

**University of Minnesota-Duluth**  
**WRIT1120: Introduction to College Writing**

**Syllabus**

**Instructor:** Daniel Turner  
turne234@umn.edu

**Office**

**Hours:** 1:00pm – 2:00pm MW Kirby Student Center 341  
9:30am – 10:30pm TTh “ ”

**Class**

**Times:** Lecture 8:00am – 9:50am MW Bohannon 112  
Lab F Humanities 470

**Required**

**Texts:** Howard, Rebecca M. *Writing Matters*. 2nd ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2013.  
Online.\*

Roen, Duane, Gregory R. Glau, and Barry M. Maid. *The McGraw Hill Guide: Writing for College, Writing for Life*. 3rd ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2013. Print.

\*There is an access code bundled with UMD Bookstore copies of Roen (2013).

**Class**

**Website:** <https://moodle2.umn.edu/course/view.php?id=10200>

**Welcome**

Writing is a powerful way to organize ideas, and ideas are *everything*.

This course is designed to help you write (and think) better. To truly accomplish this, we must work together. Come to every class, complete every assignment, and you will grow as a writer and learner. Engage and explore the material, find a topic you can be interested in, and you will succeed naturally.

I welcome you to my class and to UMD, and look forward to this semester.

Dan Turner  
Writing Studies Dept.

## Description

**This course provides** instruction and practice in writing argumentative prose for academic situations. It emphasizes critical thinking, research, documentation, and the writing process.

**WRIT 1120 fulfills** the Category I requirement of UMD Liberal Education. Courses in this category should develop students' ability to [1] evaluate writing for clarity and effectiveness, [2] control and improve writing quality, [3] locate, synthesize, and utilize evidence, and [4] execute argumentative strategies relevant to the situation.

**The learning outcomes** of this class will be [1] to prepare an introduction which establishes a context for discussion and which effectively explains the issue or problem being addressed, [2] to locate appropriate secondary sources for academic research, [3] to clearly state an argumentative thesis, [4] to construct organized paragraphs that develop the controlling argument (thesis) and supporting claims, [5] to analyze evidence to connect it to the controlling argument and its supporting claims, [6] to address the opposing viewpoint of the argument, [7] to use a style suitable to the writer's rhetorical situation and audience, [8] to control the conventions of Standard Edited Written English, [9] to document source material within the text of an essay and in the Works Cited, [10] to perform basic word processing and other computer operations to produce appropriate document design for academic purposes.

## Accessibility and Special Circumstances

**It is the official policy and practice** of the University of Minnesota Duluth to create inclusive learning environments for all students, including students with disabilities. If there are aspects of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or your ability to meet course requirements, such as time limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos, please notify me as soon as possible. See <http://www.d.umn.edu/access> for more information.

**If you have a Letter of Accommodation**, make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

**It is my personal policy and practice** to create a classroom that is inclusive, safe, and flexible. I do not want anything to get in the way of you learning to write better.

## Requirements and Evaluation

**You will be required to complete** 6 major writing assignments (40%) and 15 minor assignments (40%) in a respectful and professional manner. Attendance will be assessed on a random basis and 5% of the student's grade will be deducted for each unexcused absence, up to 10%. Disruptive behavior will be assessed in the same manner.

This class supports UMD's official excused absence policy, as defined by the Office of Academic Affairs (<http://www.d.umn.edu/vcaa/ExcusedAbsence.html>).

## Grading Scale

93 - 100: A	80 - 82: B-	67 - 69: D+
90 - 92: A-	77 - 79: C+	63 - 66: D
87 - 89: B+	73 - 76: C	60 - 62: D-
83 - 86: B	70 - 72: C-	59 or less: F

## Academic Integrity & Conduct

**Academic dishonesty** tarnishes UMD's reputation and discredits the accomplishments of students. UMD is committed to providing students every possible opportunity to grow in mind and spirit. This pledge can only be redeemed in an environment of trust, honesty, and fairness. As a result, academic dishonesty is regarded as a serious offense by all members of the academic community. In keeping with this ideal, this course will adhere to UMD's Student Academic Integrity Policy, which can be found at <http://www.d.umn.edu/conduct/integrity>. This policy sanctions students engaging in academic dishonesty with penalties up to and including expulsion from the university for repeat offenders.

**The instructor will enforce and students are expected to follow** the University's Student Conduct Code (<http://www.d.umn.edu/conduct/code>). Appropriate classroom conduct promotes an environment of academic achievement and integrity. Disruptive classroom behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts either the instructor's ability to teach, or student learning, is prohibited. Disruptive behavior includes inappropriate use of technology in the classroom. Examples include ringing cell phones, texting, watching videos, playing games, checking email, or surfing the Internet instead of note-taking or other instructor-sanctioned activities.

## Getting Help

**Free one-on-one help is available** at the Writers' Workshop on the second floor of the library in the Learning Commons. There, you may meet with tutors that can help you avoid plagiarism, paraphrase, use MLA style, revise your drafts, and more. To make an appointment, see their website. For best results, approach the workshop staff with specific questions and concerns; the more information they have, the more assistance you will receive.

**Another resource is Supportive Services**, also in the Learning Commons and also free. The tutors there are more likely to be your peers (undergraduates) and tutoring may occur in groups, rather than one-on-one.

**I am also available** throughout the week, during office hours, on Class Chat (Moodle), and by appointment. To better budget my time for your needs, please email me in advance if you think you will require more than a half hour of my office hours, so that I can fairly attend to your needs, as well as other students'.

## Time Management

**Time is the most valuable thing a person has.** Do not waste yours by trying to write in a hurry; do not waste mine by misusing or neglecting your resources or assignments. This class is designed with the expectation that you will spend at least as much time on your learning objectives outside of the classroom as inside. Keep in mind that standard college courses require two hours of work outside of the classroom for one inside.

## Technology

**You are required to use computers in the completion of this course.** As a result, we will spend a significant part of the class early in the semester to make sure all students are familiar with UMD campus technology, including Windows OS, Moodle, McGraw Connect, and electronic resources offered by the library. Almost all of our written exchanges will be electronic, so it is extremely important you know how to use classroom technology. If you need extra help with computers, or are not sure you need help, speak to me early in the semester, or see campus workshops by ITSS (<http://www.d.umn.edu/itss/training/>). Every student should also plan to put at least \$3.00 on their U-Card for basic printing needs. For more information on printing on campus, see <http://www.d.umn.edu/lib/tech/printing/>. If you do not have a personal computer, there are computer labs throughout campus, listed here: <http://www.d.umn.edu/itss/labs/>.