100	300			400
Week 5	Reflection Journal	First Draft: Research Proposal			
	100	100			200
Week 6	Peer Revision	Second Draft: Research Proposal			
	100	200			300
Week 7	Infographic	FAQs			
	150	150			300
Week 8	DB: Presenting Your Research	Reflection Journal	FINAL DRAFT: Research Proposal		
	100	100	250		450
				GRAND TOTAL	2600

Feedback: Please allow 3-5 days for feedback on assignments. This timeframe is dependent upon the level of detail that I provide and the number of students in the course. Understand that longer writing assignments will take me more time to give valuable feedback. I expect you to read my feedback and make changes if needed. If you do not know how to look at feedback using the My Grades tool in Blackboard, please notify me immediately.

How to Succeed in this Course

- Check your Doane email regularly
- Log in to the course web site daily
- Communicate with your instructor
- Create a study/writing schedule so that you don't fall behind on assignments

Accessibility Statement

It is my goal that this class be an accessible and welcoming experience for all students.

In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, professional disability specialists and support staff at Doane University facilitate a comprehensive range of academic support services and

accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Doane University staff coordinate transition from high schools and community colleges, in-service training for faculty and staff, resolution of accessibility issues, community outreach, and collaboration between all Doane University regarding disability policies, procedures, and accommodations.

Reasonable accommodations are provided for students who are registered with Accessibility Services and make their requests sufficiently in advance.

Accessibility Services

Doane University Access/Services for Students with Disabilities

<http://www.doane.edu/disability-services>

Contact Person: Chris Brady Phone: 402.466.4774 Email: chris.brady@doane.edu

Academic Support

Contact Person: Tere Francis Phone: 402.466.4774 Email: terese.francis@doane.edu

Doane Library

Doane's Library offers a wide variety of resources that support student learning. Librarians have in-depth knowledge of researching and can give you guidance. Students are encouraged to explore resources available online at www.doane.edu/library

Student Services

<http://www.doane.edu/gps/student-services>

Student Conduct Statement

Students are required to adhere to the behavior standards listed in **Doane University Policy Manual**

Appropriate classroom behavior is defined by the instructor. This includes the number and length of individual messages online. Course discussion messages should remain focused on the assigned discussion topics. Students must maintain a cordial atmosphere and use tact in expressing differences of opinion. Inappropriate discussion board messages may be deleted if an instructor feels it is necessary. Students will be notified privately that their posting was inappropriate.

Student access to the course Send Email feature may be limited or removed if an instructor feels that students are sending inappropriate electronic messages to other students in the course.

Technical Support Contact Information

For technical assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, please contact the Doane University Technology Office Help Desk:

Phone: 402-826-8411
Email: helpdesk@doane.edu
Web: <http://www.doane.edu>

Instructional Technology Accessibility and Privacy Policies

<http://www.doane.edu/instructional-design-services/policies>

Syllabus Disclaimer

The instructor views the course syllabus as an educational contract between the instructor and students. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as deemed necessary. Students will be notified in a timely manner of any syllabus changes face-to-face, via email or in the course site Announcements. Please remember to check your Doane University email and the course site Announcements often.

References

Gehring, D, Nuss, E.M., & Pavela, G. (1986). *Issues and perspectives on academic integrity*.
Columbus, OH: NASPA.