

Term Papers (Undergraduate)

You are to write a term paper exploring a topic from the list below. The term paper counts one-quarter of your course grade.

Formatting Requirements

Your paper must comprise not less than ten FULL double-spaced pages of text in 12-point Arial, Times Roman, or comparable font.

Margins are not to exceed 1¼ inches to the right and left, and one inch top and bottom.

The paper must include a separate title page at the beginning and separate single-spaced bibliography page listing all the sources you consulted (not just quoted) at the end. Notes referring to pages in your sources may be intra-textual, but any explanatory notes must be included on a separate endnotes page.

All pages are to be numbered.

Each deviation from these formatting requirements will cost ten points off the paper's grade.

Research Requirements

Consult the Rod, University of Iowa, and Iowa State catalogs to find books and academic journals that address your topic. I also encourage you to explore on-line bibliographic resources such as JSTOR.

I expect students to use the academic, not the popular, literature. That is, it is best to focus on articles published in professional academic journals and in books published by university presses, not in mass-circulation magazines and commercial publishing houses. The quality of the sources you used will be reflected in your paper's grade.

The more recently a book or article was published, the better it reflects the current state of scholarship. At all costs avoid relying on scholarship that is old. Old is moldy.

As a general rule, I expect one bibliographic source per page of text, thus a minimum of ten bibliographic sources for your paper. More is better.

If you give me a paper that appears to have been thrown together from books on the Rod Library shelves during the three or four days before the due date, that will be reflected in your grade.

Writing Requirements

I expect your papers to be written in clear, competent English. That's why I assign Strunk & White and Gucker as required texts. Poorly written papers will receive low grades. If you have doubts about your writing, avail yourself of the UNI Writing Center's services.

Always proofread your paper before you submit it.

Due Date and Manner of Submission

The paper is due on the day indicated on the Weekly Assignment Schedule. *It is to be submitted electronically ONLY*, as an email attachment in Word (.doc or .docx) or Rich Text (.rtf) format, sent to robert.dise@uni.edu. If you submit your essay late, it will be *penalized a full letter grade for each class day that it is late, starting at the end of class on the due date.*

IMPORTANT:

Read the document “Writing Errors to Avoid” on my website (www.uni.edu/dise), and avoid those errors. Remember: **each time** you commit one of them, it will cost you **five points** off of the grade given your essay.

REMEMBER: BAD GRAMMAR WILL LOWER YOUR GRADE.

Use Strunk & White and Gucker as your writing Bibles.